

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 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, October 5, 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, City Engineer Angel Moore, Utilities Director Steve Smith, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, 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, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins and Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Charles Woody.

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

Councilmember Johnson led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised that Mr. Steve Pace would not be able to address council, as listed on the agenda. Mayor Lowe stated that Mr. Pace would introduce the new Executive Director of the Phenix City Housing Authority at a later date.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their September 22, 2020 meeting. Ms. Moore advised the meeting was cancelled due to no Agenda items.

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

1. Advised Council that City Offices will be closed on October 12, 2020 in observance of Columbus Day Holiday.
2. Reminded Council that the regular scheduled Work Session will be on October 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom Video Conferencing.
3. Reminded Council that that the City Council Meeting will be held on October 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom Video Conferencing.
4. Advised Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities Official Orientation Virtual Training will be held on October 27, 2020 through October 29, 2020.
5. Informed Council that the Oath of Office Ceremony will be held on November 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
6. Informed Council that the Organizational Meeting will be held on November 2, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
7. Reminded Council that the regular scheduled Work Session will be held on November 2, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom Video Conferencing.
8. Reminded Council that the City Council Meeting will be held on November 3, 2020 at 9:00a.m. on Zoom Video Conferencing.
9. Informed Council that the Newly Elected School Board Swearing in Ceremony will be held on November 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

10. Advised Council that City Offices will be closed on November 11, 2020 in observance of Veterans Day.
11. Reminded Council that the regular scheduled Work Session will be held on November 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
12. Reminded Council that the City Council Meeting will be held on November 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
13. Reminded Council that the National League of Cities Convention Virtual Summit will be held November 18, 2020 through November 21, 2020.
14. Informed Council that City offices will be closed November 26, 2020 and November 27, 2020 in observance of Thanksgiving Day Holiday.
15. Reminded Council that the regular scheduled Work Session will be held on November 30, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the procedures of the Oath of Office. Councilmember Johnson asked if everyone would take the oath at different times. Mayor Lowe stated that in the past, each person had their own judge to swear them in. Councilmember Bailey asked if it was possible to use the same judge for COVID-19 safety reasons. Mayor Lowe discussed judges and location with Council. Jimmy Graham, City Attorney stated that it was okay to be sworn in by one judge. Mayor Lowe stated that a decision would be made at the next Work Session.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she received a phone call concerning loud engine and muffler noises coming from cars riding through neighborhoods. Councilmember Johnson asked if there was an Ordinance in place or a way for the level of noise to be measured. Chief of Police, Ray Smith, stated that to measure the sound would require a decibel meter reader and the City does not have ownership of one at this time but may purchase one in the future. Chief Smith stated that he would look into the issue and follow back up with Council.

Councilmember Gordy inquired about an update on the Bridgewater Drive Project. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the project was on schedule until it was discovered that the existing water line has a crack in it. Ms. Moore also stated that the Utilities Department is on sight to repair the pipe and the project should be finished soon. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the Contractors and the Utilities Department are working hard to remain on schedule. Mr. Smith also stated that the contractor did not hit the line but it was the pressure from working around it that caused the aged plastic pipe to burst. Mr. Smith further stated that it pushed the completion date back only by a day or two. Councilmember Gordy thanked Chief Smith and the Police Department for helping to control traffic in the area. Chief Smith stated that the officers will remain in the area during peak times until the project is complete.

Councilmember Gordy inquired about the lot in Sattlebrook Subdivision that is for sale by the City. Councilmember Gordy asked if it would be a public or private listing. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the listing will be public and should be available next week.

Councilmember Gordy asked if there were any plans in the future to pave the Nature Trail at Idle Hour Moon Lake Park. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that upgrades to the park will be made in the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Utilities Department Water and Sanitary Investigation. Steve Smith, Utilities Director stated that the Public Works Department notifies the Utilities Department before a street is repaved. The Utilities Department checks the water line in the area for any issues before the repaving process begins.

Councilmember Day stated that he received a phone call concerning the discoloration of the City's water. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that there was an issue with the valves at the Glenwood tank that caused a little discoloration in the water. Mr. Smith also stated that it was iron in the water and it is harmless. Mr. Smith further stated that the issue has been cleared.

Councilmember Day inquired about the meter replacement project. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the project is almost complete with only forty-eight meters that need to be replaced.

Councilmember Day stated that he has received several phone calls about pavement patches in the streets in South Phenix City. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that upgrades are being performed by the gas company and not the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that he is aware that it is an inconvenience for the citizens that travel that area. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Engineering and Public Works Departments met with the gas company and addressed their concerns. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that Spire Gas Company has several different subcontractors on the project and they are working to complete the project. Mr. Hunter asked that everyone traveling those areas be careful and be aware of the barriers.

Councilmember Day stated that he recently visited Arthur Sumbry Park and was saddened by its appearance. Councilmember Day asked what could the City do to reduce vandalism at the City's parks. Councilmember Day stated that the restrooms were destroyed, the wires and copper had been ripped out at the pavilions and it was a sad sight. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City has invested a lot of money into not just Arthur Sumbry Park, but all the City's parks for the enjoyment of the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that it really is a sad situation that someone would come in and destroy it. Mr. Hunter further stated that now is the time for the citizens and churches in the communities to come together and help keep our parks clean and safe. Mr. Hunter stated that people should take pride in their community caring for their City by forming Neighborhood Watch programs or Adopt a Park Programs. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Police Department is investigating the situation at Arthur Sumbry Park. Mr. Hunter further stated that the City's parks will be policed more often and surveillance cameras may be installed.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the Cutrate Road Bridge Project. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that there was an issue with a utility line and sanitary sewer main. Ms. Moore also stated that the contractors are working on repairing the issue and getting the project back on schedule.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the Bridgewater Project. Steve Smith, Utilities Director, stated that the engineers are in the surveying stage and will then prepare the construction drawings. Mr. Smith also stated that the process for the design should take about sixty days. Mr. Smith further stated that emergencies may come and cause a delay. Mr. Smith stated that positions are available for experienced workers in the Utilities Department.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked everyone to pray for the family of Mr. Roy Greene who passed away on October 5, 2020 at the age of ninety-nine. Mr. Hunter stated that Mr. Greene was a pillar to the community and will definitely be missed. Mr. Hunter also stated that Mr. Greene was very instrumental in his career with the City even before he became City Manager. Mr. Hunter

further stated that Mr. Greene loved Phenix City and did so many countless things for the betterment of the City and never asked for any type of recognition. Mayor Lowe stated that Mr. Greene was very influential in his life as well. Mayor Lowe also stated that Mr. Greene will be missed individually and collectively by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. Councilmember Bailey stated that Mr. Greene was a very humble man and gave of himself for the love of the City and a great example to follow.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 19, 2020.