

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT  
DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2012  
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 Rick Freeman, Council Members Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker and Terry Kiser.

Mayor Freeman declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Following the invocation given by Rev. David Cox and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Billy Baker made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$232,108.99 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved for payment. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the bills were approved with two "no" votes from Frank Cobb and Brenda Spears. Mrs. Spears voted no stating that she believed that the city had to have a budget set up by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. She stated that she could not vote to approve the bills because she did not know where the revenue was coming from to pay the bills. She stated that she was just beginning to understand the financial strain that this council has inherited. She also stated that the citizens and taxpayers of district five that she represents expect her to support a transparent and fiscal budget that is well prepared.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-26 which would adopt a holiday schedule for 2013 for the Piedmont city employees. Kenny Kelley made the motion to adopt Resolution 2012-26. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Frank Cobb made the motion to dissolve the current abatement committee and establish a new committee. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Mary Bramblett.

Billy Baker made the motion to appoint a new abatement committee which would consist of two members from each district. The new board members are as follows:

District 1.

David Burnett  
Frank Thompson

District 2.

Tamara Kirby  
Larry Reynolds

District 3.

Amy Pike  
Gary Hincey

District 4.  
Janis McCord  
Charles McDonald

District 5.  
Vincent Cottrell  
Harlan Stewart

District 6.  
Susan Adderhold  
Angie Maddox

District 7.  
Connie Wheeler  
Keith Austin

Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the abatement committee was established unanimously.

Next on the agenda the Mayor asked for nominations for the Personnel Board. Ben Keller nominated Vincent Cottrell and David Burnett. Mary Bramblett nominated Freda Davidson. Kenny Kelley nominated Jerry Harbour. Brenda Spears nominated Carolyn Woods and Sandra L. Ledbetter. Billy Baker nominated Keith Word and Terry Kiser nominated Robert Holbrooks. With several nominations for the three member board Frank Cobb made the motion to table the nominations. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In other business Mary Bramblett made a motion for the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting to start at 5:00 pm., the December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 council meeting to start at 5:00 pm. followed by a meeting with the Piedmont Health Care Authority held at their facility and the January 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting be moved to January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at 4:00 pm. due to the holiday. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In visitors comments Crystal Brown asked the council to consider giving Butch Brown his position back at the Piedmont Street Department. Sabrina Minton from Lover's By Glover invited everyone to a Christmas Parade of Homes on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 5:00 pm. to 8:00 pm. The homes to be included are 410 North Main St.; 415 North Center Ave., 209 Woolf Ave. and 247 Woodridge Dr. Ruby Stockdale invited the Mayor, Council and City Clerk to the new adult day care for a walk through following the December 13<sup>th</sup> work session. Christopher West, a resident of Haslem St. asked that the police patrol the street more to slow down the traffic.

In council reports Ben Keller thanked the Mayor for having the speed limit signs put up at the complex and he also said he did a walk through at Bethune to look for necessary improvements. Mary Bramblett said that the habitat house on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave was almost cleaned up and that we were close to having a new business come to Piedmont.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley said he had started on writing down the missing signs in his district.

Brenda Spears announced a ribbon cutting on Tuesday December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Hawkins PC Solutions on South Center Ave. She also thanked the Garden Club for decorating the downtown gazebo and the Welcome Center and thanked the city employees for putting up the banners and decorations.

Billy Baker thanked everyone involved in the ½ marathon that was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>. starting at the welcome center and ending in Jacksonville. He said that improvements were starting to be made at the civic center and that they would be looking to do improvements at the Bethune Center also.

Terry Kiser thanked Carl Hinton and Ricky Jackson for putting up a street sign on Ray Ave. He said that the dirty water issue on Highway 9 was being addressed. He announced that interviews for new police officers would be held in the courtroom on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

In the Mayor's comments the Mayor announced the downtown Christmas Events would be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> and that there would be a parade meeting on the following Wednesday. He asked that everyone stay positive and that everyone was working hard to fix any problems.

At this time Billy Baker made a motion to recess the meeting and reconvene on Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 4:00 pm to vote on the personnel board for the city. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the meeting was recessed.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 4:00 pm the Mayor called the meeting back to order those present were Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker and Terry Kiser.

The Mayor asked for a motion that the nominations for the personnel board be closed. Frank Cobb made the motion that the nominations be closed. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the Mayor then asked each member to vote on three of the nominees by raising their hand when he called the nominees names. The votes were as follows:

Jerry Harbour received six votes.

Robert Holbrooks received four votes.

Freda Davidson received five votes.

Keith Word received three votes.

Carolyn Woods received one vote.

David Burnett received no votes.

Sandra L. Ledbetter received one vote.

Vincent Cottrell received no votes.

After receiving the most votes of the eight nominees, Jerry Harbour, Freda Davidson and Robert Holbrooks were appointed to the personnel board.

Next the Mayor asked for a motion to change the meeting dates of the regularly scheduled council meeting to the first and third Tuesdays of each month with the work session beginning at 6:00 pm. and the council meeting beginning immediately following the work session. Billy Baker made the motion to change the work session and council meeting dates. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion was accepted unanimously.

With no other business to come before the council Billy Baker made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.