

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 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, July 1, 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 Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Library Director Michele Kilday, 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 Day.

Mayor Lowe called upon Shelia Carter to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Carter was not present. Councilmember Day stated he had spoken with her prior to the meeting. Councilmember Day further stated that Ms. Carter was concerned about the condition of the restrooms and ventilation at Meadowlane Park. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that vandalism is an ongoing problem at all of the City's Parks. Mr. Hughes also stated that within one week of the walls being painted and sinks, mirrors and doors having been repaired, Meadowlane Park was vandalized again. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Moon Lake vandalism issues are not as great as the other parks because of the people using the park. Mayor Lowe suggested getting the churches within a 2 mile radius involved. Mayor Lowe stated that Pastors should encourage their community to support the parks and visit them frequently which would decrease vandalism.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their June 25, 2019 meeting.

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

1. Informed Council that Central Freshman Academy will hold a Bicentennial Project Unveiling July 2, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
2. Reminded Council that Independence Day Holiday will be July 4th and 5th 2019.
3. Informed Council that Budget Work Session will be held on July 8 - 9, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
4. Advised Council of Jacks Restaurant Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on July 15, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
5. Reminded Council that the Mayor's Scholarship Reception will be held on July 25, 2019.
6. Advised Council of the Public Meeting for the Summerville Road Extension to be held on July 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Central Activities Center.
7. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated Mayor Lowe on receiving the Boy Scouts of America East Alabama Distinguished Citizen Award.

Councilmember Johnson thanked the individuals who assisted her with the preparation for the District 2 Meeting on June 18, 2019: Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Clerk Melony Lee, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about overgrown shrubs, trees and bushes throughout the city but especially the areas between Applebee's Restaurant and Westview Elementary School. Gill Griffith, Building Official, stated that the Public Works Department stays very busy this time of year and they are still working on the area that washed out on Idle Hour Park / Airport Road. Mr. Griffith also stated if given specific areas, he would make sure they are taken care of within 7-10 days. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Public Works Department is short staff and that there are several jobs available. Mr. Hunter also stated that HR is in pursuit of qualified applicants.

Councilmember Day stated that the American Legion on Seale Road is in need of repairs. Councilmember Day also stated that he spoke with the Commander of the Legion, Mr. John Alexander, who stated that the State of Alabama American Legion Association would give them the funds to help fix it up. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the American Legion is facing many violations which could lead to the building being demolished. Councilmember Day stated that he would follow up with Mr. Alexander to see how long the restoration process will be.

Councilmember Day inquired about the update on the 5th Street South and the 431 projects as it appears to be at a standstill. Angel Moore, Director of Engineering, stated a supplemental agreement had been reached for the water line work. Ms. Moore stated that the contractors take off two weeks for the 4th of July Holiday and will return on the 15th to resume work on the water line and pavement.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Sewage Plant Project updates. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated they met with the Engineers last week and the project is in its beginning stage. Mr. Smith also stated that the process involves applying for a State Grant to fund improvements. Mr. Smith stated that the grant is not a guarantee and that the City must be awarded. Mr. Smith further stated the project should begin in 2020.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the usage of the public ramp located on Phenix City's side of the River Walk. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that an individual can use the ramp for recreational purposes but an individual cannot make money off of others using the ramp without a contract or permission from Uptown Columbus.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the update on replacing the registers of the water meters. Stephen Smith, Director of Utilities, stated that 10,393 have already been replaced and work orders have been put in to replace 369 more which are anticipated to be completed in about 3 weeks.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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