

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT  
JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

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 Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation given by Mr. Billy Lindsey 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. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$358,345.85 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved for payment. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "No" vote from Brenda Spears.

Mayor Freeman asked for consideration of Resolution 2013-07 which would change the time of the Municipal Court date from 3:00 pm to 9:00 am on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. This change will become effective on the first court date in August, 2013. Kenny Kelley made the motion to accept Resolution 2013-07. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor then asked for consideration of Resolution 2013-08 which would declare a Cushman Van and a 2001 Ford E 350 Van as surplus to be placed on Gov Deals and sold to the highest bidder or sealed bids will also be taken to sell the items. Kenny Kelley made the motion to accept Resolution 2013-08. Billy Baker seconded the motion and Resolution 2013-08 was accepted unanimously.

Next on the agenda the Mayor opened the floor for nominations for Piedmont School Board Member. Ben Keller nominated Keisha Mitchell and Terry Kiser nominated Connie Wheeler. Kenny Kelley made the motion that the nominations be closed. A roll call vote was taken for the two nominees and the vote was as follows:

**Keisha Mitchell**

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

**Connie Wheeler**

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

Next on the Agenda the Mayor opened the floor for nominations to appoint a Fire Chief for the Piedmont Fire Department. Terry Kiser made the nomination that Acting Fire Chief Mike Ledbetter be appointed as Fire Chief. Ben Keller seconded the nomination. The Mayor asked for any other nominations. Frank Cobb made the motion that the nominations be closed. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and Mike Ledbetter was appointed Fire Chief unanimously.

Next Electrical Superintendent Casey Ponder spoke to the council about the proposed utility policy for the City of Piedmont. After some discussion the policy was tabled until the City Attorney to review the policy.

The Mayor asked for a motion to terminate the animal control contract with Calhoun County. The terms of the contract are a 30 day notice for termination. After some discussion by the council Terry Kiser made the motion to terminate the contract with Calhoun County for animal control services. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and a roll call vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the council voted 5 to 2 to terminate the contract with the county.

The Mayor called on Chief Tidwell to give the police report for the month of May, 2013. Officers made a total of 1003 contacts with the public including motorist assists. There were 9 felony arrests, 44 misdemeanor arrests, 2 DUI arrests, 14 drug arrests, 7 crimes against persons arrests, 4 theft arrests, 10 court/warrants arrests and 14 other arrests. There were 88 citations, 2 accident reports and 42 motorists' assists. There was 1 violent crime reported, 6 burglaries reported, 23 thefts reported, 52 cases investigated, 90 incident reports.

Fire Chief Mike Ledbetter gave the fire report for the month of May, 2013. There were 5 structure fires, 5 structure related calls. 1 car wreck and 3 service calls. Chief Ledbetter also thanked the council for voting him in as fire chief.

Next Phillip Winkles from the Piedmont Rescue Squad gave the report for May, 2013. 119 total ambulance runs were made in the city limits and the average run times was enroute 1 minute and 16 seconds and to the scene was 3 minutes and 32 seconds.

Frank Cobb made a motion to allow Electrical Superintendent Casey Ponder and Electrical Supervisor Phillip Johnson to sell surplus that is not in use from the substations and to get bids for regulators to make needed repairs to the electrical substation. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In visitors comments Vincent Cottrell asked the council to consider a proposal for volunteers of the city to have radios to patrol places where the young people are so they can have recreation and play basketball. He said the radios could be used to advise police of any unsafe or criminal activity.

Lisa O'Conner from the Cash Advance informed the council that her business would be open July 1<sup>st</sup>. Lori Walters asked that something be done about the ditch on Piedmont Ave. that is flooding her yard. A representative from Blue Line Technology was asked by the Mayor to come back to the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to give his presentation.

In council reports Ben Keller said that he had a fire hydrant in his district that was leaking and needed repair. He also said that Lee Brooks with the Booker T's BBQ will be coming soon.

Mary Bramblett thanked Vincent Cottrell for his Piedmont City Watch Proposal. She said that she picked Jerry and Ann Rainey for the yard of the month and had put the sign in their yard.

Frank Cobb said he put his yard of the month sign in William and Hazel Martins yard at 196 Gunter Street. He said he was also still having an abatement issue on Logan Street that needs to be addressed.

Kenny Kelley said he would be putting his yard of the month sign up in the next week. He said Carl Hinton was working on his street signs for his district. He also said if you have a neighbor that can't cut their grass help them out and cut it for them.

Brenda Spears said that the City Clerk is the custodian of the city's public records and the secretary for council's accurate notes at sessions and meetings. On June 3, 2013, she said she requested in writing the February to May single page utility sheets. From the Mayor's order, the Clerk denied her request for public records on Friday, June 14. From this action, in her opinion, she said she is being harassed and intimidated by them. The public has the right to public records unless denied for exact and specific reasons. She said she called the League of Municipality in Montgomery and Piedmont's City Attorney, Ron Allen that afternoon for legal advice. She said Mr. Allen assured her that she will receive but have to pay for any information she asks for in the future from the Clerk. She stated that all agenda meetings since November 2012 to June 4, 2013 have had the separate heading listed Other Business. The council voted in early 2013 to discontinue separate business meetings. All topics for discussion would be done under the line item Other Business. The only way council members and visitors at the meetings can hear council comments, concerns, and questions on city topics or issues is having Other Business on the agenda for our scheduled monthly meetings. On June 12, she said she requested in writing to the Mayor, the Council, and Clerk that five items be placed on the June 18 agenda under Other Business. Other Business was deleted from this meeting's agenda. She said if the Clerks job is to prepare the council's agenda, and she made her requests in writing and in a timely manner why was Other Business omitted for this specific meeting and her discussion items?

She stated that having the Mayor's permission to use the council chambers for a District 5 Meet and Greet the Voters, She is rescheduling the meeting from Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm with the date and time to be announced later.

She also stated that she agrees with Billy Baker's June 4<sup>th</sup> comments that this administration has been difficult and not working together and we, the council, will have a difficult three years with nothing being accomplished if we do not turn it around. She said that all problems and city issues need to be transparent and discussed openly in council meetings and in front of visitors as concerned citizens.

Billy Baker said that he was informed by Mrs. Spears that Jack Holder from the Welcome Center needed some supplies such as t-shirts.

Terry Kiser said that he has been working hard in his district. He said that the yard of the month for his district was Mr. Formby at 605 Johnson Street.

In the Mayor's comments Mayor Freeman thanked Joey Spivey and the First Methodist Church young people for coming to the downtown and painting the gazebo. He said that he had talked to Trudy Loy and she said that some of the downtown businesses would be buying shrubs and baskets to go in the flower beds and on the gazebo. He said that Tweeners had opened up and it was doing great and

hopefully the new recycling plant would be opening soon. He said that we needed positive things going on downtown and working together. He also stated that the League of Municipalities said that having Other Business on the agenda was not a violation of the Open Meeting Act. He stated that he had a lot of projects in mind for the city. He also said that if anyone wanted to annex into the city they could come by the City Clerk's Office and pick up a form.

With no other business to come before the council Billy Baker made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.