

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 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, November 1, 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: 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 Manager Mike Barber, Library Director Michele Kilday, Parks & Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Director of Human Resources 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 stated that 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 October 26, 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 November 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. 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.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 9, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 11, 2021 in observance of Veterans Day.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission's November 23, 2021 meeting is canceled due to the Thanksgiving Holidays.
8. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 25, 2021 and November 26, 2021 in observance of Thanksgiving Day Holiday.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on December 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on December 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.

11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet December 14, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on December 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 December 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
14. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on December 23, 2021 and December 24, 2021 in observance of Christmas Holiday.
15. Advised Council that the Planning Commission's December 28, 2021 meeting is canceled due to the Christmas Holidays.
16. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on December 31, 2021 in observance of New Years Holiday.
17. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the roadwork and construction on the Dillingham Bridge near the Amphitheater. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that a pedestrian crosswalk and a blinking crossing light for pedestrians are currently being installed across from the bike shop.

Councilmember Johnson asked the Economic Development Department, if there were any retail business that the City should be expecting soon. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated the current focus is in the downtown area. Mr. Culligan also stated that there are a couple of projects that would be announced in the near future. Councilmember Johnson asked if there were any plans for the old Ace Hardware Building. Mr. Culligan stated that a franchised retailer whose plans have been delayed due to the pandemic purchased the building prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the City has more than one electric vehicle charging station. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City has two active charging stations, one on Broad Street and one at the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City has a third station and are currently looking for a location to place it.

Councilmember Day inquired about new retail businesses on Highway 431. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that the City is actively searching for new businesses to bring to the City. Mr. Culligan stated that there are a couple of businesses that are in the due diligence stage and maybe able to disclose the information later. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic has caused companies and individuals to alter or stop their plans of building or opening a new business.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Knowles Road Pavement Project. City Engineer Angel Moore stated that ALDOT would be sending a letter stating that a consultant can be chosen. Ms. Moore also stated that if everything goes according to plan, the project should began in 2022.

Councilmember Day inquired about the completion of Public Service Request by the Public Works Department. Councilmember Day stated that the monthly report shows more outstanding service orders than usual. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the Public Works Department is doing the very best that they can with the number of people working in that department. Ms. Moore also stated that the department is operating with about 50% of needed staff. Ms. Moore asked everyone to have patience if it takes a little longer to complete service requests.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the Public Safety Building Project and new vehicles for the Police Department. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that the project is on schedule and making progress and new vehicles have been ordered.

Councilmember Bailey asked Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain if the number of job applications have increased. Ms. Chastain stated that the number of applications have increased but some are choosing not to show up for an interview, or not showing up for drug testing. Ms. Chastain also stated that four new employees were hired in October. Ms. Chastain also stated that positions are still open throughout the City.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the Utilities Department Payment Kiosk. Charles Woody, Utilities Department Director, stated that CityBase is working on the technical side of the kiosk with the IT Department. Councilmember Bailey asked if the Utilities Department would have paperless billing for the people that pay online. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he doesn't anticipate that happening. Mr. Hunter also stated that there are people in the City that do not have access to the internet.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Mayor Lowe encouraged everyone to remain humble and continue to work from the heart.

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

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

Council went into Executive Session at 4:41 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:04 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, November 15, 2021.