

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
June 21, 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, June 21, 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: Deputy Building Official Ray Rogers, Code Enforcement Officer Ricky Carlson, City Engineer Angel Moore, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, 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 Aubry Gray to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Gray came forward to address Council. Ms. Gray stated that she is requesting that her property be annexed into the City for the purpose of her child to be allowed to ride the school bus. Ms. Gray also stated that to her knowledge, her home is the only one on her street that is not in the City limits. Mayor Lowe stated that at this time, there is a moratorium on annexations and that Ms. Gray should follow up with the School Board. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that home owners in that area had a choice prior to the moratorium being placed to be in the City limits or out of the City limits. Councilmember Bailey stated that if Ms. Gray's property is the only property on the street that is outside of City limits, then annexation seems reasonable to complete the puzzle. Mr. Hunter stated that if the school bus is already picking up children on the street, the issue should be addressed with the school system and not the City. Councilmember Day recalled having a similar issue with his grandchildren not being able to ride the school bus. Councilmember Day stated that a hardship was granted for the children to ride the bus. Ms. Gray stated that the school system advised that they cannot authorize the pickup and she needs to speak to Mayor and Council about annexing the property into the City limits. Mayor Lowe stated that Council has always tried to be consistent in decision making and if they do something for one person, they will do the same for another. Councilmember Johnson suggested that Ms. Gray speak with the school board again and ask them to consider her child riding the bus as a hardship request. City Engineer, Angel Moore, stated Ms. Gray's residents is not the only one in the area that has not been annexed into City limits. Councilmember Bailey thanked Ms. Moore for the clarification. Mr. Hunter stated that there are other areas of the City that are similar to Ms. Gray's neighborhood where some houses are in City limits next door to houses that are not. Mr. Hunter also stated that the choice was made by original homeowners when given the opportunity to be annexed into the City. Mr. Hunter further stated that there is a possibility in the future, that the City will be boxed in to eliminate these issues. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Gray for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their June 14, 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 June 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Phenix City/Russell County Library. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday due to the Juneteenth / Freedom Day Holiday.
2. Informed Council that Councilmember Johnson will hold a meeting for District Two residents prior to the regular scheduled Council Meeting on June 22, 2022 from 5:15 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. at the Phenix City/Russell County Library.
3. Advised Council that the Mayor's Ball will be held on June 25, 2022.
4. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet June 28, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
5. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on July 4, 2022 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on July 5, 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 Independence Day Holiday.
7. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on July 6, 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.
8. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet July 12, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on July 18, 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 July 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet July 26, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
12. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities will host the 3rd Congressional Luncheon August 18, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST in Opelika, Alabama.
13. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that there were no agenda claims to review with Council.

Councilmember Gordy moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 45 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Day seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:05 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 4:50 p.m.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 5, 2022.