

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2022**

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, February 28, 2022, 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, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Library Director Michele Kilday, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, 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 Gordy led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised there were no Requests to Address Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tracie Hadaway, Economic Development Planning Director, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their February 22, 2022 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 March 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Advised Council that Councilmember Day's Elected Official Luncheon will be held on March 4, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet March 8, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Informed Council that the Fountain City Mardi Gras Parade will be held on March 12, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
5. Informed Council that Daylight Savings time begins on March 13, 2022.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on March 14, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
7. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on March 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
8. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet March 22, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on April 4, 2022 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 April 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet April 12, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on April 18, 2022 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 April 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
14. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet April 26, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
15. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities 2022 Annual Convention Meeting will be held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama May 11, 2022 through May 14, 2022. Ms. Lee asked Council to inform the City Clerk's Office if they plan on attending the convention after which, the Voting Delegate and 1st Alternate Voting Delegate will need to be selected.
16. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson inquired about an update on the 4th Avenue Park Project. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the asphalt for the basketball court is currently in the curing phase. Mr. Hughes also stated that the asphalt would have to set for 28 days before paint can be placed on top of it. Mr. Hughes further stated that the playground has been installed and the surface underneath should be completed within the next week. Mr. Hughes stated that the entire park project should be completed within three weeks. Councilmember Johnson asked if the walking nature trail would be located within the park area or outside the park area. Mr. Hughes stated that the walking trail would be inside the park area. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the walking trail is within the City's property lines. Mr. Hunter also stated that a park brings people to the neighborhood to play, walk and just relax. Mr. Hunter further stated that unfortunately parks also attract people who enjoy vandalizing and destroying other people's property. Mr. Hunter stated that the City has this problem with all of the City's parks. Mr. Hunter also stated that security cameras will be placed throughout the City and the Police Department has increased their patrolling of the City's parks. Mr. Hunter further stated that it is going to take Citizens utilizing the parks, keeping them clean and reporting suspicious behavior to keep the City's parks safe for all to enjoy. Mr. Hunter recalled growing up as a child and playing ball in the neighborhoods and parks. Councilmember Johnson stated that she appreciates Mr. Hunter and the Police Department for all that they do to keep Phenix City safe. Councilmember Johnson also stated that it is going to take the entire community to come together to keep our City safe. Councilmember Johnson further stated that the parks are for all to enjoy. Councilmember Johnson recalled the time when her father played baseball with the Popular Springs Wildcats. Councilmember Johnson stated that she played softball in the area when she was growing up. Councilmember Johnson also stated that she has been asked several times about land that softball can be played on. Mr. Hughes stated that slow pitch softball kind of tapered off for a while but it is slowly coming back and becoming a recreational sport again. Mr. Hunter stated that scholarships were awarded for fast pitch softball and slow pitch softball began to disappear. Mr. Hunter also stated that some areas of the City are not large enough or the terrain doesn't fit ball park qualifications. Mr. Hunter further stated that you can not just put a ball field anywhere. Mr. Hunter stated that the City has a tennis park that only a few play on. Mr. Hunter also stated that sometimes people ask for things and don't utilize them. Mr. Hunter stated that there are children in other parts of the world who don't have a place to play and who are worried for their safety. Mr. Hunter also stated that sometimes people worry about the wrong things at the wrong time. Mr. Hunter encouraged everyone to be a part of the solution and not the problem. Councilmember Johnson stated that the park on 4th Avenue will be a great addition to the community. Councilmember Johnson thanked Mr. Hunter, Mr. Hughes, and the Parks and Recreation team for a great job that they do for the City.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he has received several compliments on the Lakewood Golf course. Councilmember Bailey also stated that the compliments were not just about the golf course but the people who work there. Councilmember Bailey further stated that the attitudes of

the employees were highly commendable. Councilmember Bailey stated that the only complaint was not being able to drive the golf carts in the parking lot.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the number of applications the City has received for employment. Councilmember Bailey asked if the number has increased. Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain stated that the number of applications fluctuate depending on the week. Ms. Chastain also stated that two weeks ago, the applications flooded in and last week there were just a few. Councilmember Bailey asked if some of the applicants were good candidates for employment. Ms. Chastain further stated that eight new employees were hired in January. Ms. Chastain stated that some departments have harder to fill positions and they are advertising and recruiting for those open positions.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the Riverchase Sewer project. Councilmember Bailey stated that a few citizens that live in that area have asked him about the progression of the project. Charles Woody, Utilities Director, stated that the aerator is not on site but a data logger has been installed, to measure the hydrogen sulfide in our sanitary sewer system prior to implementing the aerator at the Riverchase Lift Station. Councilmember Bailey stated that he would relay the message.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the walking trail behind Sherwood School. Councilmember Bailey asked if a grant was received to upgrade the trail. Tracie Hadaway, Development Planning Director, stated that the application for the grant was submitted but there has been no update if the City was approved or denied.

Councilmember Day inquired about the time that a person has to complete a project once a permit has been purchased from the building department. Gil Griffith, Building Official, stated that generally the time frame is six months from the day that the permit is purchased. Mr. Griffith also stated that if the project is being actively worked on and they have reached the six month deadline they can request an extension.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Brickyard Project. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Brickyard was not a City project. Mr. Hunter stated that it was private property.

Councilmember Day inquired on the Seale Road Bridge Project. City Engineer Angel Moore stated that the project is in Phase One with preliminary design stage and utility stage. Ms. Moore also stated that it is an ALDOT project so it may take a while to complete.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Utilities Department Kiosk project. Charles Woody, Utilities Director, stated that the department is working with CityBase and the IT Department to complete and to ensure that the Kiosk will work properly once it has been installed.

Councilmember Day inquired about the More Than a Game Program at Meadowlane Park. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that because of lack of participation the program has phased out. Mr. Hughes also stated that a softball team however, is utilizing the field. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the More Than a Game Program was started to introduce the game of baseball to minority youth. Mr. Hunter recalled growing up as a youth and playing every sport available. Mr. Hunter stated that some of today's minority youth are not interested in baseball. Mr. Hunter also stated that it was a great program.

Councilmember Day requested an update of the Miracle Park Project. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City will move forward with the plans for the Miracle Park now that

things are slowly opening back up since the Covid-19 Pandemic. Mr. Hunter also stated that the project is at the beginning stages.

Councilmember Day inquired about the meter replacement project in the Utilities Department. Charles Woody, Utilities Director, stated that the project is close to completion with under two hundred meters left to be replaced. Mr. Woody also stated that the Utilities Department is operating with about fifty percent of its workforce.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Knowles Road Re-pavement Project. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that ALDOT is in the preliminary engineering stage.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Village at Crosswind Development. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, stated that there are a few projects in the works but he is unable to give too much detailed information.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Mayor Lowe asked everyone to keep the family of former Mayor Frank Roberts who passed away recently, in their prayers. Mayor Lowe stated that Mayor Roberts served the City from 1974-1977.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2022.