

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 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, November 14, 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, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, 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 Johnson led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Jennifer Davidson of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Davidson came forward to address Council. Ms. Davidson stated that she would like to speak about three topics. Ms. Davidson thanked Mayor and Council for the appropriation that was giving to the Russell County Extension Office. Ms. Davidson stated that she would like to discuss what the funds were being used for. Ms. Davidson thanked Mayor and Council for the usage of Garrett Harrison Stadium parking lot for the Farmer's Market, Market Days and Arbor Day and asked if it could be continued. Ms. Davidson stated that she is a volunteer for the Phenix City Russell County Tree Board who host the Arbor Day tree give-a-way. Ms. Davidson also stated that Arbor Day 2023 will be observed February 25, 2023. Ms. Davidson further stated that Farmer's Market, Market Days are usually from Memorial Day until Thanksgiving Day every other weekend. Ms. Davidson stated that the Farmer's Market is requesting if they could use the Garrett Harrison Stadium parking lot for a longer time next year starting in April before Mother's Day weekend and ending Thanksgiving Day weekend. Ms. Davidson stated that the Russell County Extension Office is located at 508 14th Street. Ms. Davidson also stated that the local office is linked to the Extension Office in Auburn University and Alabama A&M University. Ms. Davidson further stated that the local office is cooperative, which means that Federal, State and local funding are used by the office to include but not limited to: water testing, forest testing, cottage food training, and food safety training for food handlers. Ms. Davidson stated that the Extension Office educates about 1600 children in the school system per year and have the 4-H program, Expanded Food & Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Human Sciences program formally known as Home Economics. Ms. Davidson also stated that there is more information on their website www.aces.edu/counties/russell. Ms. Davidson reviewed educational programs that are offered. Ms. Davidson stated that the Extension Office is grateful for all of their supporters. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked if it was mandatory for students in the school system to take the Human Sciences course to graduate. Ms. Davidson stated that to her understanding, as for the Phenix City School System, it may be a part of the Career Tech Curriculum. Councilmember Johnson asked if there was a fee attached to the Summer Camp and when is it normally offered. Ms. Davidson stated that for the past five years, The Exchange Club and the American Legion have offered sponsorship for the summer camps. Ms. Davidson also stated that it is about \$150.00 per child and usually is held the 3rd

week of June for boys and girls ages 9-14. Ms. Davidson further stated that the maximum of kids allowed to participate is 15. Ms. Davidson stated that registration starts in January and there will be a small registration fee of \$25.00. Ms. Davidson also stated that the camp is held in Columbiana, Alabama. Ms. Davidson further stated that the two night camp is packed with activities. Councilmember Day stated that he did not realize that the Extension Office offered so much for our children. Councilmember Day asked how does sports or the young people who participate in sports, fit in this program. Ms. Davidson stated that it can be difficult for those who participate in year round sports. Ms. Davidson also stated that there are some programs that are held at the school during school hours and some that are not that maybe a little challenging to participate in for the athletes. Ms. Davidson thanked Mayor and Council for allowing her time to speak about their program and asked Mayor and Council to reach out to her office if they have any additional questions. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Davidson for the passion that she has for her job and our young people. Mayor Lowe also thanked Ms. Davidson for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tracie Hadaway, Economic Development Planning Director, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their November 8, 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 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet November 22, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
3. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on November 24, 2022 and November 25, 2022 in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday.
4. Advised Council that the Bi-City Christmas Parade will be held December 3, 2022.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet December 13, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on December 23, 2022 and December 26, 2022 in observance of Christmas Holiday.
11. Advised Council that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for December 27, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. has been canceled due to the Christmas Holiday.
12. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the City's Water and Sewer ratings have changed. Mr. Hunter stated that the new "BBB+" rating is outstanding. Charles Woody, Utilities

Director, passed out literature from Standard and Poors explaining the rating. Mr. Hunter stated that he is proud of the growth of Phenix City even through the Pandemic.

City Manager Wallace Hunter spoke on the passing of former Councilmember, City Employee, and City Lobbyist J. W. Brannen at the age of 84. Mr. Hunter stated that he had the pleasure of working with Mr. Brannen in several roles within the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that Mr. Brannen was a Tax Appraiser for Russell County which was not an easy job. Mr. Hunter further stated that Mr. Brannen was a good and fair person to work with. Mr. Hunter stated that Mr. Brannen had love and respect for this community and he learned a lot from him. Mr. Hunter also stated that Mr. Brannen will be missed. Mayor and Council agreed that Mr. Brannen will be missed.

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