

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PIEDMONT

APRIL 20TH, 2010

5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Piedmont met in regular session at the time and on the date above. Present were Mayor Brian Young, Council Members John Lawrence, Mary Bramblett, Ed Hanson, Kenny Kelley, Eddie Baldwin and Billy Baker.

Brent Morrison was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Young declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Following the invocation given by Keith Word 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. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$451,850.13 were then presented for consideration for payment. Ed Hanson made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously.

The Mayor asked for approval to use Chase Payment Tech for credit card machines to be used in the utility payment department as well as municipal court and park and recreation. Kenny Kelley made the motion to approve Chase Payment Tech as the city's credit card machine provider. Ed Hanson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor then asked for the approval of the by-laws for the utility board. Ed Hanson made the motion to accept the by-laws that were established for the utility board. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the by-laws were approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the appointment for the Piedmont City School Board. The Mayor asked for nominations for the school board appointment. Ed Hanson nominated Michael Ingram after no other nominations Billy Baker moved that the nomination be closed. Kenny Kelly seconded the closing of the nomination. The Mayor asked for all in favor of Michael Ingram as the next school board member and the votes were as follows:

John Lawrence – No

Mary Bramblett- No

Ed Hanson – Yes

Kenny Kelley – Yes

Eddie Baldwin – No

Billy Baker – Yes

Mayor Young – Yes

Michael Ingram was appointed to a five year term.

The Mayor called on Chief Tidwell to give the police report for the month of March. Officers made a total of 1063 contacts with the public during the month. During the month officers made 28 misdemeanor arrests, 7 felony arrests and issued 120 citations. The department seized 3 meth labs during the month.

The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$16,202.68 for the month in fines.

Chief Tidwell also recognized Corporal Shannon Kelley for receiving the officer of the year award.

The Chief informed the council that the city could contract with the Etowah County Animal Shelter to take stray animals instead of using the Calhoun County Animal Shelter. He told the council that it would be closer and cheaper to use Etowah County and that Calhoun County was fine with the move. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the contract with Etowah County Animal Shelter. Ed Hanson made the motion and Kenny Kelley seconded the motion. The Etowah County contract was approved unanimously.

The Chief also informed the council of the increase in skateboarders on the city sidewalks. He encouraged the council to look at having a skateboard park for the kids to use instead of the sidewalks.

In other business the Mayor announced a 5% decrease in the electrical rates which would bring the residential kilowatt rate down to 9.50 cents per kilowatt. He also informed the council that this would be the lowest rate since July or August of 2008. He told the council that the residential base rate for sewer would increase to \$7.50, commercial base rate to \$9.50 and Industrial base rate would also increase to \$14.40.

In council reports John Lawrence had no report.

Mary Bramblett asked that the council come to a decision on the trees and sidewalk at Mrs. Bernice Green's home on 404 South Main Street. Billy Baker asked Public Works Director Carl Hinton if he had any estimates for removal of the trees and the repairs to the sidewalk. Carl informed the council that he had two estimates one was for \$14,500.00 and that includes cutting down three large trees and removing the stumps, removing two other existing stump and clearing away all of the debris. The next estimate was for \$6,800.00 which included the removal of the three trees, stumps and debris. If the city removed the debris the price would lower to \$6,000.00. To repair the sidewalk would cost anywhere from \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00. Carl informed the council that the sidewalk was bad but it was the same way on the opposite side of the street and in several other places in town. Mrs. Bramblett informed the council that Mrs. Green's husband was totally paralyzed and the city needed to help the Green's with this problem. After some discussion Mary Bramblett made the motion to remove the trees and repair the sidewalk at 404 South Main St. John Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ed Hanson reminded everyone about participating in the census.

Kenny Kelley had no report.

Eddie Baldwin had no report.

Billy Baker spoke about the great participation at the Cheaha Challenge.

In visitors comment one resident complained about her power being turned off twice in one month. The Mayor assured her that the situation would be looked into.

With no other business to come before the council Ed Hanson made the motion to adjourn.

Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Michelle Franklin, City Clerk