

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 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, July 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, Director of Engineering Angel Moore, Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Library Director Tammy Henry, Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, 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 Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Director of Engineering Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their June 25, 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, July 2, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024 and Friday, July 5, 2024 in observance of 4th of July Holiday.
3. Advised Council that the Whatley Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
4. Advised Council that the Budget Work Session will be held on Monday, July 8 and Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center.
5. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
6. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
7. Informed Council that Ft. Moore will hold the Transfer of Authority on July 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
8. Informed Council that Ft. Moore will hold their Change of Command Ceremony on Friday, July 12, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.
9. Advised Council that the Phenix City Russell County Library Board will meet on Friday, July 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
12. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority will meet on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

13. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
14. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
15. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Meeting on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
16. Informed Council that the Housing Abatement Board will meet on Friday, August, 2 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
17. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
18. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
19. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
20. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
21. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
22. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
23. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
24. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
25. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Business Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

City Clerk Shannon Davis stated that there were no upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Day inquired about the July 18, 2024 meetings that will be held for the Downtown Redevelopment Authority and the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals and if they ever overlap one another. City Clerk Shannon Davis stated that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority has been cancelling their meetings.

Mayor Lowe stated that all of the recipients who received scholarships from Russell County, Glenwood and Central High Schools will be presented with their awards on Thursday, July 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center. Mayor Lowe stated everyone is welcome to come and give the students some encouragement.

Councilmember Carter stated that she had received a couple of inquiries in regards to Crawford Road, across from the Board of Realtors, on what is going to be done with that lot. Building Official Ray Rogers stated that the City is just clearing the land to see what it can provide.

Councilmember Bailey inquired to Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes when he thinks staff will have a plan in regards to how the grant funds will be spent at Moon Lake. Mr. Hughes stated that there will be a design concept. Mr. Hughes also stated that he is currently getting pricing on multiple things. Mr. Hughes further stated that a million dollars does not go as far as what the public believes it does. Councilmember Bailey stated that he informed the few people that had asked, that staff was trying to make sure the money was spent the best way possible and are making sure it was the best benefit for that area. Mr. Hughes stated that the biggest issue right now is the erosion problem in the area and that it will also cost additional funds.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that he wants the department directors to take their profession and use it as good and as much as possible.

Councilmember Gordy inquired to Engineering Director Angel Moore if the property on 280 Bypass, where Golden Acres Church is located, whose responsibility it is to clean the area. Ms. Moore stated that it would typically be something that the City would take care of, because it is in the Cities right-of-way. Ms. Moore also stated she would get a work order put in and contact the business owner.

Councilmember Day stated that he noticed that in the Building Department Report of January 2024 there were a total of ten condemned buildings, and inquired if the American Legion Building was one of them. Building Official Ray Rogers stated that it was not. Councilmember Day inquired about an update in regards to the American Legion building. Mr. Rogers stated that they are just waiting on someone to do something with it and that it is not being tore down.

Councilmember Day inquired about the access road to the Race Trac on Hwy 431 and if it was going to be on both sides. City Manager Hunter stated that it would be on both sides.

Councilmember Day inquired to Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes in regards to when the splash pad was going to be in use. Mr. Hughes stated that the splash pad is currently on.

Councilmember Day stated that he was approached by a young lady about a chair she sat in at the Parks and Recreation Department and that it folded in two when she sat down. City Manager Hunter stated that the city needs to be made aware of the situation first before it can be handled properly. Mr. Hunter inquired to Councilmember Day who he turned the complaint in to. Councilmember Day stated that he turned it into the Clerk's Office. Mr. Hunter explained the process after it is submitted to the clerk's office and how it is distributed.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed agenda claims with Council.

City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that a letter needs to be sent to the local insurance agencies explaining the correct procedure for filing a claim and the requirements because it seems to be a growing problem that the City is not receiving the correct documentation.

Public Safety Director Ray Smith provided an overview of the Jr. Police Academy Program that will be held on July 15, 2024 through July 19, 2024 and July 22, 2024 through July 26, 2024.

Councilmember Day moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Good Name and Character for 45 minutes, from which the meeting would adjourn. Councilmember Bailey seconded said motion. All were in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at 4:18 p.m.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:03 p.m.

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