

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 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 Tuesday, October 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, and Mayor Eddie N. Lowe. Councilmember R. Griff Gordy, 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, Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, Graduate Civil Engineer Chris Casey, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy, Golf Manager Mike Barber, Human Resource 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, and Assistant Police Chief Joseph Weierick.

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

Councilmember Steve Bailey led the invocation.

Mayor Lowe called upon David Johnson with the Exchange Club of Phenix City-Russell County to address Council, as listed on the agenda. Mr. Johnson presented an overview on the Exchange Club's history with the Austin Summary Park (formerly known as Rosemount Park) and the Rodeo among other events that they have been sponsoring for several years and the financial benefits to the City. Mr. Johnson stated that the Exchange Club has donated over \$40,000.00 to the City which goes towards Children's Programs, 4H Clubs and \$25,000.00 in local scholarships for schools in the region. Mr. Johnson requested on behalf of the Exchange Club and the members that City Council renews the current lease that will expire on December 30, 2024. Mayor Lowe inquired if the Park was open to the Public at all times and Mr. Johnson stated that it is not open to the Public for free but that they can pay for admissions to the events that are offered by the Exchange Club.

Assistant City Manager Chan Gamble provided an overview of the history of Austin Sumbry Park, formerly Rosemount Park from the time it was first acknowledge as a public park to its current status. Mr. Gamble also provided the overview in regards to the upcoming request to renew the lease for the Exchange Club of Phenix City – Russell County.

Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes provided an overview of citizen's request for usage of the City's Public Parks and how the Austin Sumbry Park location is needed in order to accommodate all the citizens of Phenix City.

Councilmember Bailey inquired about the Art's Center building that is being leased located in Idle Hour Park and if it is setup to allow all public access and that the people that lease the building hold fund raisers and art sales in the building. Councilmember Bailey compared the Art Center usage to the usage of the Austin Sumbry Park. Councilmember Bailey inquired that if the lease is not renewed, what if anything will the City do for the Exchange Club. City Manager Wallace Hunter stated that the Arts Building is not in the City's Comprehensive Plan and therefore is not the same as the Austin Sumbry Park. Mr. Hunter also stated that for any citizens or groups

that are in need of using the City's Park facilities, they will all be instructed to go through the same process to reserve the spaces through Parks and Recreation and that is based off of availability.

City Manager Wallace Hunter called Chief of Police George Staudinger to give a report on the Phenix City-Russell County Animal Shelter. Mr. Hunter stated that the Animal Shelter in Columbus has been on the news and he wants Chief Staudinger to provide an overview for Mayor and Council on the Phenix City-Russell County Animal Shelter. Chief Staudinger provided information on the day to day operations and the challenges of running the shelter. Mayor Lowe thanked Chief Staudinger for the update.

Mayor Lowe called upon Assistant Director of Engineering Mike Pattillo, to discuss the actions taken by the Planning Commission at their October 8, 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 Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building. This meeting will be held on a Wednesday morning due to the Columbus Day Holiday.
2. Advised Council that the Downtown Redevelopment Authority will meet on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. In case there are no agenda items, it will be cancelled.
3. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
4. Advised Council that Councilmember Bailey will be out of the office beginning Thursday, October 17, 2024 to Tuesday, October 22, 2024.
5. Informed Council that Ft. Moore will be holding the Oktoberfest beginning Friday, October 18, 2024 to Sunday, October 20, 2024.
6. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
7. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
8. Informed Council that the Fall Municipal Law Conference will be held Thursday, October 24, 2024 through Saturday, October 26, 2024.
9. Informed Council that Parks and Recreation will hold their Sensory Friendly Trunk or Treat at 6:00 p.m. at the Garrett Stadium on Thursday, October 31, 2024.
10. Advised Council that the Housing Abatement Board will meet on Thursday, November 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
11. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
12. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
13. Advised Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the 5th Annual Alabama Leaders Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at The Courtyard Marriott in Phenix City.
14. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2024 in observance of Veteran's Day.
15. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
16. Advised Council that the NLC Convention is to take place Wednesday, November 13, 2024 through Saturday, November 16, 2024.

17. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.
18. Advised Council that the Phenix City Russell County Library Board will meet on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
19. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Work Session to be held on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
20. Advised Council of a regular scheduled Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
21. Advised Council that the Board of Zoning Adjustments and Appeals will meet on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
22. Advised Council that the Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
23. Informed Council that the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce will hold an After Hours Business Meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
24. Informed Council that City Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2024 and November 29, 2024 in observance of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.
25. Reviewed upcoming Board Appointments.

Mayor Lowe went over the agenda items.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham reviewed the claim on the agenda with Council.

Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. David Johnson with the Exchange Club of Phenix City –Russell County for attending. Mayor Lowe also thanked the Department Heads, Council and all City employees.

Mayor Lowe stated that there being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m. on November 4, 2024.