

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
JANUARY 15TH, 2013
6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Piedmont met in regular session at the time and on the date above. Present were Mayor Rick Freeman, Council Members Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker and Terry Kiser.

Mayor Freeman declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

The Mayor began the meeting by asking Mr. John Alred from the Piedmont Journal to come forward to present the Citizen of the Year Award that has been presented by the Piedmont Journal for the past three years to citizens that they feel are desiring of this award. This year's recipient was Mr. Millard Young. Mr. Alred said that Mr. Young puts family and community first. He runs a business that not only serves Piedmont but the entire area. He said Mr. Young is a big supporter of education and graduated from JSU along with his wife and his sons and daughters. He also supports the Piedmont High School both academically and athletically. He is always working behind the scenes and is one of the reasons that the Piedmont Schools have become the envy of the county. Mr. Young said he was very honored to receive this award and that he had always worked to try to make Piedmont a better community.

Following the invocation given by Rev. Thomas Bragg and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the Mayor asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Frank Cobb made the motion to accept the agenda. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the agenda was approved unanimously.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Billy Baker made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$315,322.87 were then presented for consideration for payment. Kenny Kelley made the motion that the bills be approved for payment. Ben Keller seconded the motion and bills were approved unanimously for payment.

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept Resolution 2013-01 for the 2012-2013 City of Piedmont budget. Billy Baker made the motion to accept the 2012-2013 budget. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and Resolution 2013-01 was accepted with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears.

The Mayor then asked for a motion to accept Resolution 2013-02 for a severe weather preparedness sales tax holiday through the Alabama Department of Revenue to be held on the last full weekend in February 22, 2013 and ending at twelve midnight the following Sunday, February 24, 2013. Kenny Kelley made the motion to accept Resolution 2013-02 for the severe weather preparedness sales tax holiday. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In other business Mary Bramblett announced that Tweeners restaurant would be coming to Piedmont in the near future. She said it was an honor to have Terry Johnson the owner of Tweeners coming to Piedmont. Ms. Johnson said that she appreciated the opportunity to come to Piedmont and hoped that she could start an after school program for the kids when she gets open.

In council reports Ben Keller said that he and Billy Baker are working on a community meeting at the Bethune Center to let members of the community have a chance to talk about what they would like to see happen at Bethune.

Mary Bramblett thanked Carl Hinton, Ben Singleton and Michelle Franklin for the work they had done to help get the new business to the city. She also gave a special thanks to former Mayor Brian Young because it was his idea to put a business in the brick building that the city owns.

Frank Cobb told the council that he would like to put a street light on Littlejohn Drive that would be on Alabama Power and the cost would be \$9.00 a month. He also said that he needed a new sign for Auburn St.

Kenny Kelley made the motion to allow Alabama Power to put the street light up on Littlejohn Drive and the city to pay the \$9.00 a month cost. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Kenny Kelley congratulated Mr. Millard Young and said he was well deserving of the Citizen of the Year award because he has done a lot for Piedmont. He also congratulated Tweeners for coming to Piedmont. He said he was still working on getting signs replaced in his district.

Brenda Spears thanked Chief Tidwell for the January 8th, 2013 intruder drill report for the Piedmont Elementary School Campus. She said as a council member and a retired teacher I pay close attention to the (NI) need improvement areas, school campus safety is very important to the Mayor and Council. She said that Mrs. Evelyn Young was doing an excellent job as the Girl Scout Leader for troop 20158. She is teaching the girls how to set and explain goals with poise and confidence in front of strangers as a presentation. She said to be a more informed council member I need all council reports to include a separate page to reflect all city incoming revenues for that part of the month from the library, welcome center donations, business license fees, property taxes, utility taxes, etc. As council members we will know what is coming in as well as what bills to be paid and what is going out. She said she hoped this would help us keep expenditures and revenues in balance. Next she said for the first time the invoices for council approval included the bond indebtedness. This total is \$70,977.08 every month and she said she appreciated that being added. She said Mayor Freeman had asked her for a number and a name Alatax has been used by the city of many years but Piedmont stopped the contract in 2009 it is no longer Alatax it is called RDS which stands for Revenue Discovery System. She said Mayor Freeman is going to ask the man that is over North Alabama to come to a council meeting to discuss how they collect outstanding bills. She said she would like Ben Singleton to include in the Currents Magazine that comes out the Saint Pattys Paddle which would be held Saturday, March the 16th, 2013. She announced the Cheaha Challenge would be April 21st, 2013. She said the city needs all the publicity we can get. She said also when you go to the city's website that the three incumbent's pictures were there but the four new ones were not. The Mayor explained to Mrs. Spears that the pictures had to be rescanned and that it would be up soon.

Billy Baker said he would like to congratulate Mr. Young for his well-deserved award as Citizen of the Year and thanked him for all he and his family had done for the City of Piedmont. He told Terry Johnson the owner of Tweeners that he appreciated her coming to Piedmont and that she served great food. He invited everyone to go to the civic center and look at the improvements that were being done and also that he and Ben Keller were trying to set up a community meeting at Bethune to get a feel of what they would like at the Bethune Center. The meeting was set for Monday, January 28th, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. He also said that the lady's workout area was complete and that a fee of \$80.00 a year had been discussed at the last meeting.

Terry Kiser said that Mike Douglas from State Farm was going to donate some smoke detectors to the fire department. He asked Chief Tidwell to come up and explain what the officers did at the Piedmont Schools for the intruder drill report. He said that the school had asked them to come and watch one of their drills and make recommendations. He informed the council that at least one time a day an officer is walking the halls at each campus.

In the Mayor's comments he said that there had been some complaints that the city workers were playing basketball at Fagan's Park on city time but he assured everyone that it was county employees and not the street department employees. He also echoed Brenda Spears about the Girl Scout Troop and what a good job Mrs. Evelyn Young was doing with the girls. He said that he would like to see the school students come to our council meeting to see how the city government is run. He said he would like the teachers to bring the students to see how things operate because they are our future. He said he would like all city employees to have identification badges when they go places so they can show where they are from. He also thanked Miss Johnson for coming to Piedmont and opening her restaurant. He said that the council also went to a ribbon cutting at Maggie's Shoes and he was impressed with the business. He said there was a problem at the sports complex at night where people are going out and riding four wheelers and doing donuts and he said they were about to do a curfew on the parks. He informed everyone that he was having surgery on his ankle on January 30th, and he asked that the council work together in his absence. He said we all might not agree all the time but we had the same goal to make Piedmont a better place.

With no other business to come before the council Frank Cobb made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.