

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
MARCH 5TH, 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 Pro-Tem Frank Cobb, Council Members Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker and Terry Kiser.

Mayor Freeman was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Rev. Charlie Parker of the Thankful Baptist Church and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the Mayor Pro-Tem asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Mary Bramblett made the motion to approve the agenda. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

The bills totaling \$168,284.45 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made a motion that the bills be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the rehiring of department heads. The Mayor Pro-Tem informed the council that Piedmont Volunteer Fire Chief Jimmy Trammell resigned effective March 5th, 2013. Billy Baker made the motion to accept the resignation of Chief Trammell. Brenda Spears seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Kenny Kelley. At this time Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb asked for a motion to fill the position with an interim fire chief and he asked the council to consider Mike Ledbetter who is the senior full-time paid firefighter with the department until a decision is made on the position. Terry Kiser made the motion that Mike Ledbetter be appointed as interim fire chief. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the Mayor Pro-Tem called for a roll call vote of the council.

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Ben Keller		Mary Bramblett
Brenda Spears		Kenny Kelley
Billy Baker		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call vote Mike Ledbetter was appointed as interim fire chief by majority vote of the council.

Mary Bramblett made the motion that Police Chief Steven Tidwell be retained in the position of Police Chief for the City of Piedmont. Ben Keller seconded the motion and Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb asked for a roll call vote of the council.

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller		
Mary Bramblett		
Kenny Kelley		
Brenda Spears		
Billy Baker		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call vote Chief Tidwell was retained as police chief by a unanimous vote of the council.

Billy Baker made the motion to retain Jeff Formby as the Park and Recreation Director for the City of Piedmont. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb asked for a roll call vote of the council.

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	Brenda Spears	
Mary Bramblett		
Kenny Kelley		
Billy Baker		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call vote Jeff Formby was retained as Park and Recreation Director by a majority vote of the council.

In other business Kenny Kelley made the motion to accept bids for the completion of the well project. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

In council reports Terry Kiser informed everyone that the Mayor would be back to work in two weeks. He told Mayor Pro-Tem Cobb that he had done a great job in his absence.

Billy Baker said he has been working with Ben Keller and Terry Kiser on some improvements to the Bethune Community Center. He said he hoped that another meeting could be scheduled in March. He said he was going to try to have Commissioner Rudy Abbott at the next meeting to see if the county could give some assistance around the area of the Bethune Center.

Brenda Spears said she was sworn in as a council member on November 5th, 2012 that was exactly four months ago. She said today looking back on her campaign handouts she reviewed what she told the voters. She stated that together we can make a difference. She stated responsible spending, better fiscal management of the city's money, accountability, confidence, courage, character, being an independent voice on the council. She stated that the council's board minutes, budgets, audit and all reports should be transparent and available to the citizens. She said she wants to move Piedmont forward every day and at every council meeting and with every council decision. She said that tonight March 5th, and as long as she represents district five she would continue to strive to work for these words and her actions. Kenny Kelley said that he had the privilege of working with Jimmy Trammell for 12 years on the fire department. He said he thought he did a great job as fire chief for the City of Piedmont and that he would always be a friend. He said he had worked with Mike Ledbetter for 12 years and he had also done a good job for the city. He also thanked Rev. Parker for coming from Gadsden, Al. to do the invocation. He said we all needed to work together to move Piedmont forward.

Mary Bramblett said that a new business was coming to Piedmont called Booker T's BBQ and that Ben Keller had worked very hard on getting the business here. She said it would be located on North Main

Street. She also stated that she wanted to set up an administrative committee meeting with the committee members and she would get with them on a time.

Ben Keller said he appreciated Mary Bramblett for working on getting the new adult day care business. He said that on Choccolocco Road the city has a Natural Gas Provided sign that needs to be redone and a phone number on it so if someone needed to get in touch with the gas department they could. He also thanked his pastor Rev. Charlie Parker for coming and giving the invocation.

In the Mayor's comments, Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Cobb encouraged citizens to attend council meetings and to contact council members with any comments. He also thanked Jimmy Trammell for his many years of service to the police and fire departments and dedication to the city. He thanked everyone for their help in making the fire department what it is now compared to what it was 20 years ago. Frank also welcomed Mike Ledbetter in as interim Fire Chief. He also thanked the employees of all departments for the work they do year round. Frank commented on Mayor Freeman's improving health and his stay in the hospital and asked that everyone to keep him in their thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

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 adjourned at 7:30 p.m.