

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

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 Richard Freeman, Council Members Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker, Terry Kiser and Ben Keller, who arrived five minutes late to the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Rev. Jerry Warren and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. 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 \$554,450.03 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved for payment as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears.

The Mayor asked Phillip Winkles with the Piedmont Rescue Squad to give a report. For the month of March 2013 there were 94 ambulance runs for the City of Piedmont.

In other business Mary Bramblett made the motion to have the sprinkler system at the old Piedmont Hospital checked to allow for a new business to be up to code to occupy the facility. The cost of the inspection would be \$5,000.00. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Terry Kiser made the motion to have council meeting on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm with no work session except when needed. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears and she stated that she liked having the work session.

Billy Baker made the motion to limit council district comments to 3 to 5 minutes. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the Mayor called for a roll call vote:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Ben Keller	Frank Cobb	None
Mary Bramblett	Brenda Spears	
Kenny Kelley		
Billy Baker		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call vote the motion carried with a 5 to 2 vote.

In council comments Ben Keller talked about setting up a meeting to discuss some improvements at the Bethune Center.

Mary Bramblett announced that the Resin Recycling will be coming to the old Springs 5<sup>th</sup> Ave plant in a couple of weeks and that it should provide 50 to 60 jobs. She said that she had several pot holes in her district that needed filling in and she also thanked Street Supervisor Ricky Jackson and the street workers for cutting the grass and cleaning ditches in her district.

Frank Cobb thanked the electrical department and the street department for the work they did during the recent storm and power outage. He said he had damage from the storm in his district but for the most part district 3 looked good. He also stated that the city needed to free up some money for repairs on the utilities.

Kenny Kelley thanked everyone that participated in the clean-up day that was held on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. He also commended Mrs. Sarah Ray who always gets out and cleans up trash in the neighborhood. He asked the street department to clean out the ditch that runs behind the Church of God and the Piedmont Housing Authority.

Brenda Spears stated that the Abatement Committee is Brenda Spears, Chair, with members Kenny Kelley and Terry Kiser. At the council meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mayor Freeman told Ms. Spears to meet with Chief Tidwell about police policies concerning abatement on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and to ask Mr. Kiser to be there also. We met at 11:00 am and Carl Hinton was called to help answer questions concerning past abatement issues. Neither Mayor Freeman nor Ms. Spears had the meeting posted or the press informed.

It was discussed that:

1. The Piedmont Policies passed under Mayor Charlie Fagan's administration and the Piedmont litter Policy are enforceable and fair.
2. The council should discuss a motion that would require property owners to have utilities recorded in their name. This will eliminate the problems of renters moving and owing the city unpaid utilities and leaving household furniture and garbage in the house or on the curb and will mean less nuisance abatement issues for the city.

Also, she wanted to thank the Municipal Court Judge for implementing the Community Service Program for qualifying defendants to work for the city as part of their sentence.

Billy Baker said he wanted to set up a recreation committee meeting to discuss using some of the bond money for improvements to Civic Center, Bethune Center and Park and Recreation. He reminded everyone of the Cheaha Challenge on Sunday. He thanked the city employees for the work they did during the storm and said he was glad we had a Mayor that was disaster conscious. He also stated that the new Calhoun County Animal Control Director would be at the next council meeting to answer questions about animal control in the city.

Terry Kiser thanked Lee Young for a donation he gave to the Piedmont Police Department. He also thanked Mrs. Bramblett for working on getting the new business in the city.

In the Mayor's comments he told everyone that Texas A & M would be here on April 20<sup>th</sup> to teach a disaster preparedness class and it would begin at 9:00 am. He informed everyone that the Heritage Day was canceled for April 20<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked the employees for being prepared for the storm. He also discussed a utility rate study to be done by Jackson and Thorton and that they would come to a council meeting in the near future.

With no other business to come before the council Billy Baker made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.