

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
FEBRUARY 18TH, 2014

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 Frank Cobb and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Kenny Kelley made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$284,656.72 were then presented for consideration for payment. Frank Cobb made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the bills were approved with one "no" vote by Brenda Spears.

Next on the agenda Jennifer Swafford, Mike Self and Dr. Mark Hearn with the Center for Economic Development at Jacksonville State University spoke to the council about partnering with the city by doing a retail market analysis for the City of Piedmont. This would provide Piedmont with a detailed look at where the cities area growth is retail wise and show where the city is losing money to outside areas.

Missy Welborn with Air Evac who had spoken at a previous meeting came back to the council to ask if they had any questions about their services and she also had the helicopter brought to Piedmont before the council meeting for the council to look at. She stated that the price for the service to transport for emergencies would cost the city \$29,148.00 a year which would break down to \$2,429.00 a month that the city would pay to have air ambulance service for the citizens inside the city limits.

The Mayor asked for consideration for Resolution 2014-01 which would allow the city to renew its line of credit with Farmers and Merchants Bank in the amount of \$250,000.00. Frank Cobb made the motion to adopt Resolution 2014-01. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and Resolution 2014-01 was adopted with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears.

The Mayor then called on Chief Tidwell to give the police report. For the month of January 2014 officers had a total of 708 contacts with the public of those were, 21 felony arrests, 28 misdemeanor arrests, 1 DUI arrest, 19 drug arrests, 4 crimes against persons arrests, 4 theft arrests, 19 court/warrant arrests. Officers wrote 24 citations, 6 accident reports and had 60 motorist assists. 2 violent crimes reported, 11 burglaries reported, 11 thefts reported, 58 cases investigated and 65 incident reports. There were 200 Piedmont Rescue Squad calls dispatched, 32 Piedmont Fire Department calls dispatched and a total of 1937 calls to the communications center. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$14,805.82 in court fines for the month of January 2014.

Chief Tidwell also gave the police report for the 2013 year. Of that 9,975 total contacts were made with the public with a total of 22,501 total calls to the communications dispatch center and \$194,532.37 was collected by the Piedmont Municipal Court for court fines.

Chief Tidwell then gave the Animal Control Report for the month of January 2014. There were 23 calls for service, 2 preliminary investigations, 3 follow-up investigations, 25 animals picked up, 25 animals

taken to shelter, 14 surrendered animals, 11 strays/animals at large and 1 animal reclaimed from the shelter by owners.

In Other Business Abatement Officer Charles McDonald gave the abatement report for the month of January 2014. There were 46 total cases, 3 yard cases, 2 house cases, 17 cases being processed, 10 cases with second notices sent, 7 cases completed/properties in compliance current month and 5 properties donated to the city. Charles also had several addresses that needed to be declared a Public Nuisance and ask that the council vote on these addresses.

Frank Cobb made the motion that 645 5th Ave. be declared a public nuisance. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Terry Kiser made the motion that 407 Anniston Ave. be declared a public nuisance. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Frank Cobb made the motion that 469 Dailey Street be declared a public nuisance. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Terry Kiser made the motion that 605 Ray Ave. be declared a public nuisance. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Mayor called on Phillip Winkles with the Piedmont Rescue Squad to give a report for the months of December 2013 and January 2014. In December the rescue squad had 131 ambulance runs. In the month of January the rescue squad had 138 ambulance runs.

Brenda Spears made a motion that items under Other Business be discussed at one meeting and then voted on at the next meeting unless it is a life or death situation. Frank Cobb 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>
Frank Cobb	Ben Keller	Mark Harper
Brenda Spears	Mary Bramblett	
Terry Kiser	Kenny Kelley	
	Mayor Baker	

Following the roll call a 4 to 3 vote the motion was voted down.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said that Abatement Officer Charles McDonald was doing a good job as well as the rest of the city employees.

Mary Bramblett commented on the good job the Police Department had done lately with the recent drug arrests. She also said the electric department and fire department was doing a good job also.

Frank Cobb said he appreciates the job Charles McDonald is doing with abatement. He also thanked Commissioner Rudy Abbott and Mayor Baker for getting Littlejohn Drive paved.

Kenny Kelley had no report.

Brenda Spears council comments: February 18, 2014 bills for payment are \$284,656.72 plus payroll and taxes are \$114,151.96 for a total of \$398,808.68.

As a council member with a business owner in District 5, I am asking the Mayor and City Clerk in the future to be more supportive and patronize our local businesses for all city purchases. The local furniture store owner was not contacted by any city employee for the possibility of providing the new office furniture concerning the city hall renovations. The furniture was purchased from an out-of-town office store.

Payroll and taxes for Piedmont's city employees for one week:

Week of December 22, 2013 was \$75,572.92

Week of January 24, 2014 was \$74,697.28

Week of February 07, 2014 was \$75,325.41

I have repeatedly asked for work sessions so the Mayor and council can discuss the city's daily operating costs, debt expenses, cost saving measures, and amend the 2013-2014 budget. In January I asked the Mayor to schedule a work session in February. I am asking tonight for the Mayor to have one in March.

I appreciate the Mayor and City Clerk manning an overnight emergency number for people in need during the ice and snow storm on Tuesday night February 11 and Wednesday morning February 12. I am turning in work orders for leaf pickup, street signs, nuisance abatement for household trash discarded at the curb, and two garbage pickup concerns.

Mark Harper also thanked Charles McDonald and the Police and Rescue Departments. He asked that the council look at doing the JSU retail market analysis for the city.

Terry Kiser also thanked Charles McDonald, the Police Department and Rescue Squad for the jobs they are doing and said that the city needs to move forward.

In the Mayor's comments the Mayor responded to Mrs. Spears' concerns about shopping local for office furniture and said he was not aware that the local store sold office furniture and said that we had asked recently for some other office items the city needed pertaining to office furniture and the local business was unable to supply the items. He also said that he would like for the council to be more supportive of the city and help him try to recruit new business to come to Piedmont. He said some council members only talk about high bills and no business is going to want to locate in Piedmont if they think the city cannot pay their bills. He said that the bills are being paid. He also said he sees some council members on a daily basis but some he rarely sees in the office and he invites any council member to come up to the office and help him as he tries to get businesses for the city.

At this time the Mayor informed the council and the audience that the council needed to go into executive session to discuss a property matter. He stated that the meeting would be adjourned after the roll call vote and would not reconvene after the executive session. Kenny Kelley made the motion that the Mayor and Council go into executive session. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk 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		
Mark Harper		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call the council voted unanimously to go into executive session.

With no other business to come before the council Kenny Kelley made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.