

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT  
FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 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 Craig Russell 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. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$404,407.09 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made a 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.

The Mayor then asked for consideration of Resolution 2015-02 which would renew the \$250,000.00 line of credit the city has with Farmers and Merchants bank for one year. Terry Kiser made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-02. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote by Brenda Spears.

The Mayor called on Chief Norton to give the Police Report for the month of January, 2015. Officers had 1927 total contacts with the public. There were 4 felony arrests, 39 misdemeanor arrests, 5 drug arrests, 2 crimes against persons arrests, 5 theft arrests, 10 court/warrant arrests and 13 other arrests. There were 77 citations, 17 accident reports and 32 motorist assists. There were 8 violent crimes reported, 3 burglaries reported, 19 thefts reported, 23 new cases investigated and 93 incident/arrest reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$12,143.27 in fines for the month of January. The Chief then gave the Animal Control Report for the month of January, 2015. There were 4 work orders, 56 calls for service, 3 preliminary investigations, 26 animals picked up, 1 animal returned to owner by ACO, 25 animals took to shelter, 15 strays/animals at large, 10 surrendered by owner and 3 reclaimed at shelter by owner.

The Mayor called on Charles McDonald to give the Piedmont Nuisance and Abatement report for the month of January, 2015. There were 36 total cases, 1 new yard case, 3 new house cases, 11 cases being processed, 2 cases with second notice and 3 cases completed.

The Mayor then called on Chief Ledbetter to give the fire report for the month of January, 2015. There were 2 structure fires, 1 automatic alarm, 2 false alarms, 1 vehicle accident, 1 ambulance assist, 4 woods fires, 5 service calls and 2 trash fires.

The Mayor read a Proclamation for Arbor Day for the City of Piedmont.

In Other Business Mary Bramblett made the motion to accept Resolution 2015-01 which would allow the city an 80/20 grant to have the bridges on the Chief Ladiga Trail repaired. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Terry Kiser made the motion to accept the low bid from Sansom Equipment Company to purchase a new sewer truck for the Piedmont Water, Gas and Sewer Department in the amount of \$248,740.37. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said the road was in need of repair past Dansby Funeral Home.

Mary Bramblett thanked Charles McDonald for getting houses cleaned up in her district. She also thanked the Mayor and City Clerk for working with JSU.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley challenged the council to bring some cost cutting measures to the work session.

Brenda Spears Council Comments:

The Bills for Payment for February 3, 2015 including payroll and taxes came to \$535,297.25. For tonight, February 17, the Bills for Payment and payroll and taxes come to \$511,606.91. The total for February 2015 is \$1,047,356.79. Since the fiscal budget is into its fifth month, this is the third month the Bills of Payment have gone over one million dollars. October was \$1,340,410.90 and January was \$1,243,371.08 and February is \$1,047,356.79. Piedmont is not receiving the revenues to support these high totals. Budget cuts need to be addressed at our next Work Session on February 23 at 5:30 PM and actions

taken as soon as possible be made. The public is always invited to all work sessions and council meetings.

The Mayor needs to file a complaint in Small Claims Court to recover costs owed to the City of Piedmont with the woman who signed a contract to rent a city owned building and used it as a Diner/Restaurant but closed without paying bills and the city's percentage of the Aquatic Pool concessions. The Mayor also has the option to turn the information over to a Bad Debt Processing Company.

Why is the Mayor asking for another \$250,000 line of credit? This is the second line of credit for \$250,000 the Mayor has asked the council to approve. What city expenditures is this money going to be spent on?

When will the city begin receiving the ITS Reimbursement Lease payments for \$36,000? How much revenue does the city receive from ITS for monthly pole rentals and the electricity used per pole? Where is this revenue line item for each in the 2014-2015 Budget?

Terry Kiser said he would like to see Piedmont grow and wants the council to make decisions for cost cutting and vote on it.

In response to Brenda Spears comments about the Restaurant, Jeff Formby said that he had contacted two collection agencies regarding the debt and he was told that if the city could not prove that a profit was made then it would not benefit the city to pursue the collection.

In the Mayor's comments the Mayor informed the council that Jay Shell would like the council's support in opening a restaurant in the city and sale beer. Terry Kiser made the motion to support Mr. Shell as long as he passed a background check. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Also the Mayor informed the council that Mr. Chad Steed had shown an interest in purchasing two pieces of property on Anniston Ave. that had been donated to the city. Mr. Steed offered \$2,750.00 for both lots. Terry Kiser made the motion to sell the lots to Mr. Steed at \$2,750.00. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor also responded to Brenda Spears comment about the line of credit stating that this is a line of credit that the city renews annually to help with expenses the city may incur during the year.

With no other business to come before the council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.