

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
FEBRUARY 19TH, 2013

The City Council of the City of Piedmont met in regular session at the time and on the date above. Present were Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Cobb, Council Members, Ben Keller, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker and Terry Kiser.

Mayor Freeman and Mary Bramblett were absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Rev. Dennis Ragsdale and the pledge of allegiance to the flag Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb asked for approval of the agenda. Kenny Kelley made the motion to approve the agenda. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Billy Baker made the motion the minutes be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The bills totaling \$536,941.00 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb asked for a motion to accept a beer and wine application from the State of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the Dollar General Store located at 615 Highway 278. Billy Baker made the motion to accept the beer and wine application. Ben Keller seconded the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb then asked for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	None	None
Kenny Kelley		
Brenda Spears		
Billy Baker		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call vote the council voted unanimously to approve the Dollar General beer and wine license.

Next Mr. Danny Freeman spoke to the council representing the Piedmont Community Association to give an update on events that will be taking place in the near future. He said on April 20th, 2013 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm will be Piedmont Heritage Day and it will be centered around the Piedmont Museum with antique tractors and cars and he asked that anyone that has any items to do with Piedmont history to bring it out that day. He said that he had asked the Piedmont Throttle Kings to bring their cars back down town either on April 19th or 20th. He asked that everyone start working together to try to make things happen to better Piedmont.

In other business Brenda Spears made the motion to vote on going to the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
None	Ben Keller	
	Kenny Kelley	
	Frank Cobb	
	Brenda Spears	
	Billy Baker	
	Terry Kiser	

Following the roll call vote the convention was voted down unanimously.

In council reports Ben Keller said he has spoken with someone who possibly will bring a business in to do clothing alterations. He said he has also turned in work orders for some places that need to be cleaned up.

Kenny Kelley asked the street supervisor Ricky Jackson when the pot holes could be patched and Mr. Jackson said it would be in the spring when it warms up.

Brenda Spears said that on January 15th she asked the city clerk to provide all the city council members with a list of all in factual revenues received for each month to be included in the packets. It wasn't in the packets but was at the meeting when she arrived. She said the council has to approve the bills and we need to know what revenues are coming in each month as well as the expenditures to help make sound and responsible spending decisions. The indebtedness from the 2010 bonds are going to force this council to make hard decisions in all areas of city services and request for in kind work. We owe it to the citizens of Piedmont to have accountability to the tax dollars we collect from them. She said almost every month since she had been sworn in the bills have been between almost \$800,000.00 and \$900,000.00. She said we have got to consider jobs and how we can cross train and use flexible hours. She said we could use part-time workers instead of full- time workers. She said she was requesting reports from each department. She asked again that the new council members and Mayor be included on the city's website. She also requested five different meeting agendas and bills for payment from the year 2012, and for minutes that are not showing up on the website to be fixed when you click on them. She said her personal resolution as a council member is to look at the budget and find thirteen money saving suggestions for the City of Piedmont. She said she is calling it thirteen for 2013. She said she met with the CEO of the Calhoun County YMCA, and Park and Recreation Director Jeff Formby on February 8th, 2013 concerning the Piedmont pool. She said she was giving each council member a handout and report of the meeting. She mentioned some concerns about stray animals. She said that the city pays Calhoun County in the amount of \$4, 166.67 a month and she is all for trying to do something to provide a job in Piedmont and patrol Piedmont. She had an abatement call saying that her house and property appraisal went down because of an abandoned house across the street on East Ladiga Street. She said that the abatement committee has a meeting this Thursday February 21, 2013 at the Eubanks Welcome Center at 3:30 pm.

Billy Baker had no report.

Terry Kiser asked Phillip Winkles of the Piedmont Rescue Squad to give a report. He said that for the month of December, 2012 the rescue squad dispatched 105 calls and in January, 2013 95 calls were dispatched.

Chief Tidwell said that Officer Nathan Johnson purchased a dog with his own money and trained the dog on his own time and now he and the dog are certified as a narcotics detector team. He also thanked several of his officers for the work they did during the abduction of a child from her home, and within two hours the officers had located and arrested the suspect and found the child and comforted her while transporting to the hospital for treatment. He thanked Corporal Matt Thacker, Officer Jamie Parris, Officer Sheldon Estes, Officer Jessie Little and Sargent Carolyn Durham. He said it was a terrible thing that happened but he was very proud of his officers and their response to the situation. He also thanked the rescue squad for the work they did. Terry Kiser also said that he was proud of the department and they did a great job.

In the Mayor's comments Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb told everyone that Mayor Freeman was recovering from surgery and should be back at the next meeting. He announced Black History Month Program at the Bethune Center on February 22nd, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. He said that Texas Tech would be here the third week in March to give a free seminar about FEMA and how to handle disasters. He said the Mayor wants to start in March a yard of the month and a business of the month. He also said that at the end of March we would have a clean-up day. He said starting in April the Mayor wanted to do a citizen of the district. He said he had some issues in district 3 about rental property and junk on the streets and also pot holes that need to be repaired. He also stated that if you would like to speak at a council meeting that you needed to be put on the agenda and that you could call, email or come by the clerk's office to be put on the agenda.

With no other business to come before the council Billy Baker made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.