

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2019

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, January 14, 2019, 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 Clerk Melony Lee, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. Department Heads in attendance were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Director Shaun Culligan, Assistant Engineering Director Mike Pattillo, Engineer Christopher Casey, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, IT Director Mike Bauer, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Police Chief Ray Smith, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Day.

Mayor Lowe advised Steve Franklin was not present to address Council as listed on the agenda because the Mayor had already spoken to him prior to the meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon Dennis Beson, CEO and President of the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce and Dr. David White, Board Chair of the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce, to address council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Beson presented a report of 2018 Highlights of Events and Achievements and 2019 Plans and Goals of the Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Day inquired if the Chamber of Commerce brought businesses into the Phenix City area. Mr. Beson discussed the different ways the Chamber promoted the businesses in Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson inquired how far out the Chamber does business. Mr. Beson explained to Mayor and Council that members are accepted from anywhere but usually the Chamber focused on a twenty mile radius. Mr. Beson thanked the Mayor and Council for the City of Phenix City's support. Mayor Lowe thanked Dennis Beson and Dr. David White for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant Engineering Director Mike Pattillo to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their January 8th meeting. Assistant Engineering Director Mike Pattillo advised the meeting was cancelled due to no agenda items.

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

1. Advised Mayor and Council of her resignation as recorder of the Homage Park Veterans Committee, Inc.
2. Reminded everyone that the council meeting will be January 15th at 9:00 a.m.
3. Reminded everyone of the State of the City Address on January 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin-Idle Hour Park Community Center.
4. Reminded everyone of the Opportunity Incentive Program Information Session on January 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.
5. Reminded everyone of the Troy State Graduation Ceremony on January 18th at 7:00 p.m.

6. Reminded everyone of the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award Breakfast on January 21st at 7:06 a.m.
7. Reminded everyone the City offices will be closed on January 21st for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
8. Reminded everyone of the Chamber of Commerce dinner on February 5th at 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
9. Reminded everyone of the Elected Officials Luncheon on February 7th at 11:30 a.m.
10. Reminded everyone the City offices will be closed on February 18th for President's Day.
11. Reminded everyone of the CMO #61 Municipal Legislative Advocacy meeting on March 19th from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Legislators meeting will be from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
12. Reminded everyone of the ALM Convention on May 4th through 7th, 2019.
13. Reminded everyone of the Zoning Adjustment & Appeals Board opening in February. Mayor and Council discussed having a sign-up sheet for individuals wanting to serve on board, so if needed the city clerk could call upon them if an opening occurs.

City Manager Wallace Hunter reminded everyone that he would be out of the office on January 23rd through the 25th to attend a conference.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the water meter update. Utilities Director Stephen Smith advised that the city had 3,000 more registers, not meters, to change out. The city is 2/3 done but 1/3 still had to be replaced but should be finished in about three weeks.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the 5th Avenue Extension sewer pipe project. Utilities Director Stephen Smith advised that the weather has caused problems and it had not been installed yet.

Councilmember Day inquired about a streetlight in Misty Forest Subdivision at Raven Oaks. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised that this location is in the county and the individual needs to make contact with Cattie Epps and the Homeowner's Association.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the changing of the precinct for voting. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised that the city will change District One to the Martin-Idle Hour Park Community Center. City Manager Wallace Hunter will set up a meeting with Judge Alfred Harden (who handles the elections), City Clerk Melony Lee, and himself to discuss letting Judge Harden handle city elections. City Manager Hunter also advised he will check on changing the time of elections to match the county.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the streetlight change out throughout the city. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised that Alabama Power was working their way here.

Councilmember Johnson further inquired about the tethering law and something needed to be done about the tethering law around the city. Police Chief Ray Smith advised that the last one did not meet criteria so nothing could be done. Chief Smith also advised that the complaints need to be turned in as soon as possible so the Police Department can handle it immediately. Mayor and Council discussed the tethering law around the City of Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe advised Council of the draft update in regards to the School Board Election. J.W. Brannen advised Mayor and Council that Section 2 would add Place One and Place Two in each district. He further advised that Section 9 will have the Phenix City Board of Education pay for an audit instead of getting one for free.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham advised Mayor and Council there needs to be an Executive Session for forty-five minutes to discuss Potential Litigation and Economic Development. Mayor Lowe called for a motion for an Executive Session for forty-five minutes to discuss Potential Litigation and Economic Development after which the Work Session would adjourn. Councilmember Johnson moved to go into Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Day. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:38 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:18 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, February 4, 2019.