

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
August 2, 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, August 2, 2021, at the Martin Idle-Hour Park Community Center located at 3743 Moon Lake Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey Carter Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Attorney Jimmy Graham, and City Clerk Melony Lee. Department Heads in attendance were: Building Official Gil Griffith, Economic Development Plan Specialist Jennifer Lowman, City Engineer Angel Moore, IT Technician II Jimmy Lloyd, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Library Circulation Assistant Audrey Gertz, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Assistant Police Chief George Staudinger, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins, and Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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 July 27, 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 August 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Informed Council that the Human Resource Department would like for the Alabama Ethics Commission Training Video to be completed by August 6, 2021. Ms. Lee stated that the training could be completed at the City Clerk's Office.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet August 10, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities is having a Congressional Luncheon on August 12, 2021 in Opelika at 11:00 a.m. CST for the third Congressional District.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on August 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on August 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet August 24, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on September 6, 2021 in observance of Labor Day Holiday.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on September 7, 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 Labor Day Holiday.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on September 8, 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 Labor Day Holiday.

11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet September 14, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on September 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
13. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the 5th Street South Youth Center.
14. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet September 28, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
15. Informed Council that the National League of Cities 2021 City Summit will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 18, 2021 through November 20, 2021. Ms. Lee stated that Councilmembers can attend the conference in person or by zoom. Ms. Lee stated that early bird tickets are on sale until the end of August. Ms. Lee asked Council to let her know if anyone is interested in attending the conference virtually or in person.
16. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson asked if board sheets could be updated, to include the District a member resides in. Councilmember Johnson stated that it would be easier to keep it fair and equal between the three Districts. City Clerk Melony Lee answered yes.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about an update on the Bridgewater Sewer-Line and the Man Hole Reconstruction Projects. Charles Woody, Utilities Director, stated that both projects are on the forefront project list. Mr. Woody also stated that the Saddlebrook Subdivision Sewer Project and the upgrading of the Waste Water Treatment Plant are also on the top of the project list. Councilmember Bailey stated that it is great that the Utilities Department stays on top of things before they become an issue. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there are grants available to help fund certain projects.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic numbers are on the rise again. Councilmember Bailey asked if there was a way to notify or petition the Governor's office to request that Municipalities have a choice to have a Zoom or in person City Council Meeting. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he will reach out to Representative Chris Blackshear.

Councilmember Day stated that on Sunday, July 31, 2021 he had the opportunity to attend a Community event at the Austin Sumbry Park. Councilmember Day also stated that there were over a hundred people in attendance at the Community Event. Councilmember Day thanked Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, and the Parks and Recreation Department for cleaning up the park. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that a lot of money has been placed into the park in replacing things that have been stolen or destroyed by vandalism. Councilmember Day encouraged everyone to keep City Parks clean and safe for all to enjoy. Mr. Hunter stated that it takes a lot of time and man power to maintain the upkeep of City Parks. Mr. Hunter also stated that it takes the entire community working together to keep the Parks safe and clean. Mr. Hunter further stated that all parks no matter there location are treated the same.

Councilmember Johnson stated that the store front of the old K-Mart building near Dirt Cheap is coming along very well. Councilmember Johnson asked if the City was able to secure prospects to occupy the building. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the actual store front has been purchased by private owners and a new business will emerge soon.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the renovation of the Public Safety Building was on schedule. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that contractors are diligently working on the building.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the completion of Public Work Service requests. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that some issues are rectified quicker than others are. Ms. Moore also stated that the Public Works Department has a shortage of workers and it may take a little longer to complete the request. Ms. Moore further stated that there are hundreds of request turned in daily and the department is doing its best to complete task in a timely manner.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the security of the City's operating network. Councilmember Johnson asked if anyone has tried to break into the system. Jimmy Lloyd, IT Technician II, stated that software to protect against hackers is in place to protect the City's Networking system. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City's networking security is challenged daily. Mr. Hunter stated that there are thousands attempts but the City is staying ahead of the game.

Mayor Lowe presented an item for discussion, a resolution in reference to authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Greene Communications, Inc. dba CTV Beam for use of a portion of a building located at Garrett-Harrison Stadium. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the agreement will be at no cost to the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City's IT Department and City Attorney Jimmy Graham have been informed of the placing of equipment and procedures to improve CTV Beam services. City Clerk Melony Lee asked if the resolution should be placed on the August 3, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda. Mayor and Council agreed.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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

Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that there will be a send off for the Phenix City Youth Baseball Cal Ripken 12U All Star team tonight at the baseball field at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Hughes asked everyone to come out and support the team as they head to the World Series in Branson Missouri.

Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that there were some dam issues at Silver Lake. Mr. Hughes also stated that contractors are on sight. Mr. Hughes further stated that once the water level is low enough, fish can be removed.

City Manager Wallace Hunter congratulated Phenix City resident Amber English for winning the gold medal in Skeet Shooting at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Mr. Hunter stated that the City will honor Ms. English with a proclamation at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

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