

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
MARCH 17, 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 Mr. Keith Word and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. During discussion Brenda Spears asked that it be added to the minutes that Mayor Baker asked her to resign her council seat. Mayor Baker said that the minutes would be amended to put the argument in. Terry Kiser made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The bills totaling \$442,952.58 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 with two abstentions from Brenda Spears and Frank Cobb.

Next on the agenda Dr. Ben Ingram asked the council to consider scraping Crimson Trail and Cane Trail and filling in potholes and also installing fire plugs and run a water main on the north side of Crimson Trail.

The Mayor then made an appointment to the Housing Authority Board reappointing Mrs. Patty Glover to serve another five year term.

Next Mary Bramblett made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-04 which concerns the city health insurance provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The Resolution states that all city employees and retirees are to pay \$5.00 per week to help absorb the cost of the insurance. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the vote was 6 yeas and 1 abstention and Resolution 2015-04 carried for the \$5.00 employee and retiree increase.

Mary Bramblett made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-05 concerning the Calhoun Cleburne Mental Health Board. This Resolution states that the City of Piedmont does not have a member on this board. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Mayor called on Chief Norton to give the police report for the month of February 2015. Officers had 1815 total contacts with the public. There were 6 felony arrests, 23 misdemeanor arrests, 1 drug arrest, 1 crime against person arrest, 2 theft arrests and 10 court/warrant arrests. There were 42 citations written, 10 accident reports and 23 motorist assists. 8 violent crimes reported, 5 burglaries reported, 10 thefts reported, 17 cases investigated and 73 incident reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$16,557.96 in fines for the month of February 2015.

The Chief also gave the Animal Control report for the month of February 2015. There were 37 calls for service, 3 preliminary investigations, 2 follow-up investigations, 34 animals picked up, 1 animal returned to owner by ACO, 33 Animals took to the shelter, 21 strays, 12 surrendered by owner and 2 reclaimed at the shelter by the owner.

Abatement Officer Charles McDonald gave the abatement report for the month of February 2015. There were 36 total cases, 11 cases being processed, 5 cases with second notice sent, 4 cases completed and 2 contracts on buildings.

Charles McDonald also asked the Council to declare Riddle Ave. a public nuisance. Terry Kiser made the motion that Riddle Ave. be declared a public nuisance. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Chief Ledbetter gave the fire report for the month of February 2015. There were 4 structure fires, 4 automatic alarms, 2 false alarms, 6 woods/grass fires, 7 hazardous material calls, 7 vehicle accidents, 5 ambulance assists, 6 service calls and 4 burn permits issued.

Chief Ledbetter also asked for approval to purchase eleven sets of turnouts for the fire department to be reimbursed by the FEMA Equipment Grant and the cost of \$28,000.00. Mary Bramblett made the motion to purchase the turnouts. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business Brenda Spears made the motion to park all police vehicles that are driven out of the city limits. With no second to the motion the motion dies.

Brenda Spears then made the motion to park the administrative vehicles and the park and recreation vehicles. 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>
Brenda Spears	Ben Keller Mary Bramblett Frank Cobb Kenny Kelley Mark Harper Terry Kiser	None

Following the roll call the vote was 6 to 1 not to park the administration and park and recreation vehicles.

Terry Kiser asked for the floor and said that in his opinion two weeks ago was a total embarrassment to the employees, citizens and to the press. He said it was uncalled for. He said that if Mr. Cobb has a problem with the Mayor or Clerk that he should go behind closed doors and talk about it and not in an open meeting. Also if Mrs. Spears has a problem go behind closed doors and not in an open meeting. He

said he became a council member to do what is good for our town and not this way. He said the council should be a team working for the citizens and employees.

Ben Keller also said that he agrees with Terry, that he comes to the office and asks anything he needs to know. He said that two weeks ago was a disgrace. He said that if you have anything to say to the Mayor or Clerk go to the office

Terry Kiser made the motion to take bids on the garbage service for the city. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote by Frank Cobb.

Mark Harper made the motion to take bids on the grass cutting for the Highland Cemetery. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Visitor's Comments Lee Brooks owner of Booker T's asked the council to consider him for running the concession stand at the aquatic center.

Brenda Spears made the motion to bid out the concession stand at the aquatic center. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dan Freeman informed the council that there would be "Treasures on the Street" event the first Saturday of every month starting in April and asked if anyone had a problem with him having the event.

Laura Walters asked that a Children at Play sign be put on the 300 block of Piedmont Ave.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said a tree needed cutting on Church Street.

Mary Bramblett had no report.

Frank Cobb said that parts of the roof were leaking at the civic center.

Kenny Kelley had no report.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills for Payment for March 17, 2015 is \$442,952.58. The payroll and taxes for March 6 and March 13 is \$108,571.71. The total for tonight is \$551,524.29. The total for March 3 and March 17 is \$1,045,126.30.

On tonight's agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting on Tuesday, March 3, omitted that the Council Meeting and during a discussion of cost-saving measures, Mayor Baker asked me to resign from my elected position for District 5.

Resolution 2015-05 is changing the name of the Calhoun-Cleburne Mental Health Board to Highlands Primary Health Care and removing the City of Piedmont with an appointing authority because Piedmont does not contribute financially to the Board.

The city audit is done by Sanders and Associated. The Electric Department (Line Item 53000) is at 100% with an appropriation of \$11,250 as of February. The Administration (Line Item 40100) has an appropriation of \$11,250 and YTD has spent \$10,345 at 92%. Line item 40100 had on December 16, 2014 : \$3,845; January 20, 2015: \$16,643.75; February 17, 2015 : \$10,511.25; March 17, 2015 : \$6,500. Please give the Council an explanation of these expenditures.

In a work session on February 23, Bruce Dempsey discussed with the Council to reestablish a Utilities Board. I am requesting another work session to continue our discussion on this topic with Mr. Dempsey. During the Council Meeting on March 3, Councilman Mark Harper asked if there was a weather policy in writing. The Mayor said No that he makes the call on when employees come in during inclement weather. I would like the Clerk to develop a weather policy for future use, and the council to discuss and vote on it.

Mark Harper said that the council needed to work together and everyone had their own opinions and he would like to see a suggestion box put out for employees that might have any cost savings. He said if the garbage is not making money then the city needs to look at other options.

Terry Kiser thanked Ben Singleton for helping him with the Statement of Economic Interest.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor congratulated Taylor Hayes a tenth grader at Piedmont High School for setting the state strike of record in baseball.

He also reminded everyone that as of April 1st that all leaves should be bagged to be picked up.

He announced the Throttle King Car Club Show from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday March 21st.

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 8:22 pm.