

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

JUNE 4, 2013

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

Kenny Kelley was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Rev. Carlos Farmer 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. At this time a roll call vote was taken due to Brenda Spears and Frank Cobb objecting to the vote in the previous meeting on May 21st, 2013 pertaining to Kenny Kelley making a motion and Ben Keller seconding the motion to make Billy Baker Mayor Pro-tem. Both sighted that they had talked with the Alabama League of Municipalities and that they objected to the vote concerning procedural irregularities and not follow Roberts Rules of Order. The roll call vote was as follows:

<u>YEAHS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	Frank Cobb	
Mary Bramblett	Brenda Spears	
Billy Baker	Terry Kiser	
Mayor Freeman		

Following the roll call vote the minutes were approved as presented.

The bills totaling \$89,461.64 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved for payment. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment unanimously.

Next on the agenda Joan Sanders for Sanders and Associates gave a report of the city's 2012 audit.

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept Resolution 2013-06 for a back to school sales tax holiday on the first weekend of August, 2013. Billy Baker made the motion to accept Resolution 2013-06. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and Resolution 2013-06 was accepted unanimously.

The Mayor then appointed Debra Ledbetter to the Piedmont Housing Authority Board to fill the vacancy after Lori Ray's term had expired in March of 2013.

Brenda Spears nominated Frank Cobb to serve as the Election Committee Representative for the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority representing the City of Piedmont. Terry Kiser seconded the nomination and the nomination was unanimous.

Danny Freeman from the Piedmont Community Council spoke to the council about working together and stop the fighting and bickering among the council members because it was killing the community. Next Teresa Morgan spoke to the council about the need for animal control and speeding on Cherry St.

In other business Billy Baker thanked Danny Freeman for coming and he said he would have to agree with him that this has been a difficult administration and he was not pointing fingers at anyone. He said he didn't see the working together that he had experienced on other councils and he said we needed to turn it around and if we didn't the council would have three more difficult years with nothing being accomplished.

Billy Baker made the motion to change the fire department policy on burn permits from getting permits by districts to a citizen coming to the fire department to get a permit to burn. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In visitors comments Sabrina Minton from Lover's By Glover announced that they would be having a downtown event on June 29, 2013 with vendors and charging a small set up fee and the proceeds would go to Relay for Life.

In Council comments Ben Keller said that limbs needed to be trimmed on Center Ave. and that there was trash in the alley of Church Street that needs picking up.

Mary Bramblett said that tall grass was an issue in her district and that she feels the city needs to start fining the people that don't cut their grass.

Frank Cobb said there was some issues with a bad smell coming from a house on Southern Ave. and the neighbors were complaining about and also a drain in the back alley needs cleaning out.

Brenda Spears said a district 5 instant response concern was brought up during the FEMA training session on April 20th, 2013. She said she was going to speak to the business owner for safety precautions and the Fire Chief and Police Chief. She said she would share the information with the council before the next FEMA class in six months. She stated that after approval from Mayor Freeman she is having a District 5 Town Hall Meeting or Meet and Greet with voters on Thursday, July 18th, 2013 at 6 PM at the council chambers. She said the nuisance abatement issues are still a high concern for her. As abatement chair, she has only received the following documented sheets. She said the Mayor may have received some sheets directly that she was not aware of. District 1=0, District 2=6, District 3=17, District 4=6, District 5=18, District 6=3, District 7=6.

She said the Mayor told her that he prioritizes the abatement sheets as he receives them. She has no control on who receives the nuisance abatement letters for violation of structures or yards. Mayor Freeman enforces the abatement codes and ordinances for Piedmont per State Code of Alabama.

She said she also learned so much at the State Convention in classes and training sessions from May 18th-21st in Montgomery. She stated that according to the League of Municipalities advice, our council meetings agenda for Other Business must be listed and specific for topics to be discussed. If items to be discussed are not listed, then the meeting is in part violation of the OMA, Open Meetings Act. Starting at our next council meeting and all future meetings, the Mayor and each council member should turn in any and all items to be discussed to the City Clerk in time to be included and listed on the agenda for our Friday packets.

Billy Baker informed the council that he had turned in more than 3 abatement sheets. He thanked the street department for getting the work orders done that he has turned in.

Terry Kiser said he agreed with Mr. Danny Freeman that the council all needs to work together and he said he was willing to help anyway he could.

In Mayor's comments he said that he had a meeting with the Piedmont landlords and it was a very productive meeting. He said they would be meeting again on Monday, June 10th at 6:00 pm. at the council chambers. He said he appreciated the city workers and the hard work they have done so far. He told the council to pick up their signs for yard of the month. He also reminded everyone that the next Friday is Flag Day and that everyone put out a flag.

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 7:14 pm.

Michelle Franklin, City Clerk