

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 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, October 4, 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, Economic Development Planning Director Tracie Hadaway, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manger 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, Assistant Chief of Police 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 called upon Christine Ryles to address Council as listed on the Agenda. Ms. Ryles was present by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing and came forward to address Council. Ms. Ryles stated that she is a native and a life-long resident of Phenix City. Ms. Ryles asked Mayor and Council to consider renaming 3rd Street South to Gail Green Memorial Drive in honor of the late Assistant Chief of Police, Gail Green Gilliam. Ms. Ryles stated that renaming the street would pay homage to a woman who cared about her family, her job, her community, and her church which resides on 3rd Street South. Mayor Lowe stated that the request was heard and would be considered. Councilmember Johnson thanked Ms. Ryles for bringing the request before Mayor and Council. Councilmember Johnson stated that Assistant Police Chief Green Gilliam was an integral part of this Community. Councilmember Johnson also stated that Assistant Police Chief Green Gilliam grew up in Phenix City, went to high school in Phenix City, and served Phenix City at the Police Department for many years. Councilmember Johnson further said that she couldn't think of a better person to have something named in their honor than Assistant Police Chief Green Gilliam. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Ryles for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Richard Cannon to address Council as listed on the Agenda. Mr. Cannon was not present by the way of Zoom Video Conference. Mayor Lowe stated that Mr. Cannon will be permitted to address Council if he logs on at a later time during the meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their September 28, 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 October 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over platform Zoom.

2. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on October 11, 2021 in observance of Columbus Day.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet October 12, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on October 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over platform Zoom.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on October 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over platform Zoom.
6. Advised Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce Military/Legislative Luncheon will be held on October 19, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet October 26, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Informed Council that Phenix City will observe trick or treating for Halloween on October 31, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on November 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over platform Zoom.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on November 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over platform Zoom.
11. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities Leadership Institute Graduation Ceremony will be held on November 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Lee stated that Councilmember Day and Councilmember Johnson will be participating in the graduation ceremony.
12. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 9, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
13. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 11, 2021 in observance of Veterans Day.
14. Informed Council that the National League of Cities 2021 City Summit will be held virtually November 12, 2021, November 15, 2021 through November 19, 2021. Ms. Lee stated that Councilmember Day will attend the virtual meeting.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on November 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. over platform Zoom.
16. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on November 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over platform Zoom.
17. Advised Council that the Planning Commission's November 23, 2021 meeting is canceled due to the holidays.
18. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 25, 2021 and November 26, 2021 in observance of Thanksgiving Day Holiday
19. Reviewed 2022 City Calendar. Ms. Lee asked Mayor and Council to review the calendar and follow up with the City Clerk's Office for changes or corrections.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she has received phone calls thanking the City for repaving several roads in the City. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she has encouraged citizens to be patient on other projects in the City if it takes a little longer than expected to complete. Councilmember Johnson thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter and his team for all that they do in making the community a better place to live.

Councilmember Johnson inquired on an update on the 14th Avenue Walking Trail and Park project and the September 30, 2021 preconstruction meeting. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the contractor has acquired all the necessary bonds and insurance and have been given the notice to proceed.

Councilmember Day stated that he noticed on the Building Departments monthly report that the number of permits issued was greater than the months before. Gil Griffith, Chief Building Inspector, stated that the report reflects permits issued from August 28, 2021 until September 24, 2021 and the amount is greater than previous months.

Councilmember Day stated that he has noticed quite a few construction sites and potential new businesses. Councilmember Day asked the Economic Development Department if there was any information that they could share at this time. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that the City does have a couple of projects and potential businesses that will be announced soon.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Seale Road Project. Angel Moore, City Engineer stated that a scoping meeting with ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation) will be scheduled soon. Ms. Moore also stated that the project is still in the preliminary engineering stage. Ms. Moore further stated that the project would take some time to complete.

Councilmember Day inquired about the new training station for the Fire Department. Kris Kennedy, Fire Chief, stated that the project is still in the designing phase.

Councilmember Day inquired about the upkeep and maintenance to the City's Parks. Councilmember Day stated that the nature trail at Southside Park needs some improvement. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the parks are patrolled once a week. Councilmember Day stated that the Austin Sumbry Park needs improvements as well. Mr. Hughes stated that the City has put a lot of money in all of the City's Parks.

Councilmember Day inquired about the number of accidents that occurred in the City the last couple of months. Police Chief Ray Smith stated that there were 169 accidents listed on the report and two of them were fatal. Chief Smith also stated that no Police Officers were involved in any of the accidents.

Councilmember Day asked Utilities Director Charles Woody about the Meter Replacement Project. Mr. Woody stated that there are approximately 300 more meters that need to be replaced for completion of the project.

Mr. Richard Cannon logged on to Zoom Video Conference at 3:44 p.m.

Mayor Lowe called upon Richard Cannon to address Council as listed on the Agenda. Mr. Cannon was present by the way of Zoom Video Conferencing and came forward to address Council. Mr. Cannon stated that he lives on 39th Street and has had issues with his neighbors for over a year. Mr. Cannon also stated that he believes that his neighbors are disrupting the neighborhood and possibly engaging in suspicious activity. Mr. Cannon further stated that his neighbors are very loud at times and have a lot of people coming and going. Mr. Cannon stated that he has reported the suspicious activity to the Police Department and State Law Enforcement Agencies several times. Mr. Cannon also stated that he doesn't feel safe in his own home and feels like no one is doing anything about it. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that all of Mr. Cannon's complaints have been received, are being taken seriously and under investigation. Chief Smith also stated that for security reasons, actions taken by the Police Department concerning Mr. Cannon's issues cannot be discussed at this time. Chief Smith further stated that Mr. Cannon will be updated with any information that can be released. Mr. Cannon stated that it is good to hear that the City understands what he is going through. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked Mr. Cannon to allow the Police Department to handle the situation for his own safety and

the safety of his family. Mr. Cannon agreed. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Cannon for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it has been brought to his attention that several places throughout the city have flooded due to the amount of heavy rainfall the past few days. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City's hands are tied in some instances and we cannot control the weather. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that the Lonesome Pine area is closed due to flooding. Chief Smith also stated that the bridge will remain closed until inspectors have checked it and waters have subsided. Angel Moore, City Engineer, encouraged all Citizens to be safe and avoid driving in heavy rain if possible.

Mayor Lowe called for an Executive Session to discuss Economic Development for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Economic Development for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Johnson seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:31 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:53 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 18, 2021.