

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 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 15, 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, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kristen Kennedy, IT Director Mike Bauer, Library Director Tammy Henry, Municipal Court Clerk Ruby White, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, Police Chief George Staudinger, Assistant Police Chief Joseph Weierick, Public Safety Director Ray Smith, and Utilities Director John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Carter led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their April 9, 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 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority will meet on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
3. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
4. Informed Council that the Phenix City Police Department will hold a Promotion Ceremony on Friday, April 19, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
5. Informed Council that the Uptown Columbus Concert Series will begin on Friday, April 19, 2024 at 7:00p.m.
6. Informed Council that the Uptown Columbus Artsfest will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
8. 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.
9. Informed Council that Fort Moore will hold an Honoring Ceremony for CSM Sanchez on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
10. 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.
11. Advised Council that the Housing Abatement Board meeting will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
12. Informed Council that Chattahoochee Valley Community College will hold the Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 3, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

13. Informed Council that the Uptown Columbus Riverfest will be held on Friday, May 3, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Advised Council that the Phenix City / Russell County Library Board will meet on Thursday May 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
18. Informed Council that Fort Moore will hold the Chattahoochee Valley Region Reception on Friday, May 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
19. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
20. Informed Council that the Alabama League of Municipalities 2024 Convention will be held May 15, 2024 through May 18, 2024 in Huntsville, Alabama.
21. 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.
22. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day Holiday.
26. 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.
27. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
28. Reviewed upcoming board appointments.

City Clerk Shannon Davis stated that City Manager Wallace Hunter and the City Clerk's Office would like to present and introduce the National Reader Software program to be used for the reading of Resolutions and Ordinances during the Council Meetings. Mr. Hunter asked IT Director Mike Bauer to provide an overview of the technology. Mr. Bauer stated that the National Reader Software program allows for the City Clerk's office to upload the agenda items into the tool and the tool uses (AI) Artificial Intelligent to read the documents in a natural voice. Mr. Hunter stated that they need to train the technology to speak in the correct format. Ms. Davis ran a demo of the technology for Mayor and Council. Mr. Hunter stated that he has been working towards putting this technology in place for a while primarily for the longer Ordinances and Resolutions that need to be read. Mayor Lowe inquired if the technology will be used for the April 16, 2024 Council Meeting and Mr. Hunter stated that it will be used for a lengthy ordinance on the agenda.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter asked City Clerk Shannon Davis to read the Media Release for the Seale Road Bridge Reopening scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024. Ms. Davis read the Media Release for Mayor and Council. Mr. Hunter stated that the City placed barriers around the

bridge to prevent citizens from walking on the bridge and sidewalks prior to reopening. Mr. Hunter also stated that when the Public Works Department went out to place the barriers, there were citizens that were throwing trash at the workers. Mr. Hunter further stated that this is part of the problems they are facing with trying to build up the City and dealing with this kind of disrespect and ignorance. Councilmember Carter stated that it was very exciting news regarding the reopening of the bridge. Councilmember Carter asked if this was the first upgrade to the bridge since it was built. Mr. Hunter stated that they would provide an overview of the history of the bridge at the reopening ceremony. Councilmember Bailey stated that the bridge has been in place since the early 1960's.

Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble announced that Graduate Engineer John Spraggins has accepted the position of the Utilities Department Director. Mr. Gamble stated that Mr. Spraggins has experience with the Utilities Department and that he is the most qualified and he will lead the Department in the best direction for continued growth and quality of services to the Citizens of Phenix City. Utilities Director John Spraggins stated that he was excited about some of the projects for Utilities and he was looking forward to leading the department.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that there will be some major changes and that the Utilities Department and Finance Department are working together with IT to make some overhauls for the betterment of the City.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2024.