

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 14, 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, June 14, 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 and City Clerk Melony Lee. City Attorney Jimmy Graham was not present. Department Heads in attendance by Zoom Video Conferencing were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, City Engineer Angel Moore, 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 and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Police Chief Ray Smith and Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their June 8, 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 June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Phenix City-Russell County Library.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 22, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
3. Advised Council that the Budget Work Session will be held on June 28, 2021 and June 29, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
4. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday July 5, 2021 in observance of Independence Day.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on July 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the Independence Day Holiday.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on July 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the Independence Day Holiday.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet July 13, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on July 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on; July 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
10. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet July 27, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
11. Informed Council that the Mayor's Ball Scholarship Award Night will be held on July 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Amphitheatre.
12. Advised Council that there were no upcoming board appointments for July.

Mayor Lowe stated that the Mayor's Ball Scholarship Committee will host a Golf Tournament Fundraiser on July 16, 2021 at the Lakewood Golf Course. Mayor Lowe also stated that the Mayor's Ball was canceled again this year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Mayor Lowe further stated that thirty eight students from Central High School, Russell County High School and Glenwood School will be awarded scholarships on July 29, 2021 at the Amphitheater. Councilmember Bailey asked if the golf tournament will be advertised on the City's marquee. Mayor Lowe stated that the fundraiser will be advertised in the Citizen News Paper, CTV Beam, word of mouth and by passing out flyers but not on the City's website or City's marquee. Mayor Lowe also stated that the Mayor's Ball is not a City sponsored event, so to keep down the confusion, the golf tournament will not be advertised by the City.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked for an Executive Session after the Work Session has ended to discuss Good Name and Character for 15 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Johnson thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter and City Engineer Angel Moore for compiling a list of projects that the City is working on or have completed in District Two. Councilmember Johnson also stated that the list will be available for Citizens at the City Council Meeting that will be held at the Phenix City Russell County Library on June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Johnson further stated that she would normally hold a brief meeting before the City Council Meeting to meet and greet District Two Citizens but chose not to this year for Covid-19 Pandemic safety precautions.

Councilmember Johnson stated that there are eleven cemeteries in the City and most of them are in District Two. Councilmember Johnson inquired about the City's Cemetery upkeep process. Mayor Lowe stated that because of the shortage of employees in some areas, it may take longer for the grass to be cut and maintained in the cemeteries. Mayor Lowe also stated that work orders and task will be completed and cemeteries are not being ignored.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked if he could cancel the Executive Session request. Mr. Hunter stated that he received more information and will discuss it with Mayor and Council at a later date.

Mayor Lowe stated that the Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character after today's work session has been canceled.

Mayor Lowe thanked the Department Heads for the giving of themselves for the betterment of the City.

Councilmember Bailey stated that we have great people that work for the City and unfortunately, the City has lost great people as well. Councilmember Bailey thanked Charles Woody the new Utilities Director for being willing and able to step up to the plate after the passing of Utilities Director and Assistant City Manager, Mr. Steve Smith.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he received a phone call from a citizen in his district in the Riverchase area who called concerning trees growing in the City's Right of Way near her residence. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he was asked to call the Public Works Department and submit the request for her. Councilmember Bailey further stated that he didn't have to call the Municipal Building to submit the request because the Pub Works Department was

already on top of the situation. Councilmember Bailey thanked the Public Works Department for a job well done.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that everyone who works for the City has a specific and different job to perform. Mr. Hunter also stated that no matter the job, it is all for the betterment of the people who live in Phenix City. Mr. Hunter further stated that several phone calls have been received asking what the City was going to do about the crime that has been happening lately in the streets of Phenix City. Mr. Hunter stated that Law Enforcement positions have and have always had preventive strategies in place but crime still exist. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Phenix City Police Department works together with the Russell County Sherriff Department, Columbus, Georgia Police Department as well as other law enforcements in the surrounding area to protect our citizens on a daily basis. Mr. Hunter further stated that it is going to take people respecting those in authority and the entire community to come together and support law enforcement and each other. Mr. Hunter stated that he made it a personal goal to learn about the different departments within the City to be the best City Manager that he can be. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Department Heads work well together even when they disagree. Mr. Hunter further stated that success comes when people are working together as a team. Mr. Hunter stated that he is thankful for his team, and have watched them grow during his time as City Manager.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic has taken lives and scarred some people for life. Mr. Hunter also stated that the passing of Assistant Chief of Police Gail Green Gilliam and Utilities Director and Assistant City Manager Steve Smith, the pandemic, and people retiring has taught us that we must make sure that the next person, is trained, able and willing to step up to the plate if the need arrives.

Mayor Lowe asked that God continue to bless Phenix City.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 6, 2021.