

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2018

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama met at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time for the regularly scheduled work session on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 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 Vickey Carter Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace B. Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Melony Lee. Department Heads in attendance were: Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Economic Development Planning Specialist Shaun Culligan, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Course Manager Julie Taylor, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Library Director Michele Kilday, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police R. J. Smith, Municipal Court Clerk Pam Jarrell and Utilities Engineer John Spraggins.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Johnson.

Mayor Lowe called upon Shawanda Terry to address council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Terry presented the need for awareness of foster children in Russell County and Phenix City. Many foster children are abused and misplaced. She asked that as a community we pull together and show support. Russell County Foster Association is made up of foster parents throughout the community. Ms. Terry currently has eight children in her home. The funds for the association come from donations usually from other foster parents and businesses. Ms. Terry discussed a request she submitted for use of the Central Activities Center that was denied because she did not have the funds to cover the rental fee. She intended to have a Christmas party for all fosters. She asked why the fee could not be waived. Ms. Terry advised that everyone must come together to step it up to come to the aid of foster kids. Mayor Lowe advised Ms. Terry that the city gives appropriations to organizations throughout the year. The city cannot waive fees for one organization unless they waive fees for all organizations. The mayor explained that is why the city gives appropriations. Jimmy Graham advised Ms. Terry to contact the DHR and get the list of businesses and see if they would be willing to help out on funds on top of Christmas gifts so that the organization could use monies during the year for activities for the foster children. Ms. Terry explained the Circle of Care letter to council. The purpose is if the need arises the community will step up and help the children. Councilmember Bailey advised Ms. Terry to get the 40 foster parents together and contact businesses to make them aware of the need to assist these foster kids. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Terry for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Ernie Smallman to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Smallman gave an update on the 13 acres next to Wal-Mart owned by Girard Partners and Phenix Girard Bank. The proposed development plan includes 3 restaurants and a car lot. The extra space could be used for medical, bank, food or other businesses. This project should be completed by late summer of 2018. City Manager Wallace Hunter and Utilities Director Stephen Smith advised that Mr. Smallman complete all necessary paperwork to annex the property into the city so the project could get started and stay on schedule. Permission to place a resolution on the agenda approving a mall was granted by council. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Smallman for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Shelia Stafford to address council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Stafford presented Mayor and Councilmembers a volunteer packet from other animal shelters that allow volunteers. Ms. Stafford and others would like to improve the Phenix City animal shelter by volunteering their time at no cost to the shelter. Volunteers would take care of the animals and assist in finding a good home for the animal. Volunteers would be responsible for any liability. Councilmember Gordy asked Ms. Stafford if the goal was to interact with the animals and try to find a suitable home for the animals. Ms. Stafford advised that volunteers would get to know the animals and forward that information onto the potential adopters. Ms. Stafford advised Mayor and Council that this program would make the citizens of Phenix City more aware of the shelter and educate the public better. Mayor Lowe advised Ms. Stafford that this subject is something that the City Manager, Police Chief and City Attorney would have to discuss and get back with Ms. Stafford at a later date. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Stafford for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Brian Rutledge with Robinson, Grimes and Company, P.C. to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Rutledge reviewed the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended 2016 with Council. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Rutledge for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant City Engineer Mike Pattillo to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their February 13, 2018 meeting.

Councilmember Bailey asked Shaun Culligan if the city could host a food truck plaza showcasing local restaurants down near the water area. Economic Development Planning Specialist Shaun Culligan advised that he was looking into some food expos for the future.

Councilmember Johnson asked about the art park being a place to do artwork and display the artist's work. Mayor Lowe and Councilmembers advised that it was both. Economic Development Planning Specialist Shaun Culligan advised that the art park is temporary but the WC Bradley Company may include an art park in the final phase of the development.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Melony Lee to review the February and March calendars with Council.

City Clerk Melony Lee also advised Mayor and Council of upcoming board appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission.

City Manager Wallace Hunter discussed ORD 2013-08, with Mayor and Council. He advised of the need to send out a letter and affidavit to each board for the board members to fill out attesting to their residence inside the city limits and attesting that they are a registered voter.

Council took a 10 minute break.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Police Chief Ray Smith advised that the volunteers would not be allowed at the city animal shelter due to confidential records held in the administrative office and liability problems. Police Chief Ray Smith advised that the group of the ladies should set up a 501- 3 (c) non-profit agency so they can have volunteers to help adopt stray dogs.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham called for a 15 minute Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation. Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session from which the meeting would adjourn, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 5:20 pm.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:35 pm.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2018.