

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 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, June 1, 2020, by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing. Upon roll call, the following members were present by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Clerk Melony Lee, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. Department Heads in attendance by Zoom Video Conferencing were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Utilities Director Steve 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, Director of Human Resources Stephanie Chastain, 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 advised there were no Requests to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Mike Pattillo, Assistant Director of Engineering, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their May 26, 2020 meeting which was held by Zoom Video Conferencing.

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

1. Advised Council that a public meeting will be held on June 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center to discuss Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Fund application.
2. Advised Council that the June 16, 2020 Council Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom Video Conferencing.
3. Advised Council that City Offices will be closed July 3, 2020 in observance of Independence Day.
4. Reminded council of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority Board Interview by Zoom Video Conference immediately following the Work Session.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the dates for the Budget Work Session. City Clerk, Melony Lee, stated that a date has not been chosen. Mrs. Lee also stated that there is an extra week between Council Meetings. Mrs. Lee suggested June 23, 24 and 25, 2020. Mrs. Lee stated that the Budget Work Sessions normally last two full days. Mayor Lowe suggested June 23 and June 24, 2020. Mayor Lowe asked Council to email Mrs. Lee their availability for those dates.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the water main break near the Gatewood Subdivision. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that a contractor working for the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) on the Opelika Bridge Project ran into the main water line feed, causing water to be shut off in the subdivisions in that area. Mr. Smith also stated that the

Utilities Department Emergency crew responded immediately and patched the pipe. Mr. Smith further stated that all water services have been restored.

Councilmember Johnson stated that the new Roses Department Store area looks good and she is excited about their opening. Councilmember Johnson inquired about the development of the old Kmart Shopping Center near Dirt Cheap. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that the project manager has a couple of perspective retailers for the commercial site. Mr. Culligan also stated that he would keep Council updated.

Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to stay safe during these challenging times.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Utilities Department Meter Project. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the Utilities Department is in the process of repairing failed registers.

Councilmember Day inquired about high speed internet in certain areas of District Three. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that it depends upon the service provider. Mr. Smith also stated that CTV Beam provides high speed internet and AT&T is in the process of updating their services.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the new shopping center on Highway 431. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that he spoke with the Renfroe family and they will be making a statement soon concerning the opening date. Mr. Smith also stated that Renfroe's Market could possibly open late June or early July.

Councilmember Day stated that he realize that the COVID-19 Pandemic has played a part in the completion of the 5th Street South project. Councilmember Day asked if the property at the end of 5th Street South was being rezoned for commercial property. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that the property was is in the process of being rezoned but it was pulled from the Planning Commission for re-evaluation.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he received a phone call from Mr. Roy Hodge from Epworth Methodist Church concerning deceleration and acceleration lanes being installed in front of the church. Mike Pattillo, Assistant Director of Engineering, stated that he would call Mr. Hodge with the proper contact information.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the drainage lot in the Saddle Brook Subdivision. Councilmember Bailey asked if anyone from the Home Owners Association had contacted the City concerning the drainage lot. Mike Pattillo, Assistant Director of Engineering, stated that he has been in contact with Billy Sims who updates Saddle Brook's Facebook page with schedules and informative updates. Councilmember Gordy stated that he had received a complaint from a resident in the Saddle Brook Subdivision. Councilmember Gordy also stated that he referred them to the Facebook page for time and scheduling.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about an update on the Bridge Water Sewage Extension Project. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that Council approved the contract with the engineer and they are currently working on designs.

Councilmember Baily inquired about the re-opening of the Golf Course during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Councilmember Bailey asked if the golf participants were adhering to the guidelines set in place for social distancing. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated

that the guidelines are posted for participants to follow. Councilmember Gordy stated that he visited the Golf Course this past weekend and believes that the City is going above and beyond to make sure participants and employees are safe. Councilmember Gordy also stated that the course looks great and everyone appeared to be following the set guidelines. Mike Barber, Golf Course Director, stated that the golf carts and golf shops are limited to only one person or family at a time. Mr. Barber also stated that one good thing that has come out of the changes has been, more junior golfers are starting to join their parents on the golf course.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the Art Park 2020 Concert Series that was scheduled from April through July 2020. Councilmember Bailey asked if the plans were to reschedule the Concerts or cancel them because of the Pandemic. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the dates have been pushed back to September of this year or spring 2021. Mr. Hughes also stated that he will be meeting with City Manager Wallace Hunter and Chief of Police Ray Smith to discuss the possibility of canceling the Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Governor's office has allowed the re-opening of Athletic Facilities. Mr. Hughes also stated that the order will allow the ball parks to reopen with restrictions and guidelines. Mr. Hughes further stated that the State is still going through a Pandemic and safety is the City's main concern. Councilmember Gordy asked if the guidelines will be given to each independent league. Mr. Hughes stated that the guidelines will be given to individual leagues and it will be up to the leagues president to decide if they still want to participate this year. Mr. Hughes also stated that when the fields open back up, they will be operating at half capacity which means only half of the fields will be used at one time. Mayor Lowe stated that participants will use the fields at their own risk and the liability will not be on the City. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated the Pandemic is not over and the number of positive cases continue to rise.

Councilmember Day asked if there had been any changes to the Parks and Recreation Summer Mini Camps. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the online registration will begin on Friday June 5, 2020 and the mini camps start Monday June 8, 2020. Mr. Hughes also stated that the length of the camps will be two weeks each.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she has received several phone calls concerning the rescheduled court dates. Councilmember Johnson asked if there was a list of the new dates and time. Ruby White, Municipal Court Clerk, stated that Court starts on Tuesday June 2, 2020 with limited space. Ms. White also stated that attendees may call the Municipal Court Office for dates and times. Ms. White further stated that because space will be limited for social distancing, attendees will not be allowed to bring anyone with them.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that there were no agenda claims to review with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked that everyone pray for our nation and the family of George Floyd who passed away after pressure was applied to his neck by a Minneapolis, Minnesota Police officer on May 25, 2020. Mr. Hunter stated that this nation may be in an uproar but doesn't have to get out of hand. Mr. Hunter also stated that Columbus had a peaceful protest rally on Sunday May 31, 2020 that bled over into Phenix City without any incidents. Mr. Hunter further stated that he has been in communication with the Chief of Police Ray Smith and the

Russell County Sherriff Office to make sure that policies and procedures are in place to maintain the safety of the City. Mr. Hunter stated that this is an issue all over the nation that needs to be addressed. Councilmember Bailey inquired about Police Officers and Fire Fighters increasing coverage during these unpredictable times. Mr. Hunter stated that Phenix City is a good place to live and Community Leaders coming together will be the key in keeping the community together. Mr. Hunter stated that people have different intentions and the City is staying on top of the situation.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham asked for an Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Johnson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Bailey seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:26 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:08 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, June 15, 2020.