

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 1, 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, April 1, 2019, 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, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. Department Heads in attendance were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Assistant Director Lauren Tice, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, 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 Johnson.

Mayor Lowe called upon Reverend Tom Weise to address council, as listed on the agenda. Reverend Weise discussed Phenix City having its own White Water Outfitter and or another Rafting Company. Reverend Weise stated that Phenix City would benefit from having other vendors and restaurants near the River Front. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, to speak on the matter and verify statistics and amounts spent on the White Water project. Mr. Culligan explained that the number of participants on the White Water Rafting do not warrant adding another outfitter at this time. Mr. Culligan stated that there were studies completed to back up his statement. Stephen Smith, Finance Director, stated that the City of Phenix City shares revenue with Columbus from the White Water Rafting and the amount differs depending on the services rendered. Mayor Lowe asked Council for a point of privilege to call upon Mr. Ross Horner, president of Uptown Columbus, who was not listed on the agenda. Council members approved Mr. Horner to address council. Mr. Horner stated that Columbus was working with Phenix City in improving and redeveloping the Uptown Columbus and River Front area and that it has greatly improved over the last few years and will get better with time. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the redevelopment of the Phenix City side is a work in progress. Mayor Lowe thanked Reverend Weise and Mr. Ross Horner for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Ms. Michelle Gould to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Michelle Gould was not present.

Mayor Lowe called upon Ms. Vernita Edmonds to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Edmonds presented a request for a street light to be installed at Jefferson Road. Ms. Edmonds stated that there are six houses on the street and the current street light is at the end and does not illuminate the other houses putting the other residents at risk. Mayor Lowe advised that the city ordinance in place does not allow a street light to be placed less than 300 feet apart. The placement of a street light does not meet the minimum requirement of the

ordinance. Mayor Lowe stated the City has to be consistent with their decisions in such matters. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised that the residents on Jefferson Road may request a security light from Alabama Power to be placed on the pole near her home and the residents absorb the cost. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering, explained the reasoning behind street lights. Ms. Moore advised it is to illuminate intersections and roadways. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that they would contact Alabama Power and inquire on adjustments to the light and possible raising the arm to increase coverage. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Engineering Department could add another light that would be within regulations to the ordinance in the area as well. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Edmonds for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Alvin S. Everett to address council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Everett presented a request to continue building a retaining wall on his property on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Everett stated that he finds it difficult to get in and out of his driveway because of the slop. Mr. Everett also stated that he did not know he needed prior approval before building the wall. Mayor Lowe called upon Gill Griffith, Building Official, to explain to Mr. Everett in detail. Gill Griffith stated the reasons why the retainer wall was in too close proximity to the City of Phenix City Right of Way by about twelve to fifteen feet. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering, stated the retaining wall would obstruct the city from getting to the water meter and the city may be liable if someone ran into it. Mr. Everett stated that several houses in the area already have retaining walls and he did not know he was breaking the law. Mayor Lowe called upon the City Attorney, Jimmy Graham about the cities' liability. City Attorney Graham asked Mr. Everett if he would take the wall back the fifteen feet to be in compliance. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Everett for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Candace Deppe and Jeff Bevill to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Deppe, President of the Home Owners Association of the Westminister Subdivision, presented a request to reduce the speed limit in their subdivision from thirty miles per hour to twenty miles per hour. Ms. Deppe stated that speeding is a major problem and she is concerned for the children. Mayor Lowe called upon City Manager Wallace Hunter to speak to Ms. Deppe and Mr. Bevill. Mr. Hunter stated that their request to reduce the speed limit in the subdivision was reasonable. Mr. Hunter also stated that a No Thru Traffic Sign would be placed in the area as well. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Deppe and Mr. Bevill for coming to speak with council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Director of the Engineering Department, Angel Moore to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their March 26, 2019 meeting.

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

1. Advised Council that the Mayor's Ball Luncheon will be held on April 4, 2019, at the Max Wilkes Idle Hour Park Community Center at 12:00 noon.
2. Informed Council that Relay for Life will be held May 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
3. Reminded Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention will be held May 4, 2019 through May 7, 2019 and therefore will push the Work Session and Council Meetings over by a day.
4. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

5. Reminded Council of the board interview after the work session.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the Snowflake project that was listed in the Economic Development's monthly departmental report. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that it was a code name for an upcoming project. The project has yet to be named because of the State Confidentiality Policy.

Councilmember Day inquired about 209 Seale Road. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that it was the old Pops Retail Store and will be turned into a bar.

Councilmember Day inquired about Johns Mansville and Logan Machine Works expansions and bringing new jobs into the City. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that they are two separate companies and once the expansion is complete, new jobs are expected over the next few years.

Councilmember Day inquired about 5<sup>th</sup> Street Project. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering, stated that the contractor had turned in additional pricing and she was waiting to hear back from the Department of Transportation and hopefully get the contractor back out there.

Councilmember Day asked for an update on the project on Highway 431. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering, stated that they are moving dirt and laying down plans. Ms. Moore also stated that the weather has been an obstacle lately and it is a work in progress.

Councilmember Bailey asked for an update on the Central Activity Center. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that everything is coming along and there is no set date for completion but contractors are currently working on the baseboard in the Auditorium and the rest of repairs have been scheduled.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about replacing the registers of the water meters. Stephen Smith, Director of Utilities, stated that 9,250 have already been replaced and work orders are out to replace 1,179 more and anticipate 2,942 in the future.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Council took a 10 minute break.

When they convened after the break, they conducted a Planning Commission Board interview.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, April 15, 2019.