

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 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, December 19, 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 Chan Gamble, and City Clerk Melony Lee. City Attorney Jimmy Graham was not present. 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, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Kristi Goggans, Chief of Police Ray Smith, Assistant Chief of Police George Staudinger, 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 Ms. Pat Frey to address council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Frey came forward to address Council. Ms. Frey stated that she is representing United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley. Ms. Frey passed out information to Mayor and Council concerning the 2023 Muscogee / Russell Point in Time Count. Ms. Frey stated that the Point in Time Count will begin on the morning of January 23, 2023 and end the evening of January 24, 2023. Ms. Frey also stated that the United Way has always had great support from the Phenix City Police Department, the Russell County Sherriff Department, the Columbus Police Department, and the Muscogee County Sherriff Department. Ms. Frey further stated that volunteers will start their morning about 5:30 a.m. on the 23rd of January underneath the bridges along the River Walk to assess the needs of the homeless that are there. Ms. Frey stated that the number of homeless in our area has decreased overall, about a 20% decrease in the past 6 years, but a 2% increase from 2021 to 2022. Ms. Frey also stated that they anticipate a slight increase but below the national average. Ms. Frey further stated that all City and Community Leaders are invited to join the United Way's efforts to combat homelessness in our area. Mayor Lowe asked if the decrease was because of the public housing inventory shortage. Ms. Frey stated that is taking a little longer to find permanent housing for the homeless. Ms. Frey also stated that because of the CARES Act Funding, United Way has increased preventive measures. Ms. Frey further stated that the goal is to assess a family or individual needs before they become homeless or in a shelter. Councilmember Day asked if it was a higher percentage of homeless in males than females. Ms. Frey stated that over the past three years, the number of homeless males has decreased, but increased for females. Ms. Frey also stated that programs and priorities are examined on a quarterly basis to help decrease the number of homeless in our community. Mr. Day stated that recently a Female Veterans Transitional Shelter opened up in Phenix City. Councilmember Day asked if the United Way was a part of that program. Ms. Frey stated that the Shelter is a part of the Continuous Care Division of United Way. City Manager Wallace Hunter asked if the program had a good relationship with Phenix City Housing Authority and the Columbus Housing Authority. Mr. Hunter stated that Alabama's Governor Kay Ivey recently issued funds out to help with rent for those in need in Russell County and Lee County. Ms. Frey stated that the program has a great relationship with both housing authorities. Councilmember Johnson thanked Ms. Frey for the work that she is doing in our community. Councilmember Johnson stated that there is a church

in Phenix City that is also trying to help the homeless find residences. Councilmember Johnson asked if Ms. Frey and the United Way would be a good place for the church to contact. Ms. Frey responded, absolutely. Councilmember Bailey stated that people are homeless for different reasons. Councilmember Bailey asked if a person that the program comes in contact with is asked for the reason that they are homeless. Ms. Frey stated that the question is a part of the questionnaire. Councilmember Bailey stated that there are a few people that are homeless by choice and do not want help. Ms. Frey stated that those individuals make up about 7% of the communities' homeless. Ms. Frey also stated that some refuse help until they are ready to enter the program or until they are mentally or emotionally ready. Ms. Frey further stated that there are mental health providers available. Mr. Hunter thanked Ms. Frey and the program for what they do for the community. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Frey 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 December 13, 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 December 20, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
2. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on December 23, 2022 and December 26, 2022 in observance of the Christmas Holiday.
3. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet December 27, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.
4. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on January 2, 2023 in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on January 3, 2023 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 New Year's Day Holiday.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on January 4, 2023 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 New Year's Day Holiday.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet January 10, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Informed Council that the Phenix City Comprehensive Visioning Community Workshop will be held on January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
9. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on January 16, 2023 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on January 17, 2023 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 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on January 18, 2023 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.
12. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet January 24, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.
13. Advised Council that the State of City Address will be held on January 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
14. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Chan Gamble reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called upon Angel Moore, City Engineer to review map and give an update on certain areas in the Mill Pond Subdivision. Ms. Moore passed out a color coded map to Mayor and Council of the Mimosa Road and Mill Pond Road area. Ms. Moore reviewed what area of the map that was in Russell County, Lee County, what portions was annexed into the City, and what portions have not been annexed into the City. Ms. Moore explained which portions are maintained by the City and which portion of Mimosa Road that have never been maintained. Ms. Moore stated that the law states after 1997, if a city has annexed in both sides of the road, then the city should maintain that area. Ms. Moore also stated that the City receives several calls about pot holes in that area in which the City does not maintain. Ms. Moore also stated that Lee County stated that the area is not maintained by them either. Mr. Hunter stated that the area is in Lee County. Ms. Moore stated that Lee County stated that the road was not built to their standards so they do not accept maintenance for the road. Ms. Moore also stated that the area was built in 1997. Ms. Moore further stated that the road has several large potholes. Ms. Moore stated that it is sad to live on a road that neither Phenix City nor Lee County maintains. Mr. Hunter stated that Phenix City is in two counties, Russell and Lee. Ms. Moore stated that the road with the most potholes is not maintained by the City nor in City limits. Mayor Lowe stated that he has received several calls concerning pot holes in that area. Councilmember Day stated that if the portion of the road in question pays county tax or city tax, then that's who should maintain the road. Councilmember Bailey stated that it should be that easy. Councilmember Bailey also stated when a person buys a house they normally don't ask if the County or City maintains the road. Ms. Moore stated that she has spoken to Lee County's engineer and they are not wanting to take over the maintenance because it is not up to County standards. Ms. Moore also stated that she doesn't think the home owners will come up with the money to bring the road up to county standards. Mr. Hunter stated that people that are in the City limits travel on the road that is not in City limits and they don't understand why the City will not repair the pot holes. Mr. Hunter suggested that the home owners band together and go before the Lee County government with their issues and concerns. Councilmember Johnson stated that she has received several calls concerning the pot holes in that area. Mr. Hunter stated that the City will continue to try to work with and meet with the County but the city cannot fill the pot holes. Mr. Hunter also stated that there is also a situation with the pond in the subdivision. Mr. Hunter further stated that it may be a tough one to resolve. Mr. Hunter stated that he has spoken to Representative Blackshear on the issue. Councilmember Bailey recalled a similar situation with Pierce Road but the City and the County worked together to help resolve the issue.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2023.