

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 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 15, 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 B. 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, City Engineer Angel Moore, Utilities Director Stephen Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks & Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Director of Human Resources Stephanie Chastain, Police Chief Ray Smith, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins, 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 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 June 9, 2020 meeting. Ms. Moore 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. Advised Council that a public hearing will be held June 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center to discuss Housing and Community Development and Community Development Block Grant application.
2. Advised Council that the Budget Work Session will be held June 23 and June 24, 2020 at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 23rd and starting at 10:00 a.m. on the 24th after Renfroe's Market Grand Opening Ceremony.
3. Advised Council that Renfroe's Market Grand Opening Ceremony will be on June 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
4. Reminded Council that City Offices will be closed July 3, 2020 in observance of Independence Day.
5. Informed Council that the Back to School Sale Tax Holiday will be July 17, 2020 through July 19, 2020.

Councilmember Bailey asked if July's Work Sessions and City Council meetings will be held in person or by Zoom Video Conferencing. Melony Lee, City Clerk, stated that as of right now, the regular Work Sessions and City Council Meetings will be held by Zoom Video Conferencing.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention scheduled for July 24, 2020. Councilmember Day asked if the Convention had been rescheduled

or canceled. City Clerk, Melody Lee, stated that she has not received a statement on cancellation or rescheduling. Mrs. Lee also stated that she will inform council of any changes as they are received.

City Manager Wallace Hunter encouraged everyone to stay safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Hunter stated that the numbers are steadily increasing. Mr. Hunter also stated that we are safer at home, going out unnecessary, not only puts ourselves at risk but our family and coworkers as well.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Unity March on Saturday June 13, 2020 in the City went very well. Mr. Hunter also stated that unity is possible, when City leaders listen to the community and the community listens to City Leaders. Mr. Hunter further stated that things will not change overnight. Mr. Hunter stated that Police Officers serve to protect our citizens and we must work on building relationships with the community which builds trust. Mr. Hunter also stated that all City employees, not just the Police Department and First Responders, must follow policies and procedures that are in place.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about showing the community that Phenix City, Russell County, Phenix City Police Department and the Russell County Sherriff Department all work together as one for the benefit of our community. Councilmember Bailey stated that it will be a positive thing for our community to show unity within ourselves. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Chief of Police Ray Smith, NAACP President Jasponica Florence-Moore, Russell County Sheriff Health Taylor and himself met on June 11, 2020 with CTV Beam to discuss local issues. Mr. Hunter also stated that it was a positive and informative meeting. Mr. Hunter further stated that he agrees with Councilmember Bailey in coming together to show unity in our community. Councilmember Bailey stated that our community is solid and stands strong and we do not have the same issues as the larger Cities due to the good leadership that watches over the City. Councilmember Day stated that he has served over twenty six years in the community and Phenix City is a blessed City. Councilmember Day also thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter for being proactive and approaching issues before they become a problem. Mayor Lowe stated that we have to treat people the way we want to be treated.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, July 6, 2020.