

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 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, February 3, 2020, 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, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Battalion Chief Tommy Cox, Golf Course Director Mike Barber, Library Director Assistant Lauren Tice, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks & Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Police Chief Ray Smith, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins and Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Charles Woody.

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

The invocation was led by Councilmember Bailey.

Mayor Lowe advised there were no Requests to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their January 28, 2020 meeting.

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

1. Advised Council that Legends Hall of Fame Banquet at Mother Mary Mission will be held on February 8, 2020.
2. Reminded Council that the 2020 Legislative Advocacy Day will be held on February 11, 2020.
3. Reminded Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held February 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
4. 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.
5. Advised Council that the East Alabama Chamber Leadership Luncheon will be held February 19, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.
6. Informed Council that the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on March 5, 2020.
7. Informed Council that the March 17, 2020 Council Meeting will be held at Martin Idle Hour Community Center at 6:00 p.m.
8. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson stated that a citizen had reached out to her concerning the City celebrating Black History Month. Councilmember Johnson asked if the Library was having an event or scheduled program to recognize Black History Month. Lauren Tice, Assistant Library Director, stated that the Library will host four Friendship Fridays in the month of February and two of the four will be dedicated to Black History with crafts and informative bulletin boards. Ms. Tice further stated that the other two Fridays will be centered on President's Day. Councilmember Day

asked if the events at the Library are posted anywhere to inform the citizens of the events. Ms. Tice stated that all of the Library's events are posted in the Citizen of East Alabama Newspaper.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the ILJIN Alabama Plant expansion and the number of employees. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development, stated that the expansion on ILJIN was completed a couple of years ago. Mr. Culligan also stated that in the initial contract the company was given a specific number of new employees to hire and ILJIN reached that number. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the number of employees fluctuates due to people being hired, laid off, terminated or resigning on a constant basis. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that the number of startup employees may differ from the number of current employees. Mr. Culligan stated that the Economic Development Department conducts an evaluation every six months that list the number of current employees.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the shopping center on Highway 431. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the expected opening date should be late March or early April. Mr. Smith also stated that some of the equipment needed to complete the project was on back order and slowed down the process.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on 5th Street South. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the concrete drive way should be poured soon. Ms. Moore also stated that the project should be finished in about three to four months depending on the weather. Ms. Moore further stated the amount of rain lately has slowed the process down.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the Landfill expansion. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the draft from the City's municipal consultant has been submitted. Ms. Moore also stated that once the draft has been approved, it goes through ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) for public processing. Ms. Moore further stated that once all plans have been approved, the City will receive a permit so that the expansion can begin.

Councilmember Day stated that he noticed last week that a number of lights were out on Seale Road near Mother Mary Mission and Colin Powell Parkway. Councilmember Day also stated that several lights were out on South Seale Road and Highway 431. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that two of the breakers were tripped in the Seale Road area. Ms. Moore also stated that a work order had been called in and the superintendent was able to get most of the lights back on. Ms. Moore further stated that some of the lights on Highway 431 are out because the contractors for Renfroe's Market hit a line and it is in the process of being repaired. Councilmember Johnson asked if the tripping of the breaker had any impact on Sanford Road. Ms. Moore stated that Sanford Road is on a different grid than Seale Road. Ms. Moore also stated that she hasn't heard about anything in the Sanford Road area but will check into it.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Light Project and changing out the lights throughout the City. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that Alabama Power is waiting to receive a permit from ALDOT. Ms. Moore also stated that the lights on the City's right of way have been changed and the ones on ALDOT's right of way have not.

Councilmember Day inquired about the division of the funds collected from Municipal Court. Ruby White, Municipal Court Clerk, stated that the funds are divided among the local departments and the state.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the pavilions at Arthur Sumbry Park. Councilmember Day stated that the pavilion damaged by fire still has tape around it and the

pavilion by the lake has issues with water flow and may need a trench built around it. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that building a trench would be a safety issue unless the water flowed underground. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that the tape is still around the pavilion because the insurance company has not finished their assessment. City Manager Wallace Hunter further stated that everything will be taken care of at one time. Mr. Hunter stated that cameras will be placed around the City to reduce vandalism.

Councilmember Day inquired about programs that could be used to upgrade the South Side Park and Arthur Sumbry Park. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the playground, signs and several other upgrades have been completed at all of the City parks. City Manager Wallace Hunter also stated that vandalism is a reoccurring problem at the City parks. Councilmember Day stated that by upgrading all the City parks, City events can be held at different City parks. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that events are held in a centralized location. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Amphitheater cannot be compared to the parks.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about lights being out on Highway 80 near the Riverchase Drive exit coming from Columbus, Georgia. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that she will have that area checked out.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he noticed that Mike Bowden has commercial lots for sale in front of his apartments. Councilmember Bailey asked if the City would have to redesign vents for sewage once the area is developed. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the more development in that area the better the situation will be. Mr. Smith also stated that the consistent flow will help the problem.

Angel Moore, City Engineer discussed the Report on House Bill 2 to Rebuild Alabama Gas Tax Funds. Ms. Moore stated that at the beginning of each year it has to be recorded that the State funds will be allocated for and used only for a specific project. Ms. Moore also stated that the allocated amount is \$141,067.00 for the resurfacing of Dobbs Drive. Councilmember Day asked if the allocated funds will cover the entire resurfacing of Dobbs Drive. Ms. Moore stated that the funds will be used for resurfacing a portion of Dobbs Drive. Ms. Moore also stated that the total resurfacing project will cost \$397,000.00

Steve Smith, Utilities Director, discussed the General Obligation Warrants Refunding. Mr. Smith stated that a net savings is the result of refinancing the warrants. Mr. Smith also stated that the total savings and interest cost between 2020 through 2035 will be \$4,330,376.81. Mr. Smith further stated that the present value of the total savings is \$3,764,272.44. Mr. Smith stated that refinancing reduces debt services cost. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated refinancing warrants saves the City money and the Council does what is best for the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that if the interest rates change within the fifteen years, the City will refinance again. Mr. Smith stated that the Finance Department reviews rates every so many years and will refinance as necessary to save funds.

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 Pending Litigation and Good Name and Character for 15 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Johnson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation and Good Name and Character for 15 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Day seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 5:56 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 6:11 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2020.