

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
OCTOBER 15TH, 2013
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, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation given by Keith Word and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes from the October 1st, 2013 council meeting was presented. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The minutes from the October 4th, 2013 meeting were then presented. Terry Kiser made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the October 4th, 2013 minutes passed unanimously.

The bills totaling \$246,253.58 were then presented for consideration for payment. Frank Cobb made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the bills passed with one abstention from Brenda Spears.

Mayor Baker read a Proclamation declaring the week of October 23-31 as Red Ribbon Week for the City of Piedmont.

Next on the agenda the Mayor asked for a motion to pass Resolution 2013-13 which would be for the 2013-2014 budget for the City of Piedmont. Mary Bramblett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-13. Frank Cobb seconded the motion. At this time Brenda Spears made a motion to table the Resolution stating that the council only had one work session to go over the budget. With no one to second the motion the motion died. Mayor Baker then asked the Clerk to do a roll call vote of the council for Resolution 2013-13 and the votes were as follows:

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

Following the roll call vote Resolution 2013-13 passed with a 5 to 1 vote.

The Mayor called on Chief Mike Ledbetter to give the fire report for September 2013. The Chief reported two structure fires, 7 fire alarms, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 mutual aid call, 3 medical assist and 2 service calls. Five burn permits were issued. He also stated that he received notification that the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) will be coming to Piedmont on November 20th, 2013 to rate the fire

department, and the last ISO rating was 10 years ago. He said all fire engines that require pump test have been tested and certified for the year.

Next the Mayor asked for any nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem. Terry Kiser nominated Frank Cobb for Mayor Pro-Tem. Brenda Spears seconded the nomination. Ben Keller nominated Mary Bramblett for Mayor Pro-Tem. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion. The Mayor then declared the nominations closed and asked the City Clerk to do a roll call vote for each nomination. The roll call vote was as follows for Frank Cobb as Mayor Pro-Tem:

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

The vote was three to three for Frank Cobb.

Next the Clerk did a roll call vote for Mary Bramblett for Mayor Pro-Tem and the votes were as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	Frank Cobb	
Mary Bramblett	Brenda Spears	
Kenny Kelley	Terry Kiser	
Mayor Baker		

With a four to three vote Mary Bramblett was named Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Baker declared district six vacant and asked the councils wishes on the process to fill the vacancy.

After some discussion Brenda Spears made a motion to accept names for district six and give the names to the City Clerk by the next meeting on November 5th, 2013 and to vote to fill the district six council seat at the following meeting on November 19th, 2013. The Mayor then asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Frank Cobb	Ben Keller	
Kenny Kelley	Mary Bramblett	
Brenda Spear		
Terry Kiser		

After a four to two vote the council seat will be voted on at the second meeting in November.

In other business Brenda Spears asked that Municode, RDS and the Cheaha Challenge be discussed at the next meeting. Kenny Kelley said that he had registration forms to a Rural Water Meeting in November if anyone wanted a form and if they wanted to go with him to the meeting.

Next on the agenda were council reports. Ben Keller said he needed a street sign put up on Caton Street and he also thanked everyone that came out last Saturday and helped clean up the cemetery.

Mary Bramblett thanked Street Supervisor Ricky Jackson and his crew for all the work they had done in district two. She also thanked the Water and Gas Department for fixing potholes in her district.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley also thanked everyone that came out and helped clean the cemetery.

Brenda Spears council comments: Bills for payment October 15, 2013 are \$246,253.58 and \$110,623.37 for payroll and taxes. The total is \$356,876.95. I am asking for the Balance remaining in Bond Accounts sheet that was not part of our packet dated October 1, 2013. There is a gap between September 17 and October 15, 2013.

It has come to my attention that the requests I personally turned in by work orders and in council comments for District 5 were not given to the proper department heads for their attention. The requests included nuisance abatements, stop signs replaced, potholes, street signs, and paving. This is not acceptable to me as a council member or for the people I represent in the district. I am asking District 5 to read on the City of Piedmont website (www.piedmontcity.org) the minutes from the past months to know I was working for you.

Terry Kiser thanked Ben Keller, Kenny Kelley and Brenda Spears for coming out and helping clean up the cemetery on Saturday. He said Ms. Connie Cantrell asked him to thank everyone that helped also.

In the Mayor's comments Mayor Baker said he wanted everyone on the council to work as a team and be professional. He said the City Clerk would be his right hand person and she runs the day to day operations of the city. He said he wanted to work closely with the department heads and the council. He said what has happened in the past is behind us and we can't move forward if we keep looking backwards. He asked that the council redo their list of things that need to be done in their districts. He said that we would be getting an abatement officer soon to start getting the town cleaned up. He said that there are a lot of boards that have vacancies and need to be filled. He told the council that there was money available in the Alabama Trust Fund that the city receives every year and he asked that some of these funds be used to make improvements to the Administrative Office. He said he would like to put the basketball goals back up but maybe at a different location. He said he would like to see improvements to the downtown area. He announced the Country Fair that will take place on October 19th, 2013 downtown from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. In his final comments he said that he was going to be the very best Mayor that he could be and that he hopes that when he leaves the job in three years that the city will be better and have more jobs for the citizens.

In visitor's comments Trudy Loy thanked the Maintenance Department for fixing the top of the gazebo. She asked for volunteers to help water the flowers at the gazebo. She said that the old Fair Store building was being rented out in different sections for people to rent. She said that she sent the City Clerk an email about a ditch on Savage St. that needed cleaning out and the next day it was cleaned and she said she appreciated that.

In the final item of business the Mayor asked for a motion to either go into executive session or discuss openly about two pieces of property that involves the city. Frank Cobb made the motion to discuss the properties openly. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	Brenda Spears	
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Kenny Kelley		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call vote of 5 to 1 the properties were voted to discuss openly.

The first property discussed was 2.5 acres of land that was purchased in the previous administration that adjoins the Piedmont Sports Complex. Mary Bramblett made the motion to sell the property to Mr. Barry Cook in the amount of \$14,000.00. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call a unanimous vote was cast to sell the property to Mr. Barry Cook for \$14,000.00.

Next the Mayor asked for consideration of Mr. Charlie Fagan's proposal to sell Fagan Park to the City for the amount of \$200,000.00. After some discussion Frank Cobb made the motion to counter offer \$100,000.00 to purchase Fagan Park. Terry Kiser seconded the motion. At this time Brenda Spears made a motion that the city purchase Fagan Park, street and back alley from Mr. Fagan for the amount of \$200,000.00. With no one to second the motion the motion died. The Mayor then asked the Clerk to do a roll call vote for the counter offer of \$100,000.00 and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call vote the motion carried for the counter offer of \$100,000.00 to purchase Fagan Park.

With no other business to come before the council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.