

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
JANUARY 20TH, 2015
6:00 PM

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

Kenny Kelley was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Mr. Keith Word and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$501,596.69 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment with one “no” vote by Brenda Spears.

Next the Mayor called on Doyce and Misha White to give a presentation to the Council about a Native American Program that they would like to hold in the City of Piedmont. They asked the Council to consider helping with funds for the program. The Council was interesting in pursuing the program and asked Mr. and Mrs. White to come back to a work session to discuss further details.

The Mayor then asked for a motion for a new Police Chief. Terry Kiser made the motion to make Interim Police Chief Freddie Norton the Police Chief. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk to do a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	none	none
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Brenda Spears		
Mark Harper		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call a unanimous vote was cast to make Freddie Norton the Piedmont Police Chief.

Brenda Spears then made the motion that in the future the Police Chief and Fire Chief reside inside the city limits of Piedmont. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk to do a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Frank Cobb	Ben Keller	Terry Kiser
Brenda Spears	Mary Bramblett	
	Mark Harper	

Following the roll call vote of 3 nays, two yeas and one abstention the motion was voted down to make the Police Chief and Fire Chief reside inside the city limits.

In Other Business Mr. Harry Nuttall gave his annual donation to the City of Piedmont Fire, Police and Rescue Departments.

In Council Reports Ben Keller asked when the city was going to get the lights put up at the Bethune baseball field.

Mary Bramblett congratulated Chief Freddie Norton and said it was an honor to have him as chief. She also said she was still having abatement problems on Gadsden St.

Frank Cobb congratulated Chief Norton.

Brenda Spears Council Comments:

The Bills for Payment which include the payroll and taxes for city employees for this pay period come to \$644,874.50. For January 6 council meeting, the Bills for Payment and payroll and taxes came to \$595,297.25. For the council's approval for January 2015 the Bills of Payment total \$1,243,371.08. Since the fiscal budget 2014-2015 in four months, this is the second month that bills are over one million dollars. (October: \$1,340,410.90)

Thanks to the Billing Department for identifying the "other tax on our monthly utility bills as an Electric Tax.

Thanks to the Police and Fire and EMTs for a job well done for a safe Christmas and New Year for Piedmont.

Abatement in the Budget is 41600. Line item/ Object 406 is Professional Services and is already 158% over budget. Removing asbestos requires a person to be licensed.

40100 Administration: Line item 402: Accounting and Audit The original appropriation is \$11,250.00. Tonight's Bills of Payment under Administration is Audit for \$16,643.75. Where is the money going to come from for the next eight months left in the 104-2015 budget for Audit Services? The last fiscal budget 2013-2014, the city spent over \$51,000 for Auditing Services.

Want or Need? Council's Bills of Payment tonight were 8 pages and 252 bills to be paid. I agree with Mr. Harper's District comments from January 6 where he challenged the council to come up with a list of things to try to help the city. I would like for the council to have a work session in the near future to share our lists.

Mark Harper congratulated Chief Norton.

Terry Kiser also congratulated Chief Norton.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor also congratulated Chief Norton. He also said that Mr. Sparks Harper complimented the Fire Department for their hard work when his mother's home was on fire. He said that Mr. Barry Cook also thanked the Water and Gas Department for fixing the leak at CVG.

With no other business to come before the Council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.