

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 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 Tuesday, February 16, 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, City Attorney Jim McKoon, 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, 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, Police Captain George Staudinger, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins and Acting Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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

Councilmember Bailey led the invocation.

Councilmember Day arrived on platform Zoom at 3:06 p.m.

Mayor Lowe called upon Jennifer Davidson of the Russell County Extension Office to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Davidson was present by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing and came forward to address Council. Ms. Davidson thanked the City Council for their continued support. Ms. Davidson stated that the Extension Office would like to continue its Farmers Market Days at Garrett Harrison Stadium's parking lot starting in June and ending the last Saturday in November. Ms. Davidson also stated that the Extension Office would like to hold their Annual Arbor Day Tree-Seeding giveaway on Saturday February 27, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Garrett Harrison Stadium as well. Mayor Lowe and Council were all in agreeance for the continuation of Market Days and Tree Seeding giveaway. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked Ms. Davidson if she had received any complaints, concerning the location of the Farmers Market and it being rotated throughout the City. Ms. Davison stated that she has not heard of any complaints concerning the location. Ms. Davidson also stated that the Garrett Harrison Stadium is a central location within the community. Ms. Davidson further stated that Beyond Harvest reached out to her and asked, if there was a location in Russell County that did not have easy access to a grocery store and that would benefit from fresh produce. Ms. Davidson stated that a Rolling Store is now available in Hurtsboro, Alabama and have plans to have multiple stops in the future. Ms. Davidson also stated that Beyond Harvest recently bought out Phenix Foods and Marvin's Market and uses local vendors. Councilmember Johnson asked if the Extension Office advertised the Market Days and Tree Seeding giveaway. Ms. Davidson stated that flyers are circulated around the City and also advertised in the local Citizen News. Mayor Lowe thanked 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 February 9, 2021 meeting.

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

1. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on February 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet February 23, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
3. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on March 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM.
4. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on March 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM.
5. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet March 9, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on March 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM.
7. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on March 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM instead of in person at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
8. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet March 23, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
9. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Councilmember Day stated that he has completed his Certified Municipal Official training program provided by the Alabama League of Municipalities. Councilmember Day also stated that he will be able to participate in the upcoming graduation in Huntsville, Alabama in May 2021. Councilmember Day further stated that he is one of the first Phenix City Councilmembers to complete the entire program. Councilmember Day stated that education and Phenix City is very important to him.

Councilmember Bailey thanked the Chief of Police Ray Smith for speaking publicly about the rising crime rate in our area including Columbus, Georgia. Councilmember Bailey also stated that Chief Smith works well with Russell County Sheriff Office, Auburn and Opelika Police Department to help reduce crime.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City works very closely with the Phenix City School System. Mr. Hunter congratulated Rakeem Nunez-Roches and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for winning the Super Bowl. Mr. Hunter stated that he is very proud of Nunez-Roches who always gave his all on the football field. Mr. Hunter also stated that Mayor Lowe and Councilmember Gordy had the pleasure of working with the coaching staff of Central High School football team.

Mayor Lowe called for an Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 20 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Gordy moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 20minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Day seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:26 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:46 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 1, 2021.