

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PIEDMONT
MARCH 19TH, 2013
6:00 PM

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

Following the invocation given by Pastor David Cox of the Piedmont Church of God and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the Mayor asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Kenny Kelley made the motion to approve the agenda. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Billy Baker made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$461,440.61 were then presented for consideration for payment. Ben Keller made a motion that the bills be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Resolution 2013-03 (Calhoun County Emergency Operations Plan). This was a plan developed by the Calhoun County EMA. Mary Bramblett made the motion to approve Resolution 2013-03. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Resolution was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Housing Authority Board Appointment. This item was tabled to next meeting.

The Piedmont Health Care Board Appointment was next on the agenda. Mary Bramblett made the motion to appoint Aggie Harbour to the Health Care Board. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried with Billy Baker abstaining.

Danny Freeman was not able to attend meeting because of sickness in family.

Next Chief Tidwell gave the police report for the month of February 2013. Officers had 858 total contacts with public, 32 incident reports, 13 theft reports, 6 burglary reports, 70 UTC's, 7 accident reports, 43 motorist assists, 52 misdemeanor arrests, 3 DUI arrests, 2 drug arrests, 28 other arrests. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$15,463.89 in court fines for the month of February. Chief Tidwell also asked for monies to purchase drug report equipment. This would include the purchase of ipads and digital microscope. This money could also come from donations from community or other organizations.

Phillip Winkles with the Piedmont Rescue Squad gave an ambulance run data report for the month of February 2013 which consisted of call volume, dispatch reasons, average run times, and hospital transportations.

In other business Brenda Spears made the motion the Council minutes from November 1, 2008 till present be posted on the city website and thereafter all City Council minutes be posted within five days after being approved. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Brenda Spears also made the motion that all end of month revenues be included in the council packets with the list of monthly expenditures. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor then took control of the meeting and told everyone that he is back and he is tired of all the negativity that has been going on with the City. The Mayor told everyone that there will be a work session to discuss ALL problems that we have with the City. The meeting will be on Monday, April 1 at 5:30pm. The Mayor told the Council that he wanted all members to ride around entire city and discuss all City problems.

In Council reports Ben Keller expressed to the Council that we needed to move forward and to be looking ahead. We did not need to worry about past administrations because we are not them. Mr. Keller said lets all work together and get some work accomplished.

Mary Bramblett expressed that we are not a “bedroom” community and that we are a working one. We have to all work together and we have to have jobs for people to come. She thanked former Mayor Charlie Fagan for his vision in removing the columns from the downtown district.

Frank Cobb addressed the Council about moving forward. He said we will have to hold on to what we have. It is great that we have our own utilities, but we have to take care of them. He stated that we still need jobs in Piedmont.

Kenny Kelly thanked his pastor David Cox for coming to meeting. He appreciated the City workers for their work on the recent storm damage. He also told that he was glad that the city changed the propane tank out to the 500 gallon for generator on cable vision mountain.

Brenda Spears thanked Frank Cobb for serving as Mayor Pro tem. She also thanked Jeff Hanvey and Ricky Jackson in work they were doing on storm clean up. She also added the following:

I attended the Alabama League of Municipalities Legislative meeting in Montgomery on February 26, 2013. The speaker was Mr. Norris Green, Director of Legislative Fiscal Office. These are quotes I took from Mr. Green’s presentation. With Piedmont’s bond debt issues facing the Mayor and Council Members, I feel we need to look closely at these suggestions and follow our Governor and legislators lead.

1. Alabama has no rainy day funds.
2. Alabama has no surplus funds.
3. The legislature is working with a bare bones budget.
4. Alabama will spend only what revenues we are bringing in.
5. Alabama is facing hard decisions because it is what it is – unlike Washington, we cannot print money.
6. Alabama is still feeling the 2008 recession, and the legislature will make hard but intelligent decisions to serve the citizens.
7. “Buzz Words” from Montgomery 2013 are 1. Downsizing and 2. Cutting back.

Suggestions from the legislators for all municipalities for this fiscal year are the following:

1. Because of our economy and when the economy goes down, sales taxes and income taxes go too. Therefore, start the cut backs as soon as possible.
2. Save money by combining services – be creative.
3. Try to trim 15% to 22% from your budget.
4. Know what is bankrupting your city and start now being proactive.
5. Know where the FAT is in your budget and trim it.
6. Reduce workers’ pay.
7. Implement work furloughs.
8. Layoff workers.
9. Work fewer hours.
10. Look at overlapping ITT functions.
11. Combine software options.
12. Make graphs or pies to reflect where monies / expenditures are spent and another one where monies / revenues are coming in.
13. Make ALL spending records transparent.
14. Since today’s economy affects all people, make sure their voices are heard.

Billy Baker thanked Frank Cobb for being Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Baker also thanked Mayor Freeman for returning to his seat. He also thanked the City employees for the work they did during the recent storm.

Terry Kiser thanked the Mayor for his return and thanked Frank Cobb for filling in as Mayor Pro Tem. He also wanted to thank the City workers for their work on recent storm damage. He also wanted to thank Carl Hinton for help in getting Johnson Street cleaned up. Mr. Kiser said he received several calls thanking him for work on Johnson Street.

Mayor Freeman thanked Frank Cobb for filling in as Mayor in his absence. He also wanted to thank former Mayor Charlie Fagan for his help. He also wanted to thank all city workers for the great job that was done from the recent storm. He told everyone that bankruptcy will not happen and that we will come out of the ashes and there will be a different Piedmont. He told everyone about opening day at Sports Complex on April 6 and that there would be a city wide cleanup on April 13.

With no other business to come before the council Billy Baker made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.