

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 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, December 6, 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, Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers, 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, 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, John Spraggins, and Utilities Director Charles Woody.

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

Councilmember Gordy led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe stated that there were no request to address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their November 23, 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 December 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Advised Council that the Jackson-Thornton Utilities Consultant meeting will be held on December 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
3. Informed Council that the Mayor's Ball Scholarship Committee will be having an award night for charitable organizations on December 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Troy University Downtown Campus.
4. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet December 14, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on December 23, 2021 and December 24, 2021 in observance of Christmas Holiday.
8. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet December 28, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.
9. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on December 31, 2021 in observance of New Year's Holiday.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on January 3, 2022 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 January 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
12. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet January 11, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
13. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on January 17, 2022 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
14. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on January 18, 2022 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 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on January 19, 2022 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 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
16. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities will hold its 2022 Municipal Advocacy Day in Montgomery, Alabama, on January 19, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. Central Standard Time.
17. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet January 25, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
18. Advised Council that the State of City Address will be held on January 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
19. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on January 31, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.

Mayor Lowe explained the Mayor's Ball Scholarship Committee Charitable Organization Award Night. Mayor Lowe stated that the Mayor's Ball Scholarship Committee will be awarding five organizations that are helping the community.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the possibility of Phenix City having a homeless shelter. Councilmember Johnson stated that the question was prompted by an email from a citizen wanting to donate to a shelter that would help the homeless in Phenix City. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that Phenix City collaborates with United Way. Chief Smith also stated that there are several shelters throughout the Bi-City area, that house Russell County residents as well as those of Muscogee County in Columbus, Georgia. Chief Smith further stated that United Way is a resource that assist with not just temporary housing but may assist in permanent housing as well. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated Chief Smith works well with United Way to provide resources for our community. Mr. Hunter also stated that there are shelters in the area but their location is not published due to the protection and security of the residents. Mr. Hunter further stated that the email was addressed, and the contact information for United Way was given to the citizen. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Hunter, Chief Smith and City employees for their contributions to United Way. Mayor Lowe stated that employee contributions exceeded expectations with over one hundred thousand dollars. Councilmember Bailey stated that the amount of contributions to the United Way says a lot about City Employees and their concern towards the community.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she has noticed the efforts of the Public Works Department in their picking up of limbs and debris throughout the City. Councilmember Johnson also stated that with the employee shortage that the City is experiencing, it is good to have a workforce that may be few in numbers but still able to get the job done. Councilmember Johnson further stated that she noticed pesticides being sprayed on shrubbery near the South Railroad Street area. Councilmember Johnson asked if the pesticide was being sprayed in other parts of the City as well. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the Public Works, Parks and Recreation and the Golf Department are working to contain the City's Right of Ways during the time of year

that grass and shrubbery doesn't grow as fast. Ms. Moore stated that there are only certain pesticides that are allowed to be sprayed on the right of ways.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about the schedule of street sweepers throughout the City. Councilmember Johnson stated that she received an email concerning street sweeping in the 24th Street area. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the request are completed in the order in which they are received. Mr. Hunter also stated that if an area has had some work done, it will be placed in the sweeping schedule. Mr. Hunter further stated that with the number of people that we have on the workforce, we are taking it one day at a time and doing the best that we can. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to help keep the streets of Phenix City clean by not throwing trash in the streets.

Councilmember Bailey thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter and the Engineering Department for the signs placed in the Summerville Road and Saint Andrews area. Councilmember Bailey stated that the Citizens in that area appreciate the "no passing" and "right turn only" signs that were placed in their area.

Councilmember Bailey thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the beautiful Christmas Decorations that are on display throughout the City. Councilmember Bailey stated that even though the City is not having a Christmas Parade this year due to the pandemic, it is good to see a little holiday cheer spread throughout the City.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he agrees with City Manager Wallace Hunter when he stated that there is a problem with trash being thrown on City streets. Councilmember Bailey encouraged everyone to help keep the City clean. Councilmember Bailey stated that City employees are working hard to keep the City clean, but it takes everyone working together. Councilmember Bailey also stated that he appreciates City employees for what they do to keep the streets in the City clean.

Councilmember Bailey thanked Toni Shah of the Citizen of East Alabama Newspaper for the article that she wrote about the thefts that the City has been having throughout Phenix City and especially the downtown area. Councilmember Bailey stated that catalytic convertor theft has slowed down recently. Councilmember Bailey thanked the Police Department for their continuous patrol throughout the City. Councilmember Bailey also thanked the City employees and the Citizens of Phenix City for all that they do to keep the City safe.

Councilmember Day inquired about the total number of Building permits that were issued for single dwellings this year. Mayor Lowe stated that the number has increased from last year. Councilmember Day stated that the number of condemned houses has decreased. Gil Griffith, Building Official, stated that the number has decreased temporarily due to the Ordinance being in the process of being re-written and the arrival of grant funds.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Seale Road Bridge and the Knowles Road Projects. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that there was a recent meeting with ALDOT and they are close to meeting the ninety percent mark of the planning stage of the Seale Road Bridge Project. Ms. Moore also stated that she has been in contact with ALDOT on the Knowles Road Project and will have an update later. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that once the Seale Road Bridge Project begins, there will be detour signs placed in that area for several months to re-route the traffic to Highway 431. Mr. Hunter also stated that it will not be a short project but the results will be beautiful.

Councilmember Day stated that he met with the principal of South Girard School last week, concerning a large pothole between the Spencer Recreation Center and the school bus parking lot. Councilmember Day also stated that he called the City Clerk's Office to place a work order and have it determined if it was the school's or the City's property. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that a work order has been placed for the Pub Works Department to review the pothole. Ms. Moore also stated that driveways belong to the owner and right of ways belong to the City. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated school property belongs to the school system.

Councilmember Day inquired about ISO training for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Kris Kennedy stated that ISO training is completed annually. Chief Kennedy also stated that the Fire College brings in a mobile facility every year for the training. Chief Kennedy further stated that once the Fire Department has its own permanent training facility built, a mobile training facility will no longer be needed. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the project is in the drawing phase.

Councilmember Day inquired about the More Than a Game Program at the Meadowlane Park Ballfield. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that he has been in contact with Tim Fanning the President of More Than a Game and he stated that the program is not active at this moment do to the pandemic. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that More than a Game is an outreach program designed to introduce and get kids who live in that area interested in the sport of baseball.

Councilmember Day asked Utilities Director Charles Woody if the Meter Register Replacement Project was near completion. Mr. Woody stated that there has been over twelve thousand meters replaced and the project is near completion.

Councilmember Day asked the Chief of Police Ray Smith for an update on the remodeling of the Public Safety Building. Chief Smith stated that the building will contain the same offices, Council Chamber and courtrooms just on a larger scale. Chief Smith also stated that the project is going according to schedule with no resent setbacks.

City Engineer Angel Moore discussed with Council, an update on the Dobbs Drive Resurfacing Project. Ms. Moore stated if weather permits, the Contractors will begin resurfacing Dobbs Drive during the school systems winter break. Ms. Moore also stated that the City received \$250,000.00 from ALDOT to help fund the \$353,000.00 project. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he has been in contact with Phenix City School Superintendent Randy Wilkes and informed him of the details.

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 Good Name and Character for 30 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn.

Councilmember Day 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 4:47 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:14 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, December 20, 2021.