

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2017**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time for the regularly scheduled work session on Monday, October 16, 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 Griff Gordy and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham and City Clerk Charlotte L. Goodrich. Department Heads in attendance were: Chief Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer/Director of Public Works Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Interim Finance Director Labrita King-Copeland, Fire Rescue Service Chief Kristin Kennedy, Golf Course Manager Julie Taylor, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Library Director Michelle Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Pam Jarrell, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police Ray Smith, and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins.

Upon a quorum being established, Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order.

The invocation was led by Councilmember Day.

Mayor Lowe called upon Linda McDaniel to address Council as listed on the agenda. Ms. McDaniel was not present.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission during its October 10, 2017 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Charlotte Goodrich to review the October and November, 2017 calendars with Council.

City Clerk Charlotte Goodrich reviewed the 2018 City Calendar with Council. Council gave their approval for this calendar.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes. Mr. Hughes discussed the 2018 Cal Ripken 60 foot World Series with council. He advised that the time frame had been moved to August 8-15, 2018. Council approved of the change.

Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr. advised of various dates he will be out of town: October 22-25, 2017 and October 27-29, 2017.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon City Engineer Angel Moore. Ms. Moore updated council on MPDS permits. Ms. Moore advised that 72 letters were sent out to businesses; of those 6 were returned undelivered (different avenues of contact are being explored), 15 responded back to the city that they are already hooked up to the sanitary sewer

system (this will be verified), 35 business have spoken with the city and they were advised of options and/or ideas, and the remaining 16 have not contacted the city at all - they did sign to receive the letter, so they were advised. Ms. Moore advised that Councilmember Bailey has concerns because people have contacted him regarding permits being denied. Ms. Moore advised she spoke with Vernetta Holdren of ADEM, Southeast Industrial Permits.. Ms. Moore advised she asked Ms. Holdren if permits were being denied. Ms. Holdren advised that permits were not being denied; however, there are two applications to be filled out, and they were not filled out correctly. Ms. Holdren advised Ms. Moore that letters were sent out to the business explaining what needs to be corrected. Ms. Moore explained the application process to council. She advised the application is 8 pages with a lot of technical questions that average people are not use to filling out. Ms. Moore advised Ms. Holdren did not mention who has applied for the permit. Ms. Moore played part of an audio recording of her phone conversation with Ms. Holdren for council to hear. Council then discussed a misunderstanding of the permits being denied verses having a “stay” placed on them because they were not filled out correctly. Councilmember Day questioned how much more time do the businesses have to come into compliance? Ms. Moore advised that November 16, 2017 will be six months; the Engineering Department will send out a letter stating they have 30 days to comply – or, if the City Manager agrees – they could extend it out another 30 days to allow more time. The City could then advise due diligence had been done. After that, a Notice of Violation process would have to be followed and that would involve Code Enforcement. Ms. Moore advised that most of the businesses that have contacted the city directly have received help from both Engineering and Utilities. She went on to further state that perhaps the other business do not understand what the process will entail by obtaining their own permit with ADEM. She stated there are a lot of steps to go through every 30 days, and if the tests do not fall within a certain guideline, their permit can be pulled. Councilmember Bailey explained the process and steps he went through before making his decision to fall under the city’s permit. He advised the city comes out and tests and if the test passes, then the business owner writes a letter to the city explaining they will comply with the rules and regulations for the City’s permit, and the city files the letter.

City Manager Wallace Hunter spoke on the process of correcting construction plans turned into the Planning Commission for approval. He advised there is a problem when an engineering firm turns in construction plans for approval, and expects the city to proof over the construction plans more than one time. Mr. Hunter advised he will address this issue with the Planning Commission soon, and he will have a solution for this problem that will involve the owner having access to all correspondence regarding the approval process of the construction plans.

Other items of discussions included the following:

- Councilmember Day discussed holes in the pavement at Sumbry Park and requesting the basketball court be pressure washed. He was advised the court was sitting at a lower level the ground around it which is why dirt flows on to the court.
- Councilmember Day inquired about the progress of the 5th Street South ROW acquisition. Mr. Day was advised six (6) letters were received back from the property owners and the city plans on moving forward with those properties.

- Councilmember Day stated he wanted to look for ways to bring the parks in District 3 up to par.

Mayor Lowe discussed agenda items with council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed claims on the agenda with council.

Chief of Police Ray Smith advised that the observance of Halloween will be October 31, 2017 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.

Chief of Police Ray Smith spoke on the recent robbery of an employee at a local gas station.

City Manager Hunter spoke to council regarding the public requesting to address council with issues before they have addressed the proper department with their problems/concerns.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m. until Monday, November 6, 2017.