

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 31, 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 31, 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, City Engineer Angel Moore, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Planning Director Tracie Hadaway, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, IT Manager Mike Bauer, Assistant Fire Chief Kerry Bragg, Fire Marshall Bennie Dubberly, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain, Chief of Police Ray Smith, 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 Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe advised that Jennifer Davidson of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System was not present to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mayor Lowe stated that Ms. Davidson will be present at the November 1, 2022 Council meeting to accept the proclamation recognizing Alabama Farm-City Week.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tracie Hadaway, Economic Development Planning Director, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their October 25, 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 November 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Advised Council that Councilmember Day will be out of the office on November 1, 2022.
3. Reminded Council that Daylight Savings Time ends November 6, 2022.
4. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 8, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
5. Advised Council of a called meeting for the Industrial Development Board to be held on November 10, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
6. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 11, 2022 in observance of Veteran's Day Holiday.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 22, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

10. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 24, 2022 and November 25, 2022 in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on December 5, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on December 6, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
13. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet December 13, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
14. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on December 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on December 20, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
16. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on December 23, 2022 and December 26, 2022 in observance of Christmas Holiday.
17. Advised Council that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for December 27, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. was canceled due to the Christmas Holiday.
18. Reviewed proposed 2023 City Calendar.
19. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Johnson inquired on an update on the opening of the Popular Springs Park. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that signage should be in and installed soon. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that the Public Works Department will be getting with the Parks and Recreation Department soon to finalize plans of preparation for opening. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that once both departments have finished, the basketball goals will be installed, a grand opening day will be set, and the park will be opened.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the City's Rental Facilities will be open and available to rent over the holidays. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that all of the facilities are available for rent with the exception of the Central Activity Center's Auditorium because it is currently being used for Municipal Court. Mr. Hughes also stated that the City's Rental Facilities will be closed for the holidays. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there are a lot of retail businesses including Walmart that will be closed on the holiday so that employees can spend time with their families.

Councilmember Johnson inquired on an update of the renovation of the Public Safety Building. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the building is coming along very well and will look great on the inside and out. Chief of Police Ray Smith stated that the contractors and architects are pretty confident that the project should be completed soon and will be ready to host the Council meetings and courts once again. Mike Bauer, IT Manager, spoke on the installations for connections performed by the IT Department.

Councilmember Bailey stated that he has received a few phone calls concerning the Bridgewater Subdivision Sewer project. Charles Woody, Utilities Director, stated that the project is in the designing stage.

Councilmember Bailey inquired on an update of the hiring of new City Employees. Stephanie Chastain, Human Resources Director, stated that Twenty One new employees were hired over the last two months. Ms. Chastain also stated that the number of incoming applications has picked up as well. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City is still in need of employees that have a current CDL license. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that there are eight openings available for CDL license holders for grab-all trucks and bulk items pick up.

Councilmember Bailey asked if the starting pay was competitive towards other CDL positions in the market. Ms. Chastain stated that Phenix City's pay for CDL drivers is comparable to larger cities like Tuscaloosa. Ms. Chastain also stated that the starting pay is around \$18.00 per hour.

Councilmember Bailey asked if there would be a Bi-City Christmas Parade this year. Todd Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Bi-City Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, December 3, 2022. Mr. Hughes also stated that the Parks and Recreation Department will host a movie night on December 3rd as well. Mr. Hughes further stated that the Veteran's Day Parade will be held this Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Hughes stated that parade applications can be found online.

Councilmember Day thanked the Public Works Department for picking up the limb and debris in his neighborhood. Councilmember Day stated that he had a chance to see the new grab-all truck and stated that it is very nice.

Councilmember Day inquired on an update of the Old Seale Road Bridge Project. Angel Moore, City Engineer, stated that plans have been updated and the bridge calculations have been sent to the Department of Transportation. Ms. Moore also stated that once the calculations have been approved, then a bid for a contractor can be placed. Ms. Moore further stated that the project is still in the Preliminary Engineering Phase.

Councilmember Day inquired on an update of purchasing additional property at the Edmonds Cemetery. City Attorney Jimmy Graham stated that the lady that was going to sell the property to the City has passed away. City Attorney Graham also stated that the heirs of the property are going through the process of settling her estate. City Attorney Graham further stated that all of the heirs would have to agree to sell the property to the City.

Councilmember Day inquired about the opening of a gas station off of College Park Drive. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the plans for the Race Trac Gas Station are coming along and there are also plans to build a restaurant across the street from the new gas station.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

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

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