

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
FEBRUARY 4TH, 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 Sharon Kelley and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were considered for approval. Frank Cobb made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$132,734.29 were then presented for consideration for payment. Frank Cobb made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment with one “no” vote from Brenda Spears.

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations for the Library Board. Mary Bramblett nominated Mrs. Vera Jo Myers for re-appointment to the Library Board. Ben Keller seconded the motion. Brenda Spears nominated Ms. Susan Glover. The Mayor declared that nominations be closed and a roll call vote was as follows:

Vera Jo Myers

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	Brenda Spears	None
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Kenny Kelley		
Mark Harper		
Terry Kiser		

With a six to one vote Mrs. Myers was re-appointed to the Library Board for another term.

The Mayor then opened the floor for nominations for Piedmont Health Care Board. Kenny Kelley made a nomination that Dr. Ben Ingram be re-appointed to the Piedmont Health Care Board. Ben Keller seconded the nomination. The Mayor asked for any further nominations. With no other nominations the Mayor declared that the nominations be closed and a roll call 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		

With a unanimous vote being cast, Dr. Ben Ingram was re-appointed to the Piedmont Health Care Board for another term.

Roxanna Sims, owner of The Learning Farm told the council about how the Learning Farm is run and operated and asked the city for support while the business is awaiting approval of a 501 3C. The Mayor responded by asking Mrs. Sims to get her paperwork to the city and that he would have City Attorney Ron Allen look over it.

In Other Business Brenda Spears said that some citizens had asked her questions and she wanted to ask the Mayor for clarification. She asked if all the trees on Main Street were going to be cut down and the Mayor responded that only danger or dead trees would be removed. She asked if a new community center was going to be built at the Aquatic Center. To that the Mayor said that if that were going to happen it would have to be a council decision. She asked if a pond was going to be dug at the Piedmont Sports Complex and he responded that Commissioner Rudy Abbott had built a small shallow pond close to the creek.

Frank Cobb said that Nathan Pope Owner of Pope's Furniture asked him why the city did not purchase the office furniture from him. The Mayor stated that he was unaware that Nathan sold office furniture but in the future if any furniture was needed that Pope's Furniture would be asked for a price. Brenda Spears also asked if the electrical rates had been raised since November 2012. Mayor Baker said that rates on electric and gas had been lowered this month to help citizens due to the cold weather. She also asked if any city employee had received a raise since November 2012. Mayor Baker responded that employees receive a one step or two step on their anniversary date according to their evaluations.

In visitor's comments Benevolence Center Board Member informed the council that the board needed an alternate member in case she was not able to perform her duties and asked that the council consider Shelia Jennings to fill the position. Mayor Baker said that the council would vote to fill this at the next meeting.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said he needed a street sign for Caldwell and Caton. He said there were several pot holes on Haslam Street that needed repair. He also thanked Charles McDonald for the job he is doing with abatement.

Mary Bramblett said she had potholes in her district that needed repair.

Frank Cobb said that a log was in the creek on James St. and it was causing flooding during heavy rains and asked that the street department get the log out with the backhoe when it is dry enough to do so.

Kenny Kelley thanked Carl Hinton and Terry Kiser for getting the signs up in his district. He also thanked Charles McDonald for the good work he is doing with abatement.

Brenda Spears council comments: The bills for payment are \$132,734.29 plus payroll and taxes at \$117,718.21 for a total of \$250,452.50. I repeat the total for bills and payroll in my council comments because only the bills of payment are in the minutes to be approved and on the city's website and not the combined totals.

I was concerned after reading today's Anniston Star front page article "Sunday Alcohol Sales in Piedmont". According to Piedmont's City Attorney, Ron Allen, city officials knew about the bill's wording and that Piedmont's resolution also takes away the council's authority to repeal Sunday alcohol sales in the future. I read the resolution in our packet several times but never read where it could not be repealed. I was under the impression that any city council motion, resolution, or ordinance could be rescinded at any later time with a majority of council votes. It concerns me that this Sunday alcohol sales resolution is perpetual and can never be reconsidered at any time by future councils. I voted NO for this and stand behind my decision.

I appreciate the work the city employees did for the citizens during the snow and ice storm the week of January 27-31. Being proactive and prepared and safety is number 1.

Work Orders:

I am turning in a clogged drain on Center Avenue and a rental house where furniture, clothes, other household items, and garbage were taken to the curb for city employees to dispose of.

Mark Harper asked if the health care increased this year and the City Clerk responded that there has not been an increase in two years. He also asked that the council consider hiring a recruiter to go out and look for business for the city.

Terry Kiser said that AMEA was calling some citizens for a short survey. He asked Carl Hinton for an update on the paving at the Aquatic Center and Carl informed the council that the front section had been paved. Terry also asked that the council consider putting in a RV park at the sport complex.

The City Clerk asked the council to consider putting a street light in Westwood Subdivision on 55 Woodridge Dr. at the amount of \$11.00 a month. The light and pole will be put up by Alabama Power and the city will pay the monthly fee. Terry Kiser made the motion that the city pays the \$11.00 a month for the street light. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The Clerk also thanked the Mayor for allowing the improvements and remodel to the Administrative office.

In the Mayor's comments the Mayor said the power and gas rates were reduced to help offset the high bills. He said the JSU Economic Council will be at the next council meeting to talk about the downtown area. He said he would also like to thank the city employees for what they did during the winter storm. He commended Officer Don Glover for taking charge while Chief Tidwell was out of town. He also commended the Water and Gas Department for the job they do working in the winter weather. He commented on the Sunday alcohol sales and said he was also under the impression that the vote would come back to the council for final decision.

With no other business to come before the council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Michelle Franklin, City Clerk