

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 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, September 14, 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, City Engineer Angel Moore, Utilities Director Steve Smith, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks & Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Director of Human Resources Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police Ray Smith, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised that there were no Requests to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their September 8, 2020 meeting.

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

1. Reminded Council that the September 15, 2020 Council Meeting will be held at the 5th Street South Youth Center at 6:00 p.m.
2. Advised Council that City Offices will be closed on October 12, 2020 in observance of Columbus Day Holiday.
3. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter encouraged everyone to complete their 2020 Census. Mr. Hunter stated that it is vitally important that everyone be counted. Mr. Hunter also stated that the data collected from the Census will be used for education, housing, and Federal and State grant funding programs. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that Alabama has the lowest completion rate compared to other states. Mr. Culligan also stated that ADECA (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs) has initiated a program to encourage everyone to participate which is similar to March Madness playoff style. Mr. Culligan further stated that the bottom thirty two Counties in Alabama will compete against each other weekly until the end of September. Mr. Culligan stated that last week Russell County won against Butler County and this week's competition is Tallapoosa County. Mr. Culligan also stated that if Russell County wins the entire competition, Phenix City and Russell County School Systems would be awarded \$65,000.00 from ADECA to share between the two of them. Mr. Hunter stated that the COVID-19 Pandemic may have played a part in the low numbers but now is the time to stand up and be

counted. Mr. Hunter also stated that once everyone is accounted for, the numbers would show the growth of the City. Councilmember Bailey asked how a citizen could complete the 2020 Census. Mr. Culligan stated that the Census could be completed online at www.my2020census.gov. Mr. Culligan also stated that citizens could call in at 1-800-923-8282 for English or 1-844-468-2020 for Spanish. Mr. Culligan further stated that the paper questionnaire could be mailed to the U. S. Census Bureau / National Processing Center 1201 E 10th Street, Jeffersonville, IN 47132. Councilmember Day asked if the County and the City were working together to get the citizens to participate. Mr. Hunter stated that the City has taken the initiative. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Superintendents of both school systems are helping to support the cause. Councilmember Johnson thanked Mr. Hunter, Mr. Culligan and the Economic Development team for thinking of ways to reach as many people as possible. Councilmember Johnson encouraged everyone to complete the Census and help their neighbors especially the elderly to complete theirs as well. Mr. Hunter stated that it takes about six minutes online to complete the Census. Mr. Hunter also stated that time is winding down and everyone needs to be counted. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City is currently around seventy percent and he would like it to be closer to a hundred percent. Mr. Culligan asked everyone to log onto the City's Positively Phenix City Facebook page and share the Census information.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 5, 2020.