

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
NOVEMBER 5TH, 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, and Terry Kiser.

Brenda Spears was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Rev. Matt Turner 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. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor informed the Council that three people had made contact with the City Clerk showing interest in the District 6 Council Seat. In order that the names were received: Jay Wilson, Mark Harper and Kevin Farmer.

The bills totaling \$449,675.80 were then presented for consideration for payment. Frank Cobb made the motion that the bills be approved for payment as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda Superintendent Matt Akin from the Piedmont City School System gave an update on the schools. He said that the school has grown in enrollment. He said that 98% of the school employees live in Piedmont and that helps the economic growth in Piedmont. He also stated that ACT percentage has gone up since the use of the laptops and that 70% of the students were taking the ACT since the laptops have been in use. He asked for the City's support on paying the internet charge that the City had been paying in the past.

The Mayor read a Proclamation declaring the week of November 22-28 Farm Week for the City of Piedmont.

The Mayor called on Chief Tidwell to give the police report for the month of October, 2013. There were a total of 1795 calls to the dispatch center. 3 felony arrests, 25 misdemeanor arrests, 3 DUI arrests, 3 drug arrests, 3 crimes against persons arrests, 3 theft arrests and 8 court/warrant arrests. 52 citations were written, 8 accident reports and 42 motorist assists. 12 burglaries were reported, 13 theft reports, 44 cases investigated and 48 incident reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$12,891.00 in fines for the month of October.

Chief Tidwell then asked for council approval to purchase ballistic vests for each officer. He said the cost would be \$9,000.00 and the Police Department had recently been awarded a grant through the Department of Justice (DOJ) to replace existing ballistic vests in the amount of \$3,097.80. At this time Terry Kiser made the motion to replace the vests for the Police Department. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business Ben Keller made a motion to amend the motion that was made at the previous council meeting to wait until the November 19th meeting to select a district six council member and to vote now to fill the vacancy. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the Clerk did a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN
Ben Keller	Frank Cobb	
Mary Bramblett	Terry Kiser	
Kenny Kelley		

Following the roll call vote the motion carried to select a district six council person at the November 5th meeting.

The Mayor then opened the floor for nominations. Ben Keller nominated Mark Harper for district six council member. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion. Terry Kiser nominated Kevin Farmer for district six council member. Frank Cobb seconded the motion. The Mayor asked for any more nominations from the floor. With no other nominations the Mayor declared the nominations closed and asked the City Clerk to do a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

Mr. Mark Harper:

YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN
Ben Keller	Terry Kiser	
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Kenny Kelley		

Following the roll call a 4 to 1 vote was cast in favor of Mark Harper. As a result of that vote no other nominee was voted on by the council.

Next Terry Kiser made a motion to place the items at the armory that were given to the City by a factory that went out of business on Gov Deals as surplus. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Terry Kiser made a motion to accept the low bid from Lambert Roofing in the amount of \$11,460.00 to put a new roof on the administrative building. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Terry Kiser also made a motion to purchase lawn equipment from the Piedmont Housing Authority in the amount of \$11,500.00. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In council reports Ben Keller said he had potholes in his district that needed to be repaired. He also said he enjoyed all the events that had been happening downtown.

Mary Bramblett said how much she enjoyed the country fair that was downtown and she said she was working with the county to get some roads repaired in her district.

Frank Cobb said that Littlejohn Dr. needed paving in his district and that the paving was needed more on City streets instead of paving the sports complex roads. He said he was not against the city schools but he worries if the City will be able to pay its own bills because of the lack of businesses in the City.

Kenny Kelley said he had abatement problems in his district. He said the Safe Route to School Project was looking good. He also said he was proud of our school system and the teachers and we had one of the best school systems.

Terry Kiser said he also had abatement problems and he needed street signs replaced. He also thanked Mr. Akin for coming and giving the presentation for the schools.

In Mayor's Report he told the council that he and the City Clerk had attended a meeting at the county and was told that two polling places in the city would be eliminated at the Piedmont Armory and the Community Center. The voters who vote in those places will be reassigned to a different location. He said that the country fair downtown went great and there was a big crowd and he thanked Dan Freeman for all his hard work in getting it coordinated. He told the council that there was going to be some renovations to the Administrative Office.

In visitor's comments Paula Thompson expressed her opinion of the school laptops by saying they were not good for the students because they had access to sites that they didn't need to be on. She said that the Piedmont Manor was a drug haven and that there are drugs all over Piedmont. She complained about the Piedmont Police Department not responding and being talked rude to by dispatchers. She said she was fighting for the elderly.

Ronnie Norton asked that the council pass a Resolution saying that the City will allow alcohol sales on Sunday.

Mrs. Jackson asked that the Council look at passing something to stop texting and driving in the City.

At this time at the advice of the City Attorney Ron Allen the Mayor informed the council that they needed to go into executive session to discuss threatening pending litigations to the City. Terry Kiser made a motion to go into executive session. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the Clerk to do a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

YEAHS	NAYS	ABSTAIN
Ben Keller		
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Kenny Kelley		
Terry Kiser		
Mayor Baker		

Following the roll call vote the Mayor informed the audience that the Council would be going into executive session and that the meeting would not reconvene.

With no other business to come before the Council Mary Bramblett made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.