

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2018

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, March 19, 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: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Engineering Director Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Course Manager Julie Taylor, Library Director Michele Kilday, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Chief of Police R. J. Smith, Utilities Engineer John Spraggins, Municipal Court Deputy Clerk Ruby White, and Administrative Assistant Shannon Davis.

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

The invocation was led by Mayor Lowe.

Councilmember Bailey spoke on his mother's passing and thanked everyone for the gratitude shown during his time of sorrow. Councilmember Johnson advised that her city devices were inoperable for a couple of days. She asked if Mayor and Council could be notified by other means because she found out the afternoon of the funeral. City Manager Wallace Hunter and City Clerk Melony Lee apologized and advised that in the future Mayor and Council would be contacted by phone.

Mayor Lowe called upon Russell County Probate Judge Alford Harden to address council as listed on the agenda. Judge Harden came forward to address council as listed on the agenda. Judge Harden discussed the voting registration. The Probate Judge stated that he does not register voters and The Secretary of State of Alabama has authority over the registrar's office. Judge Harden asked the Mayor and Council for help in stopping any negative comments from the public about the recent municipal election. Mayor Lowe advised Judge Harden that the elected officials had to be careful in helping because of being elected also. City Manager Wallace Hunter discussed that helping the City with an election has nothing to do with voter fraud and there should be a deeper investigation into the voter list. Mr. Hunter stated that there should be a platform so that the citizens can see that things are being corrected. Councilmember Gordy advised that in his opinion the city election was done correctly and any discrepancies were turned over to the State of Alabama. Police Chief Ray Smith advised Mayor and Council that when the voter's list is sent from the Secretary of State's office that it is the cities' responsibility to review and deem the voter eligible to vote based on the domicile shown on the voter registration list. Police Chief Ray Smith also advised that the City and County should be consistent because of state elections coming up this year. Mayor Lowe thanked Judge Harden for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their March 13, 2018 meeting.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham updated Mayor and Council on the Russell County Water and Sewage Authority case. City Attorney Graham further stated that the judge advised if an annexation

into the city occurs the city cannot make the location use city provided services. City Attorney Graham informed council that the case will move forward and the annexation was not restricted.

City Manager Wallace Hunter discussed with council a letter from the Mayor of Smith's Station regarding Smith Station's annexation requests of Lee County residents to annex into their city.

City Engineer Angel Moore discussed the Hwy. 431 project with Mayor and Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Melony Lee to review the March and April calendars with Council. City Clerk Melony Lee asked Council who they want to delegate as the Voting Delegate for the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention. Mayor and Council delegated Councilmember Day to be the voting delegate with Councilmember Bailey listed as the alternate.

Mayor and Council discussed the upcoming board appointments.

Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes advised Mayor and Council of the opening of the Riverwalk restrooms. There will be an official ribbon cutting the first council meeting in April. City Clerk Melony Lee advised a Media Release will go out advising the Media.

Councilmember Bailey discussed a possible roof over the girls' softball dugout at the city recreation department with Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes and Council.

Mayor Lowe discussed with Council about the phone calls from Golden Acres Baptist Church in regards to using the parking garage in April for an event. Mayor Lowe advised that the city must be consistent and if you do for one you must do for everyone. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes advised Mayor and Council that he had already advised them that the city would be unable to let them have the event on the parking garage.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

There were no claims on the agenda.

Economic Development Director Shaun Culligan requested a letter of support for Phenix Pride Federal Credit Union in regards to a grant to help fund low to moderate income individuals. Mayor and Council approved the letter.

Mayor and Council conducted interviews for a board position on the Board of Education.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, April 2, 2018.