

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 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, July 6, 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 Office Manager Shannon Davis, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. City Clerk Melony Lee was not present. Department Heads in attendance by Zoom Video Conferencing 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, 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 Councilmember Gordy.

Mayor Lowe called upon Cameron Franklin and Kayla Woods, to address Council by Zoom Video Conferencing, as listed on the agenda. Cameron Franklin and Kayla Woods came forward to address Council by Zoom Video Conferencing. Mr. Franklin stated that he is requesting that his residents on Mimosa Road be annexed into the Phenix City, City limits. Mr. Franklin also stated that he was advised by several of his neighbors on Mimosa Road that they had to be annexed into the City limits for trash pickup by the Phenix City Utilities Department. Mayor Lowe stated that there is a moratorium on annexation which means the City has on hold on allowing residential properties to be annexed into the City at this time. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that there are some residents on Mimosa Road that were annexed into the City before the moratorium was put in place several years ago. Mr. Smith also stated that Advanced Disposal offers trash pickup services for residential homes that are not in City limits. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that before the moratorium was in place, home owners in that area had a choice to be annexed in the City. Mr. Hunter stated that some chose to be annexed and some chose not to. Angel Moore, City Engineer stated that most of Mimosa road is serviced by Lee County. Mayor Lowe stated that the City will look into Mr. Franklin's options and follow back up with him. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Franklin and Ms. Woods for speaking with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Shaun Culligan, Alex Travis, Rachael White and Jennifer Davidson to address Council by Zoom Video Conferencing, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Culligan, Ms. Travis, Ms. White and Ms. Davidson came forward to address Council by Zoom Video Conferencing. Mr. Culligan stated that the Bugs on Broad Program is a sub-committee that was formed out of the Art Park Committee. Mr. Culligan also stated that similar projects operate in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Greenville, South Carolina. Ms. Travis stated that the Bugs on Broad Program is a collaborative art project between local artist, local extension offices, local sculptors, and local schools in the Phenix City, Alabama and Columbus, Georgia area. Ms. Travis also stated that the Bugs on Broad Program chooses two schools annually so that every child in the area would have an opportunity to participate in the program at some part on their educational journey. Ms. Travis further stated that the schools chosen for 2020 were Lakewood Primary School in Phenix City, Alabama and Fox Elementary in Columbus, Georgia. Ms. Travis stated the Bugs on Broad Committee is made up of volunteers in the education and art field. Ms. Travis

also stated that the program is funded by partnerships and donations. Ms. Travis thanked the City for their support. Mr. Culligan stated that a contest was held between the two schools and the winning art will be placed along Broad Street in Columbus, Georgia. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Culligan, Ms. Travis, Ms. White and Ms. Davidson for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their June 23, 2020 meeting which was held by Zoom Video Conferencing.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Office Manager Shannon Davis who discussed the following with Mayor and Council:

1. Advised Council that Mayor Lowe will give the Notice of Election to start qualifying for Municipal and the Phenix City Board of Education Election on July 7, 2020.
2. Reminded Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority meeting will be held on July 16, 2020.
3. Informed Council that the Back to School Sale Tax Holiday will be July 17, 2020 through July 19, 2020.
4. Advised Council that the last day to qualify for the Municipal and the Phenix City Board of Education Election will be on July 21, 2020.
5. Advised Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention will be held July 23, 2020 in Montgomery, Alabama.
6. Advised Council that the Budget Public Hearing will be held on August 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Community Center.
7. Informed Council that the Mayor's Ball Scholarship Award Ceremony will be held on August 6, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. at the Amphitheater.
8. Reminded Council that the Municipal and the Phenix City Board of Education Election will be held on August 25, 2020.
9. Informed Council that the Columbus UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball that was scheduled on August 29, 2020 has been postponed.

Mayor Lowe invited Council to the awarding ceremony of the Mayor's Ball Scholarship. Mayor Lowe stated that the ceremony will be held after the Budget Public Hearing meeting, starting at 8:00 p.m. and should last no longer than an hour. Mayor Lowe also stated that the ceremony will be held at the Amphitheater to allow room for social distancing.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the Library's summer program during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Michele Kilday, Library Director, stated that all of the Library's programs are held virtually. Ms. Kilday also stated that children can participate in the Virtual Summer Reading Bingo Program. Ms. Kilday further stated that participants can call the Library at 334-297-1139 for details. Ms. Kilday stated that prizes will be given out at the end of the program.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the Phenix City Board of Education plans to reopen the schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Councilmember Johnson stated that Muscogee County School District in Columbus, Georgia is allowing the parents to choose whether or not students will attend in person or virtually. Mayor Lowe stated that the Phenix City Board of Education is following the guidelines set by the State of Alabama Superintendent, allowing parents to choose virtual or onsite learning as well. City Manager, Wallace Hunter, stated that the Phenix City School System has one of the best well thought of written plan of action concerning the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Hunter also stated that Phenix City School Superintendent Randy Wilkes and his team did an excellent job on the very detailed plan. Mr.

