

**MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2017 WORK SESSION**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met in a regularly scheduled work session at 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 2, 2017 in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building located at 601 12th Street, Phenix City, Alabama. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Attorney James P. Graham, Jr. and City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich. Department Heads in attendance were as follows: Finance and Utilities Director Stephen C. Smith, Chief of Police Raymond Smith, City Engineer/Public Work Director Angel Moore, Interim Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Fire/Rescue Services Chief Kristin Kennedy, Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Information Technology Director Mike Bauer, Lakewood Golf Course Manager Julie Taylor, and Municipal Court Director Pam Jarrell.

Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order after establishing a quorum.

Councilmember Bailey provided the invocation for the meeting.

Mayor Lowe called Linda McDaniel forward to address council as listed on the agenda. Ms. McDaniel was not present and requested to be rescheduled to the October 16th work session.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer and Public Works Director Angel Moore to review the activities of the Planning Commission taken during the September 25, 2017 meeting. Ms. Moore reviewed and discussed the agenda items addressed by the Planning Commission including approval of an administrative replat on property located at Lee Road 312 and Lee Road 860; request for conditional use for property located on Broad Street for a funeral home; approval of amended preliminary replat for Branch Creek Subdivision; and public hearing and approval of preliminary plat for Ladonia Commercial Subdivision (Highway 80). The parties discussed at length conditional use of the Broad Street property as a funeral home and the utility jurisdictions in reference to the Ladonia Commercial Subdivision.

Mayor Lowe next called upon City Clerk Goodrich for a review of the upcoming calendars. City Clerk Goodrich reviewed the October and November 2017 calendars and the proposed city calendar for the 2018 calendar year. Council advised to allow them to review the calendar again, and final decision on the calendar will be given at the next work session.

Mayor Lowe next presented the monthly departmental reports for discussion. Councilmember Bailey commented on the positive feedback he is hearing from citizens on cleaning up various properties around the city that were overgrown and/or dilapidated. Councilmember Bailey stated he turned the properties in that needed attention and thanked the Building Department for addressing them promptly. He wanted to thank the department for their work.

Councilmember Day requested the status of the 5th Street South Project. City Engineer Moore advised Councilmember Day the City/DOT has sent out letters to property owners regarding donating the property needed to the city or accepting the city's offer for the property. Ms. Moore advised this could be a long process.

Councilmember Day also requested an update on the 431 South Project. City Engineer Moore advised construction plans were turned in to the Planning Commission for review. She advised all the departments were going to meet to review the plans and turn in all the comments that will need to be addressed to the contractor at one time. Ms. Moore and Mr. Smith discussed problems with the engineering firm providing the plans. The same firm is being used, but a different engineer with the firm is being used. The parties discussed issues being faced due to that change. Ms. Moore explained the process of having final plats signed off on.

Councilmember Day discussed issues on 24th Avenue, property with overgrown grass. Councilmember Day also inquired about replacing the dead and pushed over trees along the Old Seale Road / 431 Landscaping project. City Engineer Moore stated Public Works has looked at the dead trees, but will go out again and check on the trees that appear to be pushed over. They will get with the landscaper on the issue.

Councilmember Day also asked about SouthSide Park, reporting the tennis net being torn down. He stated he encouraged youth at the park to police the area and clean up litter around the basketball courts. He advised the bridge at the park needs to be looked at as a couple of boards seem to be rotting. He also commented on the courts at Austin Sumbry Park being covered with dirt. The City Manager and Parks and Recreation Director Hughes advised that problem is due to the courts being lower than the surrounding grounds and the dirt on the court is run off from rains.

Councilmember Day complimented the Library and Library Director Michele Kilday on the good job they are doing.

Councilmember Gordy asked about hand rails being installed at the football stadium. City Manager Hunter advised handrails are in this year's budget.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Manager Hunter for any items he wished to discuss with council. City Manager Hunter asked Parks and Recreation Director Hughes to discuss the city applying to host the 2018 Cal Ripken 60 ft. World Series. Mr. Hughes discussed the costs to host the tournament and the economic impact. Projections are costs for the city could be as high as \$75,000. City Manager Hunter recommended setting aside a \$150,000 budget for the event. Possible economic benefit to the City is forecast to be \$1.6 million. Council encouraged the City Manager to pursue this opportunity. The event would host eight (8) teams for 7 to 10 days with a much greater opportunity to bring in more revenue than White Water Classic. At this time, the only issues foreseen were problems with securing enough hotel rooms for the teams. Currently, many of the area hotels are having a conflict with another large group reserving rooms for an event in the area the same week.

Parks and Recreation Director Hughes and City Manager Hunter also discussed with Council an opportunity to establish a Miracle League baseball team in Phenix City and a build a Miracle League field in Lakewood Park. The Miracle League team and field would be for special need athletes and their families. The Miracle League Organization provides support needed for the project. At this time permission from Council is being requested to spend the \$500 application fee. Council asked for the item to be placed on the agenda. Funding for the project would be public and private partnerships.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the agenda items with Council.

There being no further business to discuss with Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m. until Monday, October 16, 2017.