

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 6, 2020**

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 6, 2020, 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, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Course Director Mike Barber, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks & 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 Mayor Lowe.

Mayor Lowe called upon Jennifer Davidson with the Russell County Extension Office to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Davidson came forward to address Council. Ms. Davidson thanked Mayor and Council for their continued support and spreading the word about the Russell County Extension Office. Ms. Davidson discussed the Russell County Extension Office scheduled events and programs for 2020. Ms. Davidson discussed the Lunch and Learn Program with the Phenix City Russell County Library. Ms. Davidson stated that the Russell County Extension Office will continue to work with local farmers to make sure they have the proper licensing for spraying pesticides. Ms. Davidson also stated that new programs for 2020 will include: a Breast Feeding Friendly Certification training for Daycare providers; a cow pulling program for Cattlemen in Hurtsboro; as well as a Forestry program for women. Ms. Davidson stated that the tree distribution for Arbor Day will not be at the Moon Lake Pavilion this year but at the Farmers Market location. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Davidson for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Brian Rutledge of Robinson, Grimes and Company to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Rutledge came forward to address Council. Mr. Rutledge reviewed the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year that ended on 09/30/2019. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Rutledge for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Mike Pattillo, Assistant Director of Engineering, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their December 10, 2019 meeting. Mr. Pattillo advised the meeting was cancelled due to the holidays.

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

1. Advised Council that the State of the City Address will be held on January 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Advised Council that City Offices will be closed on January 20, 2020 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and therefore will push the Work Session and Council Meetings over by a day.

3. Advised Council that Councilmember Day will host an Elected Official Luncheon on January 30, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.
4. Reminded Council that the 2020 Legislative Advocacy Day will be held on February 11, 2020.
5. Reminded Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held February 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
6. Advised Council that City Offices will be closed on February 17, 2020 in observance of President's Day Holiday and therefore will push the Work Session and Council Meetings over by a day.
7. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Resolution 2017-301 introduced new Utility rates that were set to begin in January 2020. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that the Utilities Director, Steve Smith will be putting together a new rate and fee schedule that will be issued out to customers.

Mayor Lowe stated the State of the City will be held Thursday January 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Lowe also stated that he challenged a group of Ridgecrest Elementary students that toured the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk's offices back in December, to increase their Accelerated Reading points and they will be recognized at the meeting. Mayor Lowe further stated that we all must invest in our children because they are the future Mayors and Councilmembers.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the repairing of the pavilions at the Arthur Sumbry Park. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the pavilions were recently set on fire and are currently being repaired. Mr. Hunter also stated that it has become an issue with the park's patrons involving themselves in inappropriate and illegal activities. Councilmember Day asked if the City could possibly install surveillance cameras throughout the City parks. Mr. Hunter stated that surveillance cameras are a possibility.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on 5<sup>th</sup> Street South project. Mike Pattillo, Assistant Director of Engineering, stated that the Contractors shut down for the Holidays and started back up the first of the year.

Councilmember Day inquired about additional street lights on 280 By Pass and around the City. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that things are moving along nicely. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that Alabama Power works directly with ALDOT on the street light projects and the City has no control or knowledge of how long the projects will take.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on Meadowlane Park. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that a new foot bridge has been installed at the park. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there has been an issue with people renting one of the City's pavilion or recreational building for private parties and using it for vendors or personal gain. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that no commercial activity is allowed at any City parks unless it is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilmember Bailey thanked Department Heads and all the employees that work in the departments for their hard work and dedication to the City in 2019. Councilmember Bailey stated that no matter how many times he has called the City Manager's Office with an issue, it has always been addressed. Councilmember Bailey also thanked the Police and Fire Departments for keeping the citizens of Phenix City safe. Councilmember Bailey further stated that he appreciates

all City employees and they have definitely made his tenure as Councilman for District One a lot easier.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about what procedures are in place concerning large items such as furniture, tires and televisions that is left on the side of the road. Councilmember Johnson stated that she has received several phone calls from concerned citizens. Councilmember Johnson also stated that on the later part of Girard Cemetery, Sanford Road and any dark area seems to be a dumping site. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that dumping is an issue not just in District Two but in all of Phenix City. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that there is a plan in place to install security cameras throughout the city to cut down on littering. Councilmember Johnson stated that they have a lot of positive things going on in District Two and we just have to be on the lookout for the ones who are dumping trash on the streets. City Manager Hunter stated that it is an ongoing issue keeping the streets of Phenix City clean which includes demolishing abandoned buildings. City Attorney Graham stated that the City received a summary judgment granted in the lawsuit filed by Senior Pastor Joseph Appiah and Grace Baptist Church. City Attorney Graham also stated that the Church building had been abandoned and therefore had been demolished by the City. City Attorney Graham further stated that the case has been resolved in the City's favor.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City is seeking revenue from the State to repair the City's dams. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that Alabama does not have a program in place to maintain the dams and Phenix City will sphere head the program initiative. Mike Pattillo, Assistant Director of Engineering, stated that Alabama is the only State in the Nation that doesn't have a Dam Inspection Program. Mr. Pattillo also stated that there is Federal money available for dam repairs but Phenix City cannot apply because Alabama does not have a dam inspection program. Mr. Pattillo further stated that there is a National Engineer Organization that regulates dam inspections.

Councilmember Bailey thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the work completed at the Idle Hour Park and Moon Lake areas. Councilmember Bailey stated that they are looking really good.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2020.