

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 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 18, 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, 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 Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Dineta Vega to address Council as listed on the agenda. Ms. Vega was not present. Mayor Lowe stated that Ms. Vega was spoken to prior to the Work Session to help resolve her concerns.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their October 12, 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 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. over platform Zoom.
2. Informed Council that the DRA meeting scheduled on October 21, 2021 has been canceled.
3. Informed Council that Councilmember Day will be out of town October 24, 2021 through October 27, 2021.
4. Advised Council that Governor Kay Ivey released a Proclamation on October 8, 2021 to end Zoom meetings as of October 31, 2021. Ms. Lee stated that if the dates are not extended, all Work Sessions and Council Meetings will be held at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on November 1, 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 November 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
7. 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.

8. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 9, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
9. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 11, 2021 in observance of Veterans Day.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on November 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on November 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
12. Advised Council that the Planning Commission's November 23, 2021 meeting is canceled due to the Thanksgiving Holidays.
13. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 25, 2021 and November 26, 2021 in observance of Thanksgiving Day Holiday
14. Reviewed the 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. Ms. Lee stated that if there were no corrections or additions by October 28, 2021, the calendar would be placed in the white Council books for the next Council meeting. Mayor and Council agreed.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter encouraged everyone, if not already, to start watching the news and stay informed about what is going on in our area and in America. Mr. Hunter stated that supplies, equipment, and merchandise are taking longer to come in. Mr. Hunter also stated that some manufacturing and health care workers are going on strike for various reasons, which may have a great impact on holiday shopping. Mr. Hunter further stated that retailers are suggesting that consumers buy holiday gifts and items earlier this year. Mr. Hunter thanked Mayor and Council for approving things that acknowledge City Employees as essential. Mr. Hunter stated that he is very thankful for his team.

Mr. Hunter stated that a lot of people looked up to General Colin Powell. Mr. Hunter also stated that he was saddened to hear of his death and that so many people have passed away due to complications with COVID-19. Mr. Hunter stated that General Colin Powell's death came around the same time that Washington, DC honored the fallen Law Enforcement Officers. Mr. Hunter also stated that Police Chief Ray Smith had the opportunity to attend the event. Chief Smith stated that the trip was very emotional. Chief Smith also stated that he was able to attend the event with the family of former Assistant Chief of Police Gail Green Gilliam who also lost her life due to complications of COVID-19. Chief Smith further stated that it is nice to know that the nation supports the family of the fallen officers. Chief Smith stated that law enforcement and first responders can't work from home and they put their life on the line for others on a daily basis. Chief Smith also stated that it was an honor to escort Assistant Chief of Police Gail Green Gilliam's family and to be able to place a rose on her memorial. Chief Smith encouraged everyone to visit the National Law Enforcement Monument if ever in Washington, DC. Chief Smith also stated that there are over 25,000 names engraved in the memorial. Chief Smith also stated that there are five names now listed on the memorial from the City of Phenix City and they will forever be remembered for their sacrifices. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that he read an article that stated that the number one cause of death as of right now for Police Officers in the United States is COVID-19. Mr. Graham also stated that COVID-19 deaths have effected Fire Fighters, EMS, and First Responders as well as Police Officers. Chief Smith stated that during the memorial, Texas lost another officer due to complications to COVID-19. Chief Smith stated that the death

toll is not over and names will continue to be added to the list. Chief Smith thanked the Phenix City Police Department Motor Squad for attending the event and their support. Chief Smith encouraged everyone to keep the families of the fallen officers in their prayers.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to remain optimistic during all the bad things that are happening not just in the City but in the nation. Mayor Lowe stated that in spite of it all, we are so blessed as a Council, City and a team.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, November 1, 2021.