

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

OCTOBER 6, 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, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Mark Harper and Terry Kiser.

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

The bills totaling \$543,033.99 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment with one "no" vote by Brenda Spears.

Next Andrew Whackerly with the USDA spoke to the Council about different programs and grants that were available to the city and to citizens and business owners. The Mayor asked that the USDA Representatives come back at a scheduled town meeting so that the citizens could hear more about the programs available to them.

Next Pastor David Cox and Pastor Tracy Hutcheson presented a trophy to the Mayor from the Day in the Park that honored police, fire and rescue.

Next on the Agenda Craig Russell gave a season report on the Aquatic Center. He said there was an average of 103 people that attended the pool daily and 64 pool parties. The total income including gate and concessions was \$108,433.29. The total expenses including salaries, office and computer supplies, janitorial, uniform supplies, chemicals, operation supplies, cell phone, building maintenance, training, pool expense and concession supplies was \$58,576.74.

The Mayor then called on Chief Ledbetter to give the fire report for the month of September 2015. There were 2 structure fires, 3 automatic alarms, 2 false alarm for structure fire, 4 wood/grass fires, 7 hazardous materials calls, 6 vehicle accidents, and 1 ambulance assist. The Chief also informed everyone that the pink fire truck for cancer would be parked in front of the Solid Rock on Thursday.

Next the contractual agreement between the City of Piedmont and the Piedmont Rescue Squad was discussed. This agreement would allow the Piedmont dispatchers to dispatch calls for the Town of Ohatchee for the Piedmont Rescue Squad and the Rescue Squad would pay the City of Piedmont \$11,000.00 annually for the service. Mark Harper made the motion to accept the agreement. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business after some discussion Ben Keller made the motion for Mr. Kevin Fagan to pay the usual rent, utilities and sales tax instead of the 75/25 split that was voted on at the previous meeting. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call of 5 yeas, 1 nay and 1 abstention the majority was that Mr. Fagan pay rent, utilities and sales tax.

Following the vote to ask Mr. Fagan to pay the rent, utilities and sales tax Mark Harper made a motion to table the matter for further discussion. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Ben Keller made the motion to put lights at the Bethune softball field. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the vote was 4 yeas and 3 nays to install lighting on the Bethune softball field.

In Visitor's Comments Mr. Kevin Fagan came late to the meeting asking why he was not notified that his proposal would be brought up so that he could be in attendance.

In Council Reports Ben Keller thanked everyone for the calls and prayers during his surgery.

Mary Bramblett had no report.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley apologized to Kevin Fagan for the council's ignorance.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment for council tonight is \$543,033.99. Payroll and taxes for the week of September 18 was \$55,483.58. Payroll and taxes for September 25 was \$57,763.93. Payroll and taxes for the week of October 2 was \$51,855.92. The total for tonight's council is \$708,137.42.

Stay informed. If you cannot attend the council meetings, read the minutes of the city's website: www.piedmontcity.org and see how the council is spending the taxpayers' money.

According to the League of Municipalities Lead Counsel in Montgomery, the City of Piedmont cannot "give away" city owned utilities to a business or private individuals. It is not legal: Alabama Constitution Section 94.

A summary report 2015 for the Aquatic Pool was provided to the council. The numbers were not specific and I have questions more transparent, especially under the expense column. The General Obligation Bond passed in 2010 was for \$4.4 million dollars. The cost of the aquatic pool was about \$2.2 million dollars. The monthly payment for this bond is \$22,680.63 each month till 2040. The part of the payment for the Aquatic pool is roughly \$11,340 per month or \$136,080 per year. This payment needs to be reflected in this summary report. I want the aquatic pool to be successful and used for years to come, but show the council members all the numbers for a true and balanced aquatic pool budget.

In today's Anniston Star (October 6, 2015) the budget committee had its second meeting on Monday night. (October 5, 2015) The article stated that the committee is considering giving the city employees a 40 cent raise per hour. According to the City Clerk, Michelle Franklin, this would roughly be an additional \$80,000. Also discussed was that the city continue to absorb the costs of employees' health insurance in the next year and this would amount to \$44,408.64 for the BC/BS rates. These two items amount to \$125,000 and will be discussed again by the budget members, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, and Mark Harper. According to the article, Mayor Baker is quoted as saying "We always come up with the money. We've always found it. We are gonna have to live off the utilities. We'll find the money somehow. I have no idea where it's at. I have no idea.

Mark Harper said that the council should table more issues before voting and then going back and resending and that if an agreement is voted on it should be honored.

Terry Kiser announced that the downtown trick or treat would be on Thursday, October 29th.

In the Mayor's Report the Mayor said, referring to Brenda Spears comment that the city did not plan on giving any utilities away. The Mayor also in reference to Brenda Spears comment about a pay raise for city employees stated very clearly that a pay raise would only take place if funds are available. The Mayor then asked that a thirty minutes work session be added before each council meeting. Mark Harper made the motion to have a thirty minute work session before each council meeting starting at 5:30 pm. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote by Frank Cobb.

The Mayor then asked for a motion on the Anniston Ave. property that was bid out by the city. The only bid that was received for the property came from Mr. Chad Steed for \$2,750.00 for the purchase of both lots. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor also said that another letter had been received from ADEM stating that there were no violations at the Aquatic pool or the RV Park.

The Mayor announced that he had hired Kemp's and Associates to be the auditors for the next fiscal year.

He said that the annual Crap Run was a huge success with a great crowd in attendance.

The Mayor asked for a motion to have a budget work session on October 13, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Terry Kiser made the motion to have the work session. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

With no other business to come before the council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.