

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
DECEMBER 15TH, 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 and Terry Kiser.

Mark Harper was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Mayor Baker 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. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$340,837.92 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the bills were approved with one abstention by Frank Cobb.

The Mayor then asked for a motion to suspend the rules in consideration of Ordinance No 605 which pertains to the loan that the council approved in April 2015 to allow improvements to the water filter plant and to add one well in the amount of \$1.5 million. The Ordinance is to give the Mayor the authority to sign all necessary documents for the loan. Ben Keller made the motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of Ordinance No 605. Kenny Kelley 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	Brenda Spears	None
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Kenny Kelley		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call vote there was not a unanimous vote to suspend the rules so Ordinance No 605 could not be considered at the meeting.

Next Terry Kiser made the motion to change Resolution 2015-23 city holiday schedule Section (a) stating that all nonscheduled employees are to be paid time and a half instead of double time. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Kenny Kelley made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-23 which would be the City of Piedmont Holiday Schedule for the city employees. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Mayor opened the floor for nomination to the Library Board. Mary Bramblett nominated Sharon Carter to be reappointed to the board to serve another term. Terry Kiser seconded the nomination and Kenny Kelley moved that the nomination be closed. The Mayor asked for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call Sharon Carter was unanimously reappointed to the Library Board to serve another term.

Terry Kiser nominated Sheila Cochran to serve the other vacant term to the Library Board. Frank Cobb seconded the nomination and Kenny Kelley made the motion that the nominations be closed. The Mayor asked for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call Sheila Cochran was unanimously appointed to serve a term on the Library Board.

Next Terry Kiser nominated Susan Glover to finish the remaining term of Sherry Kennedy on the Library Board. Kenny Kelley made a motion that the nomination be closed. The Mayor asked for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call Susan Glover was unanimously appointed to finish Sherry Kennedy's term on the Library Board.

Next the Mayor called on Chief Norton to give the Police report for the month of November 2015. Officers had 1308 total contacts with the public. There were 9 felony arrests, 28 misdemeanor arrests, 3 DUI arrests, 11 drug arrests, 5 crimes against persons arrests, 1 theft arrest, 9 court/warrant arrests and 3 other arrests. There were 22 citations written, 11 accident reports and 32 motorist assists. There were 5 violent crimes reported, 5 burglaries reported, 24 thefts reported, 29 cases investigated and 101 incident reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$16,407.90 in fine money during the month of November 2015.

Chief Norton gave the Nuisance and Abatement report for the month of November 2015. There were 25 total cases, 4 new yard cases, 1 new house case, 13 cases being processed, 2 with second notice sent, 4 cases completed and 3 community service workers.

Chief Norton then gave the Animal Control report for the month of November 2015. There were 23 calls for service, 1 preliminary investigation, 32 animals picked up, 3 animals returned to owner by ACO, 29 animals took to shelter, 22 stray/animals at large, 7 surrendered by owner and 4 reclaimed at shelter by owner.

Chief Norton then let the Council know that an officer had turned in his resignation and that this again would leave the department shorthanded. Terry Kiser made the motion to allow Chief Norton to look for a certified officer to replace the one leaving. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The City Clerk then asked the Council to accept a low bid of \$10,984.00 from Smith's Floor Coverings, Inc. to replace the carpet and the tile in the Municipal Court Building. The Clerk explained that the money would come from the court money and not the general fund of the city. Terry Kiser made the motion to accept the low bid. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote by Brenda Spears.

In Other Business Brenda Spears said that 5 of the Christmas lights on the poles downtown are out. She also asked the Mayor about the status of moving the Roberts House. The Mayor responded that we had just received the deed and was working on a fair market value price.

Frank Cobb asked the Council to reconsider the 2 cent gas tax and bond to pave the roads in the city. Ben Keller made the motion to allow the City Clerk to speak with a bond attorney and find out what a payment would be and to bring the information back at the second meeting in January. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Council Reports Ben Keller had no report.

Mary Bramblett wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Frank Cobb wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kenny Kelley wished the citizens a safe and Merry Christmas and also reminded everyone of the Rock Run Parade on Saturday, December 19th.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment and Payroll and Taxes for council approval for the December 1, 2015 meeting totaled \$421,826.59. The Bills of Payment for council approval tonight is \$340,837.92. Payroll and taxes for December 4 was \$59,603.06 and for December 11 was \$57,400.38. The total for tonight's council approval is \$457,841.30. The total for the two December council meetings totaled \$879,667.89.

The Mayor cannot change the time or date of an established council meeting without the consent of the council with a motion and second and a vote. At the November 17 council meeting, the Mayor asked for a motion to change the regularly scheduled council meeting from Tuesday, December 1 to Thursday, December 3. The council approved the motion. The Mayor changed the council meeting back to Tuesday, December 1 without the council's approval and without following proper procedures according to the Code of Alabama.

I asked the Mayor for the newest status for the relocation of the Roberts House since the city has paid for the deed for the property (November 17, 2015) at the Southern Depot in the amount of \$6,750 to Norfolk Southern.

Thanks to the street workers for the collection of leaves and limbs in District 5.

The Christmas decorations for downtown and the gazebo look great. Thanks to the city workers for this special time of the year.

Terry Kiser said he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said it had been 3 interesting years.

In the Mayor's Comments, Mayor Baker responded to Brenda Spears comment about the City Council meeting being changed without council approval. He pointed out to her that there was not another scheduled council meeting happening soon to discuss this matter so a decision was made to contact each council member to let them know of the needed change. Due to unscheduled situations involving weather affecting the Christmas parade and Piedmont High School playing for a State title the decision was made to change the council meeting. It was pointed out to Brenda Spears that the need to change the meeting was discussed with her face to face in the City Clerk's office. At the time of that discussion, Brenda Spears did not have any comments about the change of council meeting dates. The Mayor asked her why she was bringing this up at a later council meeting when this could have been discussed when earlier contact was made in the City Clerk's office. There was no response to this question. The Mayor pointed out that sometimes decisions have to be made quickly and follow up with the council members occurs through verbal contacts, telephone calls, e-mails, etc. Mayor Baker said that he always attempts to bring situations/changes up at a council meeting, but on occasion time does not always permit this to happen.

He announced that the State 3 A Trophy was presented to the Piedmont Football Team at the high school today. He said that JSU presented a plaque to the Piedmont Football Coaches on Sunday and he attended the KFC Pigskin All Star Banquet. He also thanked Keith Word for doing the announcing at the Christmas parade. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and asked for the Councils permission to let the city employees leave early on December 23, 2015 after the safety meeting. Ben Keller made the motion to allow the employees to leave early. Mary Bramblett 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. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.