

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 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, October 3, 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, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy was not present. 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, City Engineer Angel Moore, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Planning Director Tracie Hadaway, Planner Terry Curry, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Library Director Tammy Henry, 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.

Mayor Lowe led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tracie Hadaway, Economic Development Planning Director, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their September 27, 2022 meeting. Ms. Hadaway stated that the meeting was canceled due to no Agenda items.

Mayor Lowe called upon Ray Rogers, Deputy Building Official, to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Rogers came forward to address Council. Mr. Rogers stated that he would like to give a brief overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan for Facilities. Mr. Rogers also stated that he has been designated to be the City's ADA Coordinator. Mr. Rogers reviewed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for Facilities. Mr. Rogers stated that the ADA was signed into law in 1990 and protects the civil rights for people with disabilities. Mr. Rogers also stated that Public Agencies with facilities must develop an ADA Transition Plan. Mr. Rogers further stated that the ADA is divided into five titles that relate to different areas of public life. Mr. Rogers reviewed Title II for State and Local Government. Mr. Rogers stated that notification will be sent to the newspaper and placed on the City's website. Mr. Rogers also stated that the plan will be available for viewing October 13, 2022 through October 28, 2022 for recommendations. Mr. Rogers further stated that after the recommendation period, the transition plan will be submitted to Mayor and Council for final approval. Councilmember Day asked if the transition plan had to be completed by a certain deadline. Mr. Rogers stated that the drafted copy of the transition plan will be available for questions or recommendations in approximately 15 days. Mr. Rogers also stated that the changes or additions that need to be made will be budgeted out over time. Mayor Lowe stated that the most expensive estimate in the drafted plan will be used for South Side Park. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City will apply for grants as they come available to help offset the cost. Mr. Hunter also stated that each facility has its own individual plan which is a part of the overall plan. Councilmember Johnson stated that most of the restrooms at the City parks are already ADA accessible. Mr. Hunter stated that they are to a certain extent. Mr. Hunter also stated that the City has a lot of older facilities that are in need of upgrades. Councilmember Johnson asked if the City had any buildings with automated door entry. Mr. Hunter stated that it was not a requirement when buildings were originally built. Mr. Hunter also stated that most of the City's

buildings were built before 1990 which was prior to the signing of the ADA. Mr. Hunter further stated that automated doors will be a part of the Public Safety Building which is currently being renovated. Mayor Lowe stated that it is all about progress and moving the City forward. Councilmember Johnson asked if it is required that all state and local governments perform a self-evaluation of each facility and make them accessible to people with disabilities. Mr. Hunter stated that it depends on the usage of the building. Mr. Rogers stated that the United States Department of Justice stated that there are exceptions if the changes are technically infeasible, structurally impracticable or threatens the historical features of the structure. Mayor Lowe stated that the purpose of the assessment was to identify areas of concern. Mr. Hunter stated that employees are included in the Act as well as the public. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the City is working on each district. Ms. Moore also stated that there is a plan in place for sidewalk replacement. Ms. Moore further stated that laps along sidewalks are also being replaced as needed. Ms. Moore stated that it may not be feasible for the City to make ADA compliance, for example, Summerville Road is too steep for the correct sidewalk slopes and power poles on existing sidewalks on Crawford Road. Mr. Hunter stated that the City actively seek grants to assist in the cost because some projects could be up to millions of dollars. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Rogers for the information and speaking with Council.

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 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Reminded Council that ICF Athlete Social Film Screening will be held on October 5, 2022 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
3. Reminded Council that the Squirrt Boat Competition will be held on October 6, 2022.
4. Reminded Council that the RushSouth Outdoor Festival will be held October 7, 2022 through October 8, 2022.
5. Advised Council that Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church will host a Faith and Blue event with the Phenix City Police Department and the Russell County Sherriff Department on October 9, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
6. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on October 10, 2022 in observance of Columbus Day Holiday.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet October 11, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on October 17, 2022, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
9. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on October 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
10. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Legislative Luncheon on October 18, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.
11. Informed Council that Ft. Benning's annual Oktoberfest will be held October 21, 2022 through October 23, 2022 at the Uchee Creek Activity Center.
12. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet October 25, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
13. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on October 31, 2022, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
14. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on November 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
15. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 8, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

16. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 11, 2022 in observance of Veteran's Day Holiday.
17. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on November 14, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
18. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on November 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
19. Informed Council that the National League of Cities, City Summit will be held November 17- 19, 2022 in Kansas City, MO.
20. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 22, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
21. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 24, 2022 and November 25, 2022 in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the upcoming events for the Riverwalk be explained. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager, advised of the details, location and times for the ICF Athlete Social and Film Screening, Squirt Boat Competition, ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup and the events for the RushSouth Outdoor Festival that will be held October 5, 2022 through October 8, 2022. Mr. Culligan stated that it will be a lot of activities on both sides of the Chattahoochee River.

City Clerk Melony Lee reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the City is looking really good and it is noticeable that the Parks and Recreation, Engineering Department, and the Public Works Department are working really hard and it is appreciated. Angel Moore, City Engineer, thanked City Manager Wallace Hunter and Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes for the Parks and Recreation Department for their assistance. Ms. Moore stated that the Public Works Department is still short on staff. Ms. Moore also stated that the Public Works Department was excited and grateful for the help. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that with the change of season, the growth of grass slows down. Mr. Hunter also stated that both departments have done an excellent job. Councilmember Day asked if the inmate work program would be of help with the Public Works Department. Mr. Hunter stated that even that program is not a guarantee. Mr. Hunter also stated Georgia is having issues with their inmate work program where the inmates are not wanting to work.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the City's grab-all trucks. Councilmember Day asked if all the trucks ordered have been received. City Engineer Angel Moore stated that one truck has been received and the other one hopefully will be here soon. Ms. Moore also stated that in order to operate the grab-all truck, the operator must have a CDL License.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she has received compliments from people visiting the City stating that Highway 80 has grown. Councilmember Johnson asked if the City was expecting any new businesses on Highway 80 West. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that there are a few more parcels available for development possibilities on Highway 80 before it becomes oversaturated. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that Phenix City is growing. Mr. Hunter also stated that Highway 431 has parcels available as well and is expanding.

Councilmember Day stated that most new businesses are on the right side of Highway 80 flowing down to Winn Dixie. Councilmember Day asked if the left side belongs to the County or

has it been annexed into the City. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it depends on who wants to develop on that side and if it can be annexed in.

Councilmember Day inquired about an update on the Race Trac Gas station at the Crosswinds and College Drive area. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that they are waiting on plans for that project, Ms. Moore also stated that there are plans for a Circle K gas station on the same side as Renfro's Market. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that area of Phenix City is growing and plans will be revealed soon. Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan stated that he has received calls and inquiries concerning development in that area. Mr. Culligan also stated that he has received several compliments on the growth of the entire City. Mr. Culligan spoke on the Campground at the Art Park as well and the compliments that have been received.

Councilmember Day inquired about the Dragonfly Trail from Columbus, Georgia to Phenix City, Alabama. Planning Director Tracie Hadaway stated that the Dragon Fly Trail is a part of the off-road Greenway Trail System in Columbus, Georgia. Ms. Hadaway stated that they reached out to Phenix City to be a part of the Riverwalk extension and for marketing purposes.

Councilmember Day inquired about storm water, grease and oil issues. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the storm water falls under the Engineering Department and the grease issues fall under the Utilities Department. Charles Woody, Utilities Director, stated that the Utilities Department tries to stay on top of the issues by making sure that local restaurants have their grease trap pumped on a regular basis. Mr. Woody also stated that pouring grease down the drain has an effect on the water system. Mr. Hunter stated that grease clogs up the drain.

Mayor Lowe stated that he had an opportunity to attend the football game of Central High School and IMG Academy in Florida. Mayor Lowe also stated that the media coverage did justice to Phenix City and everything looked great.

Councilmember Day asked if ESPN would be covering the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup. Shaun Culligan, Economic Development Manager stated that ESPN will not cover the event this year but hopefully they will cover future events.

Councilmember Johnson inquired on an update of the Public Safety Building renovation. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the project is coming along very well. Mr. Hunter also stated that no estimated date of completion will be given at this time. Councilmember Day asked if there will be adequate parking spaces at the Public Safety Building. Mr. Hunter stated that there will be adequate parking.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 17, 2022.