Hunter further stated that surrounding school systems have inquired about Phenix City's plan of action and have given it great reviews. Mr. Hunter stated that he is very proud of our school system. Mayor Lowe stated that the Phenix City Board of Education has set a precedent for other schools to follow as far as graduation and back to school plans during the COVID-19 Pandemic and it is something to be proud of. Councilmember Johnson stated that there are benefits of both virtual and onsite learning. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she believes that every student will have the necessary tools to succeed and the Phenix City School System stands firm on the Every Student Succeeds Act which replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. Mr. Hunter stated that parent's decisions will be based on their individual family structure. Mr. Hunter also stated that it is a tough decision to make but parents must choose what is best for their child and their household.

Councilmember Day stated that he has received nothing but positive feedback on Renfroe's Market opening in South Phenix City. Councilmember Day also stated that he is excited about the positive things that are happening in District Three for all of Phenix City and surrounding areas to enjoy.

Councilmember Day inquired about the completion of the 5th Street South project. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the project should be completed by the end of July. Ms. Moore also stated that once everything is complete, ALDOT must give the final approval before construction signs can come down. Councilmember Day stated that the payment has been placed and the sidewalks look good. Councilmember Day also stated that in spite of the COVID-19 and weather delays, the contractors are making good progress.

Councilmember Day inquired about the LED light pole replacement on the 280 By-Pass. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that ALDOT needs to approve the installation of the lights. Ms. Moore also stated that ALDOT and Alabama Power were not in agreement about the placement of the lights. Ms. Moore further stated that Alabama Power has decided to place LED fixtures on the existing poles. Ms. Moore stated that the City Manager along with herself are looking into applying for an ATRIP Program Grant that will allow power to go underground off of the service roads.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the safety measures in place for Utilities Department and First Responders during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Councilmember Bailey asked if any City employee had come in contact with the virus while on duty. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City's number one concern is the safety of its employees and its citizens. Mr. Hunter also stated that to his knowledge, no one has contracted COVID-19 while on duty. Mr. Hunter further stated that employees should practice safety measures at home as well as at work. Mr. Hunter stated that outside workers including the Pub Works, Engineering and the Utilities Departments are generally away from the public and practice social distancing and other measures put in place among themselves. Fire Chief Kris Kennedy stated that all calls are treated as if it is a COVID-19 case call. Chief Kennedy also stated that protective gear, mask and gloves are worn for safety. Chief Kennedy further stated that disinfecting is done before and after entering a City vehicle. Mr. Hunter stated that it is a tough time right now for everyone. Councilmember Bailey stated that we can't see this enemy that we are fighting. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to stay safe and follow guidelines that have been set in place.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the Sewer Line Extension Project in the Bridgewater Subdivision. Steve Smith, Utilities Director stated that the information has been turned over to Constantine Engineering. Mr. Smith also stated that the projected completion date is late summer.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about an update on the lot that's draining water in the Saddle Brook Subdivision. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that sod and metal plates have been placed in the area. Ms. Moore also stated that as of now, everything is on schedule.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the green numbers on some of the City's manhole covers. Councilmember Bailey asked if the numbers were green for a specific reason. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the green numbers means the manhole has been checked, inspected and recorded in the inventory.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the morale of the Police Department in the passing of Assistant Chief Gail Green Gilliam. Wallace Hunter, City Manager, stated that the Police Department is doing as well as expected. Mr. Hunter stated that he has had the pleasure of working with Assistant Chief Green-Gilliam and Police Chief Ray Smith for many years and her passing has had an impact on him as well as other City Employees. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that Assistant Chief Green-Gilliam cared about her job, she cared about the Community and she will be greatly missed. Chief Smith also stated that the Police Department will honor her memory by continuing the standards and the examples she set.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City of Phenix City has a great team that works together for the betterment of the City. Mr. Hunter thanked the Department Heads for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Lowe stated that he is proud of the community for coming out and support the family and honor the memory of Chief Gail Green Gilliam. Councilmember Day stated that Chief Green Gilliam had a tremendous impact on the City. Councilmember Day asked everyone to continue to pray for her family.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, July 20, 2020.