

## **WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES May 20, 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, May 20, 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, City Engineer Angel Moore, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Assistant Police Chief Gail Green, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Gordy.

Mayor Lowe called upon Preston Pritchett, South Girard School FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) program, to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Pritchett came forward and introduced himself and his students, Emily Senn and Eli Gonzalez. Mr. Pritchett asked for fundraising support for the two students as they travel to compete at the FBLA National Leadership Council in June 2019 located in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Pritchett stated that the students competed and placed first at the state level in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Pritchett asked the students to state what area they competed in and how it may pertain to their future career goals. Eli Gonzalez stated that he competed in the Math – Financial Literacy Category. Mr. Gonzalez also stated the Mathematical concentration will help him in the Engineering field in which he plans to pursue in the future. Emily Senn stated that she competed in the Digital Censorship Category. Ms. Senn also stated that her field of choice is education. Ms. Senn further stated that Digital Censorship will help with the constant changes and advances in technology. Mayor Lowe commended the students on their accomplishments and courage to speak before a group of people. Mayor Lowe stated that council has never donated collectively as a group. Mayor Lowe stated that the City is unable to contribute. Councilmember Gordy stated that they could get with Mr. Pritchett at a later time to donate personally to help with fundraising. Mayor Lowe thanked everyone for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Michael O. Cannon to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Cannon read several scriptures from the bible. Mayor Lowe intervened and asked Mr. Cannon to state the issue listed on his Request to Address City Council at a Work Session form. Mr. Cannon stated that he spoke with the Mayor and Utilities Director Steve Smith about the drainage issues running on City property from his property on Summerville Road. Mr. Cannon also stated that he paid his tab two weeks ago and no one from the City has called him. John Spraggins, Graduate Engineer, stated he received Mr. Cannon's voicemail about blue paint on the curve and his concerns about sewage line placing. Mr. Spraggins also stated that City employee Mr. Norris Williams spoke with Mr. Cannon to insure him that those were the marks for the water lines not for the sewer service. Mr. Spraggins further stated that the City will install service lines on 21<sup>st</sup> Street with an expected completion date of Wednesday May 22, 2019. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Cannon 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 May 14, 2019 meeting.

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

1. Advised Council that Uptown Columbus will have its New Brand Unveiling at Riverwalk Island on May 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Reminded Council that Troy University will have their Commencement Ceremony June 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
3. Reminded Council that the Mayor's Ball will be held on June 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
4. Informed Council of the Webinar reviewing the current Legislative Session that will be held on June 25, 2019 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
5. Reminded Council that the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday falls on a Thursday and in the past Council has extended the holiday an extra day. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked if council would like to do the same this year. Council advised to place a Resolution on next Agenda.
6. Informed Council of Senate Bill 202. City Clerk Melony Lee stated she has typed up a memo opposing the bill. Mrs. Lee stated that J. W. Brannen will explain.

Mayor Lowe called upon J. W. Brannen to explain Senate Bill 202. Mr. Brannen stated that Municipalities will be required to follow the same procedures as the county when entering a Bond Financing Agreement and must complete a Government Bond Financing Review form developed by Department of Examiners Public Account for public inspection. Mr. Brannen also stated if passed, the Legislature will have more control of the City Government. Mr. Brannen further stated he would take the memo to Montgomery once it has been signed by Mayor and Council to show that the City of Phenix City, Alabama opposes the Bill.

City Clerk Melony Lee discussed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she would be hosting a forum for District 2 residents before the June 18, 2019 Council Meeting at the Central Activities Center.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that there will be a Grand Re-Opening for the Central Activity Center on May 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Hughes also stated that Parks and Recreation will hold two events on June 8, 2019. Mr. Hughes further stated that a Kids Fishing Rodeo at Moon Lake and a Baseball District Tournament will be held at the Baseball Field for the 9 and 11 year old Districts.

Councilmember Day inquired about improvements to the Arthur Sumbry Park. Councilmember Day stated that the roof of the Pavilion needs to be painted. Councilmember Day also stated that the park would benefit from a walking trail. Mr. Hughes stated that Parks and Recreation will look into painting the Pavilion. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that

because of the dam and the gravel a walking trail is not favorable for the Arthur Sumbry Park because of the location.

Councilmember Day inquired about 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and shopping center on 431.

Angel Moore, Director of Engineering stated that the Gas Company is having difficulties locating the gas line. Ms. Moore also stated ALAGASCO and project inspectors are working on it. Ms. Moore further stated that the shopping center still has a ways to go to obtain building permits and should be on the agenda within the next six weeks.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham asked for an Executive Session to discuss Industrial Development for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Industrial Development for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Gordy seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:23 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:39 p.m.

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