

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 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, August 19, 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 Steve Bailey, Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember Vickey F. Carter was not present. 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, Director of Economic Development Manager Shaun Culligan, Director of Engineering Angel Moore, Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey, Finance Director Labrita King Copeland, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Human Resource Director Stephanie Chastain, 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 Utilities Director John Spraggins.

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

Councilmember Gordy led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon Shayvon Chambliss to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Ms. Chambliss provided her reasoning for wanting her property annexed into the City. Mayor Lowe inquired to Ms. Chambliss if she understood the entire process of getting her property annexed and that it would also include having to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission for approval. Ms. Chambliss stated that she did understand. Engineering Director Angel Moore stated that there is currently a moratorium in place on annexations unless it benefits the City financially. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that even if the entire area was annexed into the City, it would not solve the areas sewer issues. Mayor Lowe thanked Ms. Chambliss for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon Tyler Zortman to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Zortman stated that he is there on behalf of the Lakes subdivision. Mr. Zortman gave a presentation and stated his concern is in regards to the roads and the massive sink hole on Lee Road #269 and why he believes that the drainage issues are a City problem. Mayor Lowe stated that the subdivisions being discussed are in Lee County and the City cannot go on private property nor can the City use taxpayer money on private property. Councilmember Gordy asked if it was possible that the developing of new businesses in the area caused the drainage issue that has caused majority of these issues and if there is any recourse. Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble provided insight into the back story of the subdivisions and also stated that he nor staff can find where the City accepted this subdivision. Councilmember Day inquired to Mr. Gamble how the developer was able to build without an approval. Mr. Gamble stated that not all developers operate above board. Mr. Gamble clarified that there is a record of the subdivision but not one for the storm water drainage. Mr. Gamble stated that the massive hole is caused by drainage from a private lake that is owned by five or six individuals. Mayor Lowe stated that Council is sympathetic to the sewer issue however, the City is not the reason they are having issues nor can they solve the problem on private property. Mr. Zortman inquired about what can he and his neighbors do at this point, with neither the City nor the County are willing or able to help them. Mr. Gamble stated that he cannot give them legal advice. Mayor Lowe stated that the homeowners need to address the issue with the owners of the subdivision. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Zortman for coming to speak with Council.

Mayor Lowe called upon City Engineer Angel Moore, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their August 13, 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, August 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
2. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
3. 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.
4. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 in observance of Labor Day holiday.
5. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Tuesday September 3, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Tuesday afternoon due to the Labor Day Holiday.
6. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the Labor Day Holiday.
7. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, September 10 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
8. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
9. Advised Council that the Phenix City / Russell County Library Board will meet on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
10. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, September 16, 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, September 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the 5th Street South Youth Center.
12. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
13. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, September 24 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
14. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Business Meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
15. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.

Ms. Davis stated that there are no upcoming board appointments.

Councilmember Day stated that he would like to do the prayer at the Council meeting on Tuesday September 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Youth Center because it is in his District.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble provided a video presentation to Council on Epic Sports Bar and Grill and explained what the requirements are for Council to revoke a business license and went on to explain that the current owner put false information down when filling out his applications for both the City and the State. Police Chief George Staudinger addressed

Council and stated that the issues that the Police Department has with this particular establishment and the huge drain it has on the Cities resources. Chief Staudinger also explained what took place when he met with the business owner.

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., Tuesday, September 3, 2024.