

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

MARCH 3RD, 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, Brenda Spears, Mark Harper and Terry Kiser.

Kenny Kelley was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Keith Word 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 motion carried unanimously.

The bills totaling \$379,513.89 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment with one abstention by Brenda Spears.

After some discussion by Brenda Spears stating that an Ordinance was required to sell property that the city owns, Brenda Spears made the motion that Resolution 2015-03 not be passed. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Mr. Brian Farley asked the council to consider Sunday alcohol sales in the city limits and in the police jurisdiction. Terry Kiser made the motion to start the process to pass Sunday alcohol sales. Ben Keller 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	Brenda Spears	None
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Mark Harper		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call of 5 to 1 the vote was in favor of starting the process for Sunday alcohol sales.

In Other Business Terry Kiser made the motion for the City Clerk to look into direct deposit for the city stating that he believes this will save the city money. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kiser then made a motion that the Highland Cemetery grass cutting be done by the city employees instead of contracting the grass cutting out. Again Mr. Kiser stated that this would also be a cost saving measure for the city. Ben Keller 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	Frank Cobb	None

Mary Bramblett
Brenda Spears
Mark Harper
Terry Kiser

Following the roll call of 5 to 1 the vote was in favor of the city cutting Highland Cemetery.

In Other Business Brenda Spears asked why the city did not go after the restaurant owner for utilities and rent that occupied the city building and why did the city not pursue her to settle with an amount. Brenda Spears asked what city employees were driving city vehicles home. She also asked that on the next agenda that the amount that the Mayor and City Clerk can spend without council approval be voted on. The Mayor responded that anything to go on the agenda be put in writing and sent to him.

During a heated discussion between the Mayor, City Clerk and Brenda Spears, Mayor Baker asked Brenda Spears to resign from the council. Brenda Spears replied that she was happy being on the council and to this Mayor Baker said why don't you act like it.

Mark Harper asked that the city look at the cost of the city keeping the garbage or bidding the garbage collection out. The Mayor also asked Mr. Harper to send that in writing to be placed on the agenda.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said that the Black History Month Program was very good and thanked everyone that came out.

Mary Bramblett reminded the council to do their ethics forms that are due every year in April.

Frank Cobb said that the city needed to look at floating a bond or getting a grant to get some of the streets repaired in the city.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment for the March 3 Council Meeting is \$379,513.89 and the payroll and taxes for February 20 and February 27 is \$114,088.21 for a total of \$493,602.10.

At the February 17 Council Meeting, the Anniston Star stated that Brenda Spears agreed to pay for the bridge repairs on the Chief Ladiga Trail but called for the city to deny funds for future bridge repairs.

There was a CLARIFICATION in the Friday, February 20 Anniston Star page 2A: A story published in Wednesday's edition of the Anniston Star should have been more clear regarding Piedmont Councilwoman Brenda Spears remarks about the bridge repairs on the Chief Ladiga Trail. Spears said that she supports paying for the bridge repairs inside the city limits and its police jurisdiction, and opposes being the lone funding source for trail bridge repairs in other parts of the unincorporated Calhoun County.

The Council approved to renew a \$250,000 line of credit with the F & M Bank at our last council meeting on February 17, 2015. Tonight's Bills of Payment include \$258,041.97 for electricity to (AMEA) Alabama Municipal Electric Authority. The February 17 payment to the F & M Bank for the \$250,000 line of credit incurred over a year ago was \$1,202.05 for the interest only, not the principal. This \$250,000 line of credit has been spent to pay mostly the city's AMEA electric bill. The city is now in future debt to the F & M Bank in the amount of \$250,000. Piedmont has a total of 140 full or part-time employees. The city administration has not made any serious efforts to amend the current budget. Mayor Baker, I am requesting that you submit to the council a plan to reduce our work force. After we pay 140 employees, it is apparent the city simply does not have enough money left to pay AMEA and other fixed costs. Thanks to the Street Department for keeping District 5 clear of curbside trash and limbs and other debris.

Thanks for a job well done to the Police and Fire and EMTS during the snow weather for February 25 & 26.

Mark Harper asked if there was a weather policy in writing. The Mayor told him no that he made the call on when the employees came in during inclement weather.

Terry Kiser said he has a road in his district that is in need of repair because of potholes.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor responded to Brenda Spears report of 140 employees by saying that the city does not have 140 employees. The Mayor stated that the city has 82 full time and 21 part time employees and during the summer the city hires temporary help for the pool and grass cutting. He also congratulated the Piedmont Boys Basketball Team and the Spring Garden Girls making it to the championship game. He thanked all the city employees for the work during the winter storm. He said the city has great employees. The Mayor also wished Terry Kiser a Happy Birthday.

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 7:26 pm.