

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

FEBRUARY 3, 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. Terry Kiser made the motion the minutes be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$415,504.22 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment unanimously.

The Mayor then asked for consideration of Resolution 2015-01 which deals with the grant the city received to do bridge repairs on the Chief Ladiga Trail. Frank Cobb asked that Calhoun County be contacted to help by the expense of the bridge repair because some of the bridges are in the county. After some discussion Frank Cobb made the motion to table Resolution 2015 -01 until the next meeting. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Terry Kiser made the motion to re-appoint Mr. Eddie Blackwelder and Mrs. Sherry Kennedy to the Library Board to serve another term. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Craig Russell presented the new pool and civic center rates to the council for approval. Frank Cobb made the motion to adopt the new rates. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Mayor called on Chief Norton to give the Police, Abatement and Animal Control reports for the month of December 2014. There were 5 felony arrests, 36 misdemeanor arrests, 2 DUI, 12 drug arrests, 2 crimes against person arrests, 1 theft arrests, 12 court/warrant arrests and 3 other agencies. There were 20 citations, 12 accident reports and 20 motorist assists. 10 violent crimes reported, 4 burglaries reported, 17 thefts reported, 15 new cases investigated, 83 incident/arrest reports and 4 meth lab sites recovered. There were a total of 1294 total contacts with public. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$11,707.88.

Animal Control Report for December 2014 had 7 work orders, 45 calls for service, 4 preliminary investigations, 23 animals picked up, 6 animals returned to owner by ACO, 17 animals took to shelter, 15 strays/animals at large and 2 surrendered by owner.

Piedmont Nuisance and Abatement report for December 2014 had 33 total cases, 2 total new house cases, 2 total new cases, 12 cases being processed, 1 case with second notice sent and 4 cases completed.

Next Chief Ledbetter gave the fire report for the 2014 year. There were 31 structure fires, 36 automatic alarms, 13 false alarms, 13 vehicle fires, 27 woods fires, 4 vehicle accidents, 19 ambulance assists, 13

hazardous materials, 43 service calls, 10 trash/rubbish fires and provided mutual aid six times for other department on structure fires. The department also issued 60 burn permits, opened 9 fire investigations and had 2 civilian fire fatalities occur.

Mary Bramblett made the motion to allow Chief Norton to purchase a new recorder for the police department to record the calls that come in to the dispatch office. The lowest bid was received from McCord Communications for \$11,452.75. Half of the cost will be paid by the fire department out of fire tax funds. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business Brenda Spears asked if the RV Park would be in a flood zone. The Mayor responded that the area had been built up and it is not in the flood zone.

Jessie McKnight informed the council that the funds had been released for the sewer grant project and that the project would be put out for bid in March and construction to start in May. The council also told him to get bids for a new sewer truck.

In Visitor's Comment Ms. Heather Henderson wanted to know why her electric bill continued to go up when she only used gas heat.

In Council Reports Ben Keller asked for a dumpster at Thankful Baptist Church and also announced that Black History Month at the Bethune Center would be on February 27, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Mary Bramblett thanked the police department for breaking up the fight on 5th Ave. She also said she was still having abatement issues in her district.

Frank Cobb asked where we stood with the city garbage truck that the city is trying to sale. The City Clerk informed him that information was being turned over to the city attorney to look into.

Kenny Kelley congratulated Freddie Norton on his chief's position.

Brenda Spears asked that the city look at turning over the person who ran the restaurant that was in the city building to bad debt processor.

Mark Harper said that in this meeting the council had discussed or spent \$240,000.00 for a sewer truck, \$11,000.00 for a recorder and \$24,000.00 on the trail bridge repair.

Terry Kiser said that he needed some signs put up in his district.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor informed the council that Pastor David has donated 12 new bikes to the Welcome Center for people to use on the trail. He also asked the council to email him some dates to set up a work session.

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 7:33 pm.