

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
NOVEMBER 19TH, 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, Mark Harper and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation given by Rev. David Cox and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the Mayor asked the City Clerk to swear in Mark Harper as the new Councilman for district six.

Next on the agenda Frank Cobb made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The bills totaling \$451,593.29 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved for payment as presented. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried with one abstention from Brenda Spears.

The Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2013-14 which would allow the city to put surplus from a business that donated items to the city and place them on Gov Deals to be sold to the highest bidder. Terry Kiser made the motion to accept Resolution 2013-14. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears.

Next on the agenda the Mayor asked for any discussion on the school internet payment of \$6,250.00 that the city had previously been paying to the school for the students to have internet access. Ben Keller made the motion to have a work session to discuss the matter. Brenda Spears seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk to do a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call vote a work session was set for Tuesday, November 26th, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

The Mayor called of Chief Mike Ledbetter to give the fire report for the month of October 2013. There were 5 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, 4 auto accidents with entrapment, 3 woods/grass, 3 hazmat calls- (gas leaks), 3 medical assist to ambulance, 5 service calls, 3 alarms and 8 burn permits. The Chief also asked the council to approve a grant application through FEMA to purchase equipment for the fire department. The total grant is for \$ 72,600.00 and the city would be responsible for a 5% match.

Terry Kiser made the motion to allow Chief Ledbetter to apply for the grant. Brenda Spears seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Farmer with the Piedmont Rescue Squad gave the report for September and October 2013. Total ambulance runs for the month of September were 106. Total ambulance runs for the month of October were 90.

In Other Business Terry Kiser made a motion to nominate and re-appoint three of the Park and Recreation Board Members. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote to determine the council's wishes on the nominations and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the vote was 6-1 to take nominations.

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations for the Park and Recreation Board Members. Kenny Kelley nominated Jay Wilson to serve with the term ending in 2017. Ben Keller nominated Calvin Houston to serve with the term ending 2018. Terry Kiser nominated Randy Brown to serve with the term ending in 2016. With no other nominations Frank Cobb made a motion that the nominations be closed. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the members were reappointed to the board.

After some discussion Terry Kiser made a motion to accept the low bid from Calhoun County of \$53,057.81 to pave the Aquatic Center roads. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Brenda Spears asked that Sgt. Lynde Green from the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department be added to the December 3rd agenda to speak about neighborhood watch.

In council reports Ben Keller said he still needed street signs replaced and some potholes that need repairing. He thanked Commissioner Rudy Abbott for all that he is doing for the City and at the Bethune Center.

Mary Bramblett said she continues to turn in work orders. She said that there was a major problem with the Safe Route to School crossing at the bottom of the hill on 5th Ave. She said she is concerned that a child will get hit when a car comes over the hill. She said she had asked Chief Tidwell to look into an alternative route. She congratulated the Piedmont Bulldogs for making it to round three of the playoffs. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said to be thankful that nothing means more than love. Frank Cobb said he had streets in his district that needed to be paved and wanted to know how to get in touch with Commissioner Abbott to help in his district.

Kenny Kelley said that he didn't appreciate people putting things on Facebook about the abatement. He said that the council did their jobs and turned in abatement orders to have these places cleaned up. He said he believed that Charles McDonald the new abatement officer would do a fine job.

Brenda Spears council comments: For November 19, 2013 the bills for payment were \$451,593.28 plus payroll and taxes \$94,615.83 for a total of \$546,208.62. The total bills for the November 5 council meeting was \$647,543.21. Adding tonight's bills with November 5 bills makes the total \$1,193,751.80.

This surpasses the August 6 and August 20 bills for payment of \$903,791.40. It is the council's responsibility to monitor bills and spending.

The city's website to read council minutes is weeks behind. This is not acceptable to citizens who cannot attend the meetings but are interested in the city's agenda and decisions and to be informed.

The Revenue Report for October 2013 was not in our November 19 packet. This report helps the council to see money/bills paid out in relationship to money in / revenue. These reports are important for council decisions and future projects.

In our October 15 packet, there was a sheet that stated that a motion for the City of Piedmont to apply for Federal Grants to build a new library at 104 West Ladiga Street with the name of the library to be: WDH Bulldog Pride Piedmont Library. There is no motion on record for this project.

Council packets need to include the page labeled Balance Remaining in Bond Accounts for Electric Series 2010 and Water, Sewer and Gas Series 2010 and General Obligation Series A. Not having this part of the information is confusing. This page was omitted in our October 1 packet, and there was a \$99,376.10 withdrawal from the General Obligation Bond. I am asking what bills were paid with the money.

I am turning in reimbursements for two ALALM CMO classes and mileage.

Citizens have asked that Visitor's Comments to come after Council Comments and the Mayor's Comments.

Sgt. Lynde Green with the Calhoun County Police Department is requesting to be placed on the December 3 agenda to give an overview of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

I am turning in work orders for a street light out, a ditch to be pulled, and a nuisance abatement form.

Happy and Safe Thanksgiving-God Bless Piedmont. Thanksgiving backwards is Giving Thanks.

Mark Harper had no report.

Terry Kiser said he needed street signs and that he thought Charles McDonald would do a good job with the abatement. He asked that the city start moving forward to get things done.

In the Mayor's comments the Mayor read a Proclamation honoring Mr. Lane Weatherbee for becoming the Grand Master of the Masons of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. He said that abatement issues were being handled and things were being picked up. He congratulated the Piedmont Bulldogs for making it to the third round of the playoffs. He congratulated the B Team PARD Football team for being undefeated and winning the championship. He also said he appreciated the cheerleaders.

In visitor's comments Benevolence Board member Sharon Kelley gave an update on the Benevolence Center. She said that there were 152 volunteers for the month of October and they served a total of 263 households.

Vincent Cottrell asked that everybody please attend the December 3rd meeting to hear Sgt. Lynde Green speak about the neighborhood watch program.

With no other business to come before the council Frank Cobb made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

