

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 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, May 3, 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 R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Steve Bailey was not present. 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, Acting Utilities Director Charles Woody and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Johnson led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised there were no Requests to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their April 27, 2021 meeting.

Councilmember Bailey joined the meeting by Zoom Video Conferencing at 3:14 p.m.

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 May 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM.
2. Reminded Council that the Russell County Department of Human Resources will have their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 11, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention Meeting will be held May 12, 2021 – May 15, 2021.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on May 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM or in person at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on May 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM or in person at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet May 25, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on May 31, 2021 in observance of Memorial Day.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on June 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM or in person at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community

- Center. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the Memorial Day Holiday.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on June 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over the platform ZOOM or in person at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the Memorial Day Holiday.
 11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 8, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
 12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on June 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM or in person at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
 13. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. over the platform ZOOM or in person at the Phenix City Russell County Library due to Municipal Court being held in the Central Activity Center during the renovations of the Public Safety Building.
 14. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 22, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
 15. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

City Clerk Melony Lee stated that Councilmember Johnson asked at the April 19, 2021 Work Session if the City Clerk's Office would reach out to Dr. Dionne Rosser-Mims from Troy University to set up a meeting with herself and other Councilmembers. Ms. Lee advised Council that Dr. Rosser-Mims is scheduled to address Council at the May 17, 2021 Work Session.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she received a compliment on how great the area off Opelika Road near Applebee's Restaurant looks. Councilmember Johnson also stated that a little grounds keeping goes a long way. Councilmember Johnson thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter and the Public Works Department for helping to keep Phenix City looking good.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the number of care of premises tickets that had been issued over the past month to keep citizens accountable for the cleanliness of their own properties. Gil Griffith, Building Official, stated that it is an ongoing issue. Mr. Griffith also stated that deadlines are given to bring properties up to code and the Building Department follows up to make sure that the issue has been resolved. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Municipal Court has assisted in holding citizens accountable by issuing fines.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the rules and regulations on privacy fencing in front of a family home where the home cannot be seen. Gil Griffith, Building Official, stated that privacy fences can be in the front of a home but no more than four feet tall and cannot be on the City's Right of Way. City Clerk Melony Lee asked if fencing was permissible in a neighborhood as well. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it is different being in a subdivision. Mr. Hunter also stated that different developments may have different restrictions. Mr. Hunter further stated that subdivisions have covenants that are recorded at the Probate Judge's Office.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the Alabama A & M University Virtual Career Fair. Stephanie Chastain, Human Resources Director, stated that the Career Fair went well. Ms. Chastain also stated that several candidates were interviewed. Ms. Chastain further stated that the next step is matching their qualifications with open positions. Ms. Chastain stated that overall ten new employees have been hired and the number of applications received has increased.

Councilmember Johnson stated that a citizen asked her, what it would take to get sidewalks in the 13th Place and 7th Avenue areas. Councilmember Johnson also stated that the citizen's concern was the amount of foot traffic in the neighborhood in the 7th Avenue and 13th

Place stretch. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the he would follow up with the Engineering Department, it is a possibility that it may fit in the Sidewalk Project Transition Plan.

Councilmember Day stated that he has received a couple of phone calls thanking the City for re-opening Arthur Sumbry Park. Councilmember Day also stated that he has not had an opportunity to visit the park but heard that it looks good.

Councilmember Day inquired about responding to 911 calls. Councilmember Day asked if the Police Department and the Fire Department respond to all 911 calls. Fire Chief Kris Kennedy stated that it depends on the nature of the call. Chief Kennedy also stated that a Rescue Vehicle is dispatched in medical emergencies.

Councilmember Day inquired about the location of the five new seasonal employees. Stephanie Chastain, Human Resources Director, stated that seasonal employees are mainly for the Parks and Recreation Department. Councilmember Day asked what length of time is considered seasonal. Ms. Chastain stated that it depends on the position but normally less than nine months. Ms. Chastain also stated that seasonal positions may lead into permanent position as they become available.

Councilmember Day asked Chief of Police Ray Smith about housing individuals that have been arrested in Phenix City. Chief Smith stated that once arrested, individuals are taken to the Russell County Jail. Chief Smith also stated that sixty five beds are designated for those arrested by the Phenix City Police Department.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he is thankful for the new hires and invite other qualified people to continue to apply for employment with the City. Mr. Hunter stated that during these trying economic times there are some people who are choosing not to work which makes filling positions challenging.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Camps. Councilmember Day asked if Spencer Recreation and 5th Street South Youth Center would be available for participants this summer. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that Roy Martin Center, Spencer Recreation and the 5th Street South Youth Center will all host summer camps. Mr. Hughes also stated that the C-Club Gym will be open to Senior participants only since Municipal Court is being held at the Central Activity Center.

Councilmember Bailey asked what percentage of City Employees have received a Covid-19 vaccination. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated the Human Resource Department is working on coming up with the statics. Mr. Hunter also stated that an incentive has been put in place to encourage more employees to be vaccinated. Mr. Hunter further stated that it is an individual's choice to be vaccinated and that no one can be forced to participate. Mr. Hunter stated that he has received backlash because of the decision to continue the wearing of masks in City buildings. Mr. Hunter also stated that the safety of City Employees and Citizens has always been his main concern. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to be mindful of others and continue to practice safety when around other people.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he has received several phone calls concerning golf carts not operating in the parking lot of the Lakewood Golf Course. Mike Barber, Golf Manager, stated that with the position of the building in regards to the location of the course, operation of the carts was restricted for safety purposes. Mr. Barber also stated that the decision was made for several reasons including: carts being left in the parking lot, paid participants picking up

unpaid participants, and some participants would bring alcoholic beverages from the parking lot to the golf course which is prohibited. Mr. Barber further stated that the carts are programmed to shut off when in a restricted area. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that in the past, some participants, would purposely damage the golf carts by driving and leaving them in the woods or running over tree stumps and tree limbs. Mr. Graham asked how much money was spent for repairs to the golf carts that were in the restricted area. Mr. Barber stated that over \$2,600.00 was spent last year on repairs.

Councilmember Bailey asked Acting Utilities Director Charles Woody, when the Utilities Bill Pay Kiosk would be available for customer usage. Mr. Woody stated that the project is moving right along with an estimated project date towards the end of July or first of August.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham asked for an Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Bailey seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:38 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:08 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 17, 2021.