

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
August 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 Monday, August 16, 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 Office Manager Shannon Davis. City Clerk Melony Lee was not present. Department Heads in attendance 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, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Graduate Engineer John Spraggins, and Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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

Councilmember Day led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Steve Franklin to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Franklin was not present. Mayor Lowe stated that Mr. Franklin would be permitted to address Council if he arrives at a later time.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their August 10, 2021 meeting.

Steve Franklin arrived to the Work Session at 3:08 p.m.

Mayor Lowe called upon Steve Franklin to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Franklin came forward to address Council. Mr. Franklin asked Mayor and Council to consider reinstating the recently demolished Phenix City Historical Preservation Commission. Mr. Franklin explained that the purpose and the importance of the Phenix City Historical Commission is to preserve the history of Phenix City. Mr. Franklin stated that the Phenix City Historical Preservation Commission operated at no cost to the City. Mayor Lowe stated that he as well as other Councilmembers have spoken to Mr. Franklin on several occasions and explained that a unanimous decision had been made to demolish the Phenix City Historical Preservation Commission. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that all properties and landmarks listed on the Alabama Registry at the Alabama Historical Commission were all listed prior to the forming of the Phenix City Historic Preservation Commission. Chief Smith also stated that the Russell County Historical Commission has the same function and objective as the Phenix City Historical Commission. Chief Smith further stated that the Russell County Historic Commission have taken over ownership of Historical Markers that were placed in Russell County by the now dissolved Historic Chattahoochee Commission. Chief Smith stated a City does not have to have a Historic Commission to make nominations to the Alabama Historical Commission. Chief Smith also stated that nominations can be made by the owner of the property, City Council or a private Citizen. Mayor Lowe stated that Mr. Franklin's passion in preserving the history of Phenix City is appreciated and has not gone unnoticed. Mayor Lowe also stated that there are other ways to add historic sights on the States registry besides the Phenix City Historical Preservation Commission. Councilmember Bailey stated that there is not a need for two entities working within

one City to preserve the same history. Councilmember Bailey encouraged Mr. Franklin to continue to work to preserve the City's history and if the opportunity presents itself, to join the Russell County Historical Commission. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Phenix City is within Russell County and Phenix City's history is very vital to Russell County. Mr. Hunter also stated that research was done prior to the recommendation of the demolishing of the Phenix City Historical Preservation Commission. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Building Department, Planning Commission and City of Phenix City Board of Zoning Adjustment and Appeals are all apart of preserving the history of Phenix City. Councilmember Johnson inquired about the steps that a church, organization or individual would need to take to be added to the Alabama Historical Registry. Chief Smith stated that the information could be found at www.ahc.alabama.gov. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Franklin for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Office Manager Shannon Davis who discussed the following with Mayor and Council:

1. Informed Council that Alabama Governor Kay Ivey has issued a Proclamation stating that Municipalities may participate in meetings to take action in person or by Zoom Video Conference.
2. 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.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet August 24, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Advised Council that the United Way Kickoff will be held on August 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Phenix City Amphitheater.
5. Informed Council that the Parks and Recreation Concert Series starts on Saturday September 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Phenix City Amphitheater with performing guest Isiah Sharkey and the Breakfast Club.
6. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on September 6, 2021 in observance of Labor Day Holiday.
7. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on September 7, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the Labor Day Holiday.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on September 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the Labor Day Holiday.
9. Advised Council that the National Infantry Museum will host a Gold Star Family event September 10 – September 11, 2021.
10. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet September 14, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
11. Advised Council that the City of Phenix City and Paws Humane will host Barks and Blues on September 18, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on September 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
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 Parks and Recreation Concert Series with performing guest Charley Crockett on September 25, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.
15. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet September 28, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
16. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor and Council agreed to hold upcoming Work Sessions and City Council meetings by Zoom Video Conference. Councilmember Bailey stated that public hearings for rezoning are scheduled for the September 8, 2021 and the September 21, 2021 Council Meetings. Mayor and Council agreed that both meetings should be held in person due to the potential crowds that the public hearings may draw. Councilmember Gordy asked if the September 21, 2021 will be held at 9:00 a.m., or 6:00 p.m. at the 5th Street South Youth Center. Councilmember Bailey stated that the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center has more spacing than the 5th Street South Youth Center. Councilmember Day stated that he would like for the September 21, 2021 meeting to be held in District Three at the 5th Street South Youth Center but safety comes first and for social distancing it may be better to hold the meeting at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. Mayor and Council further agreed that the September 8, 2021 and the September 21, 2021 Council Meeting will be held in person at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center, at the time they are scheduled.

City Manager Wallace Hunter discussed the impact that rezoning may have on the Summerville Road area. Mr. Hunter stated that Council has a difficult decision to make. Mr. Hunter also stated that there will be citizens that disagree with whatever Council decides. Councilmember Bailey stated that there are citizens in District One that agree with the rezoning and some that do not. Councilmember Bailey stated that he believes that both sides will be represented at the public hearing on September 21, 2021.

City Manager Wallace Hunter introduced Tracie Hadaway, Economic Development Planning Director, to Mayor and Council. Mr. Hunter stated that Ms. Hadaway has years of experience and will be a great asset to the Economic Development Team. Ms. Hadaway stated that she is very excited to work with the City of Phenix City. Mayor and Council welcomed Ms. Hadaway to Phenix City.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Mayor Lowe thanked the citizens for coming out to today's Work Session.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that inclement weather has been predicted for this area tomorrow August 17, 2021. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to be safe.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 7, 2021.