

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 21, 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 Tuesday, January 21, 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, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, 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, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Police Chief Ray Smith and Superintendent of Waste Water Treatment Plant Charles Woody.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Gordy.

Mayor Lowe called upon Dr. Janet M. Goodwin to address council, as listed on the agenda. Dr. Goodwin came forward to address Council. Dr. Goodwin inquired about reestablishing Keep Phenix City Beautiful. Dr. Goodwin stated that Ms. Georgia Landingham was one of the original founders of Keep Phenix City Beautiful and is now retired. Dr. Goodwin also stated that there is a need for the program in the City. Dr. Goodwin further stated that Keep Phenix City Beautiful has participated in the Liter Prevention Campaign with Phenix City Schools and the River Walk Beautification Program. Dr. Goodwin stated that the former City Clerk and one former Councilmember were on the original board. Mayor Lowe stated that the City relinquished the board when Keep Phenix City Beautiful became a 501c3 organization prior to 2010. Councilmember Day stated that the Councilmembers would select a Business of the Month, Resident of the Month and Church of the Month from each District. Mayor Lowe stated that the City cannot totally fund the program because it is a Non Profit 501c3 organization but if approved, the city may be able to appropriate funds for the next fiscal year. Councilmember Bailey inquired about current board members. Dr. Goodwin stated that the board has not been established and she is in the process of reaching out to past board members to see if they are willing to serve again. Councilmember Gordy stated that once the new board is in place, City Council will appoint a City liaison to assist them in their efforts to help the City. Councilmember Johnson stated that the City Council will support the beautification of Phenix City. Mayor Lowe thanked Dr. Goodwin coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Cynthia McKinney with Beyond Expectations Community Outreach, as listed on the agenda. Ms. McKinney came forward to address Council. Ms. McKinney stated that she is the Executive Director and Founder of Beyond Expectations Community Outreach. Ms. McKinney also stated that Beyond Expectations Community Outreach is a nonprofit organization that services low to moderate income residents of both Phenix City and Russell County by being an advocate to anti-hunger and bring awareness to the issues of hunger in our communities. Ms. McKinney further stated that Beyond Expectations Community Outreach originated in Hurtsboro, Alabama and has opened a second location in South Phenix City because of the need and demands of their services. Ms. McKinney stated that the organization partners with Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Phenix City Housing Authority to bring food to

the needy. Ms. McKinney also stated that beginning in March 2020 and over a five year period, the government is going to implement a change to the SNAP program (formerly known as the Food Stamp program) which will greatly impact the community. Ms. McKinney further stated that the demand for food pantries will increase and Beyond Expectations is getting in position to take an active role to help those in need. Ms. McKinney asked Council for their financial support to help the people of Phenix City who are dealing with hunger and food insecurities. Mayor Lowe inquired about the Center's location. Ms. McKinney stated that the center is located on 1101 1<sup>st</sup> Place South Phenix, City, Alabama. Councilmember Day inquired about how the organization is currently funded. Ms. McKinney stated that the organization receives a yearly stipend from the County Commission and is funded by private donations. Mayor Lowe stated that from now until May 1, 2020 a nonprofit organization can apply for appropriated funds for the next fiscal year. Mayor Lowe also stated that applying for the funds does not guarantee approval. Councilmember Johnson commended Ms. McKinney for her efforts in fighting hunger and helping the citizens of our community. Councilmember Johnson inquired about the separation of funds and food from Phenix City and Hurtsboro. Ms. McKinney stated that they are moving the food pantry from Hurtsboro to Phenix City and continuing the senior programs, community workshops and the Pack the Backpack Program in Hurtsboro. Ms. McKinney also stated that food will be available in Hurtsboro as well. Councilmember Day inquired about the difference between the Beyond Expectations and similar organizations, Ms. McKinney stated that there is a lot of organizations that help people with food services but there is a lot of people who need food services and everyone needs to come together to meet those needs. Councilmember Gordy inquired about the Pack the Backpack Program and how do they determine the need for food services. Ms. McKinney stated that the Pack the Backpack Program gives children a backpack of food to last for the weekend and is given out every weekend. Ms. McKinney also stated that the family's names are turned in by the School Counselor or Church Pastor. Ms. McKinney further stated that volunteers will be needed for the Phenix City location. Councilmember Bailey inquired about the use of Phenix City funds to help the residents of Hurtsboro. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the funds must be kept separate and records must be presented. Ms. McKinney stated that the funds will be kept separately. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. McKinney 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 January 14, 2019 meeting. Mr. 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. Informed Council that Summerville United Methodist Church Graduation Celebration will be held on January 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Advised Council that Troy University Commencement Ceremony will be held on January 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
3. Advised Council that the Police Department Promotional Ceremony will be held on January 27, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
4. Advised Council that Senator Jones representative would like to meet with the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Economic Development Director on January 28, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.
5. Reminded Council that Councilmember Day will host an Elected Official Luncheon on January 30, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.
6. Informed Council that Young Citizens Awards Scholarship Presentation will be held on January 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

7. Informed Council that Columbus 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on February 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
8. Reminded Council that the 2020 Legislative Advocacy Day will be held on February 11, 2020.
9. Reminded Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held February 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
10. 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.
11. Advised Council that East Alabama Chamber Leadership Luncheon will be held on February 19, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.
12. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated Mayor Lowe for being awarded the 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award on January 20, 2020 sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Councilmember Johnson informed Council that she will be the guest speaker at the Communities of Transformation Graduation Ceremony on January 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and all are invited.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham asked for an Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 10 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 10 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Johnson seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:33 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:43 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, February 3, 2020.