

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 1, 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, October 1, 2018, in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building located at 601 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Clerk Melony Lee, City Attorneys Jimmy Graham, Chan Gamble and Jim McKoon. 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, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Julie Taylor, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police R. J. Smith and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Johnson.

Mayor Lowe asked the Council for an appointed privilege to reflect on his role of the Mayor of Phenix City as being a Mayor of all ethnicities within the city. Mayor Lowe also advised that he is a Mayor for all the people of the city. Mayor Lowe further discussed for the past five years, the Council has appointed the ten people on the Phenix City Board of Education. Mayor Lowe stated out of ten people appointed, the board has consisted of four out of District One, four in District Three, and two in District Two. Mayor Lowe further state the current make-up of the board is which the city has never appointed individuals by districts, three in District One, three in District Two, and two in District Three. Mayor Lowe stated that Council and he are very proportionate and there needs to be a retraction in the newspapers regarding the makeup of the Phenix City Board of Education's members and the districts they reside in.

Mayor Lowe called upon Jerry Sutton to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Sutton came forward to discuss building a house at 1902 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and asked for a lift on the annexation moratorium. Mayor Lowe advised Mr. Sutton that the City of Phenix City has been consistent and fair to everyone. City Manager Wallace Hunter and City Attorney Jimmy Graham advised that they were currently reviewing the laws and reviewing the FEMA documents. City Attorney Graham advised Mr. Sutton that the City hopefully could give him an answer soon. Mr. Sutton asked Mayor and Council if a waiver could be done to speed up the process. Mayor Lowe advised Mr. Sutton the City Attorney will research the flood issue and the laws; and the city will research the property location in regards to the flood plain, before any action is taken on an annexation. Mayor Lowe thanked Jerry Sutton for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Thomas Mulhall with Chattahoochee Valley Company to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Mulhall came forward to discuss having a second Whitewater Outfitter. Mr. Mulhall also discussed the need for a second take out on the Phenix City side and a Riverwalk with bicycle lanes. Mr. Mulhall further advised that there is a possibility of having a paddle boat from Florida to hold events and activities. Once finished with his presentation, Mr. Mulhall asked the city for four possible things:

1. The City of Phenix City opening up the RFP process with Uptown Columbus for a second outfitter.

2. The City of Phenix City looking into the feasibility of adding a bicycle lane to Brickyard Road.

3. The City of Phenix City to support the central marketing plan for the river that will include Chattahoochee Valley Company.

4. The City of Phenix City to place tourist information signage that will point to the Chattahoochee Valley Company's location.

Mr. Mulhall thanked the Mayor and Council for taking time to listen to his presentation. Mayor Lowe advised that the city has to look over the request. Economic Director Shaun Culligan discussed the details of a possible second outfitter with Mayor and Council. Utilities Director Stephen Smith discussed the logistics with Mr. Muhall, Mayor and Council. Mr. Smith also advised that he would give Council a Whitewater report before the October 15<sup>th</sup> Work Session meeting. Mayor Lowe thanked Thomas Mulhall for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Engineering Director Angel Moore to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their September 25, 2018 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Melony Lee who discussed the following with Mayor and Council:

1. Discussed the 2019 calendar with Mayor and Council.
2. Councilmember Day will be attending the 2018 Municipal Leadership Institute and CMO Graduation on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
3. Reminded Mayor and Council of the Promotional Ceremonies coming up on October 4th.
4. Reminded everyone of the Tuskegee Classic Game this upcoming weekend, October 6th.
5. Reminded everyone of the Columbus Day holiday on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
6. Reminded everyone of the Homage Park meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
7. Reminded everyone of the Help the Hooch clean up on October 13<sup>th</sup>.
8. Reminded everyone that after the Council Meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Administrative Hearing at 10 a.m.
9. Reminded everyone at Councilmember Day will be attending AARC Annual Training Conference on October 21<sup>st</sup> in Point Clear, Alabama.
10. Reminded everyone that the City Clerk has jury duty during the week of October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lowe and Council discussed the following:

1. Councilmember Bailey inquired about the replacement of the water meter registers. Utilities Director Stephen Smith advised that at the next council meeting agenda, there will be a bid to hire an outside contractor to replace the registers.
2. Utilities Director Stephen Smith also advised the sewage/rainwater line issue letters will be going out this week. Mr. Smith stated there are around 300 letters that will be sent out in smaller quantities over the next four to five weeks. Mr. Smith further stated the letter will advise the citizens they will have 90 days to fix the problem, they will receive a letter if repair have not been made after 30 days and the charge will be added to the water bill. This is a state mandated issue to reduce the rainwater in the city sewage lines.

3. Councilmember Bailey inquired on an update from the Central Activities Center. Gil Griffith gave an update and advised that the project is on schedule. Mayor Lowe inquired about the Central Activities Center for Compassion Day on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Gil Griffith stated that the building will not be finished so Compassion Day will be held at the school.
4. Councilmember Johnson discussed the church signage at the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Gil Griffith and Angel Moore advised that the church would need to ask permission from Council for a right of way encroachment. The Church also needed to show the design and where the sign will be placed.
5. Councilmember Day inquired about the repaving of Downing Drive. Angel Moore discussed the details of the project.
6. Councilmember Day inquired about Highway 431 and College Drive traffic light. Angel Moore gave an update and advised that ALDOT had not received all of the permit information to move forward.
7. Councilmember Day also inquired about the 5<sup>th</sup> Street South Gas Company relocating gas tanks. Angel Moore advised that the City was waiting on the invoicing and then could set up meetings and normally it takes around 60 days to award a contract with ALDOT.
8. Councilmember Day inquired about Lakewood Golf Course. Julie Taylor stated that no tournaments will be held until next spring.
9. Councilmember Day inquired about the Splash Pad at Spencer Recreation Center. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes advised that the material was faulty and a couple of items had to be replaced.
10. Councilmember Day inquired about a plan to upgrade Sumbry Park and Southside Park. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised that the city is under a new budget so it will depend on funding to improve projects around the city.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Graham reviewed the claims with Mayor and Council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham advised Mayor and Council there needs to be an Executive Session for Pending Litigation for one hour. Mayor Lowe called for a motion for an Executive Session for Pending Litigation for one hour after which the Work Session would adjourn. Councilmember Gordy moved to go into Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Bailey. All were in favor.

Mayor and Council took a 10 minute break.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:52 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:52 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 15, 2018.