

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 4, 2021**

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, January 4, 2021, 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 Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Melony Lee. Department Heads in attendance by Zoom Video Conferencing were: Building Official Gil Griffith, City Engineer Angel Moore, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, 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, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

Mayor Lowe led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised there were no Requests to Address Council.

Councilmember Day joined by Zoom Video Conferencing at 3:13 p.m.

Mayor Lowe advised that the December 22, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting had been canceled due to the Christmas Holiday and therefore there were no actions taken by the Planning Commission to discuss.

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

1. Reminded Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on January 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet January 12, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
3. Advised Council that City offices will be closed January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.
4. Reminded Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on January 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.
5. Reminded Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on January 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Community Center. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.
6. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet January 26, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
7. Advised Council that the State of the City Address will be held on January 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held February 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM.

9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on February 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM.
10. Advised Council that City offices will be closed on February 15, 2021 in observance of President's Day.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held February 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the President's Day Holiday.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on February 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday afternoon due to the President's Day Holiday.
13. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she received a couple of compliments on the growth of Phenix City from visitors who were once citizens of the City. Councilmember Johnson also stated that the City has changed for the better. Councilmember Johnson further stated that the Economic Development Department has done an excellent job bringing new business to the City. Councilmember Johnson inquired about a Car Rental Company opening in Phenix City. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager stated that the City is in need of a local Car Rental Company. Mr. Culligan also stated that the opportunity is present and a location is possible. Councilmember Johnson asked what was the possibility of opening up a restaurant on 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Culligan stated that the 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street area has great traffic count and new business potential. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that as Phenix City's population grows new business opportunities will grow as well.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she received a phone call concerning speeding on 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Boddie Street. Councilmember Johnson asked if the speed detector devices are still being rotated throughout the City. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that there are currently four Speed Detector devices that are being rotated through out the City. Chief Smith also stated that he would look into adding 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Boddie Street to the rotation list.

Councilmember Gordy stated that several complaints had been posted to social media concerning Utility payments not being posted and causing a disconnection of service or late payments posting to accounts. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that individuals should call the Utilities Department to discuss the issues that they are having on a one on one basis. Mr. Hunter also stated that the bill pay kiosk should help with the flow of traffic in the Utilities Department. Councilmember Bailey stated that the Utilities statement lists a due date and a cutoff date. Mr. Hunter stated that the payment is due upon receipt of the billing statement and has a billing cycle.

Councilmember Day inquired about the reopening of Arthur Sumbry Park. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the park suffered a lot of damage from vandalism. Mr. Hunter also stated that the tables and restrooms were destroyed and it will take some time to get the park restored and open to the public. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that picnic benches have been ordered and will be installed soon. Mr. Hughes also stated that the park would reopen when all repairs have been made.

Councilmember Day stated that he received a phone call concerning the condition of the flags located at the Community Cemetery on 4<sup>th</sup> Street South. Councilmember Day also stated that the caller mentioned the flags were faded and torn. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that new flags have been ordered and will be installed when they come in.

Councilmember Day inquired about the bridge replacement on Seale Road near 6<sup>th</sup> Place South. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the project is in the preliminary engineering stage. Ms. Moore also stated that once a proposal design has been submitted, ALDOT would need to approve it before the City could move forward with the project and bring it before Council.

Councilmember Day inquired about the completion time line on the Opelika Bridge project. Angel Moore, City Engineer stated that the weather has delayed progress on the project. Ms. Moore also stated that guardrails and asphalt need to be put in place before the State will approve the reopening. Ms. Moore further stated that the project should be completed within the next few weeks.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about a City street usage surveillance study. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the study is complete. Ms. Moore also stated that the process of scheduling repairs and performing preventive maintenance has begun.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the testing of the City's manholes. Councilmember Bailey asked if the project was complete. John Spraggins, Graduate Engineer, stated that a significant amount of smoke testing has been performed. Mr. Spraggins also stated that a plan of action for rehabilitation is in progress.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he received a phone call from an individual asking if there were any grants available for businesses who wanted to buy property to improve or revive one of the older neighborhoods in District One. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that private development is different from Federal development like the Housing Authority.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2021.