

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2024

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, April 1, 2024, in the Council Chambers located within the Public Safety Building at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama 36867. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Councilmember Arthur L. Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey F. Carter, Councilmember Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Wallace Hunter, Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble, City Clerk Shannon Davis, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. Department Heads in attendance: Building Official Ray Rogers, Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Graduate Civil Engineer Christopher Casey, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Human Resources Director Stephanie Chastain, IT Director Mike Bauer, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Police Chief George Staudinger, Public Safety Director Ray Smith, and Graduate Engineer John Spraggins.

Upon a quorum being established, Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order.

Councilmember Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Brian Rutledge of Robinson, Grimes and Company P. C. to address Council as listed on the agenda. Mr. Rutledge along with Steven Voynich came forward to address Council. Mr. Rutledge reviewed the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year that ended on September 30, 2022. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Voynich for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Chris Casey, Graduate Civil Engineer, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their March 26, 2024 meeting.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Clerk Shannon Davis who discussed the following with Mayor and Council:

1. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
3. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
4. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
6. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority will meet on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
7. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

9. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
10. Advised Council that the Housing Abatement Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024.
11. Informed Council that the Parks and Recreation Department will hold a Cinco de-Mayo event on Thursday May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
13. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
14. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
15. Advised Council that the Phenix City / Russell County Library Board will meet on Thursday May 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
16. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
17. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities 2024 Convention will be held May 15, 2024 through May 18, 2024 in Huntsville, Alabama.
18. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
19. Informed Council that the Historical Museum Workshop will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
21. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
22. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day Holiday.
23. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
24. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
25. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about an update on the damages that occurred in the City due to weather and flooding issues and if all repairs had been completed. Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo stated that there were five major areas of concern and numerous minor areas throughout the City. Mr. Pattillo also stated that all of the issues have been accessed and most have been addressed.

Councilmember Day inquired about citizens receiving permits and inspections for private swimming pools. Building Official Ray Rogers stated that two swimming pool inspections for single family dwellings were completed for the month of March.

Councilmember Day inquired about the opening of the new Circle K Gas Station on Crosswinds Drive. Building Official Ray Rogers stated that the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy stated that the location meets the fire code requirements and the information will be submitted to the City Clerk's Office for processing in order to be presented before Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Day inquired about Riverfront Projects in the Downtown Entertainment District. Economic Development Manger Shaun Culligan stated that updates and details will be presented to Mayor and Council on the upcoming projects at a later date.

Councilmember Day stated that there has been a lot of vandalism at the Meadowlane Park. Councilmember Day also stated that he has seen pictures of the recent damages and it saddens his heart that someone would purposely destroy City property that is meant for entertainment to all Citizens. Councilmember Day asked if cameras can be placed at the park and maybe the vandalism would come to an end. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that cameras are strategically placed throughout the City. Mr. Hunter also stated that the Police Department is currently working on the case and identifying the perpetrators.

Councilmember Day inquired about the completion of the Seale Road Bridge Project. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the project is not complete. Mr. Hunter also stated that just because the bridge looks like it is completed, it is not and he asked that it not be driven across until it is totally completed and passed inspections.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that it has been brought to his attention that there are a group of people who utilize the City's Golf Course but do not want to abide by the rules and regulations set in place for the safety of City Employees and the Citizens at the Golf Course. Mr. Hunter also stated that rude comments and gestures towards City Employees that are following the rules and regulations will not be tolerated and the rules apply to all patronages no matter who they are or their social status. Mr. Hunter further stated that the Golf Course should be a safe place for all to enjoy.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, April 15, 2024.