

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

JULY 1ST, 2014

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 Bill Baker, Council Members Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Mark Harper and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation given by Frank Cobb and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Frank Cobb made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$385,971.10 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote by Brenda Spears.

Next the Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2014-05 which would authorize the Industrial Development Board to sign over the deed to Industrial Partners located at 470 Nances Creek Industrial Park Blvd. The building was leased in 1990 to Industrial Partners and the bonds have been satisfied. Frank Cobb made the motion to accept Resolution 2014-05. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business Ruby Stockdale asked the Council to pay \$16,400.00 to replace the fire sprinkler system at the old hospital where she would like to put an adult day care facility. She also said she would like to purchase the building from the city after she had been in there for six months.

Facilities Manager Craig Russell gave the Council a report for the first month of the Aquatic Center. Total income as of June 30th was \$27,941.00, total salaries, \$10,331.00, Chemical and pool expense, \$2,053.00 and utility cost was \$7,679.00. Total pool passes sold was 5,234.

Kenny Kelley discussed the possibility of adding on extra garbage customers in the police jurisdiction.

In Council Reports Ben Keller thanked the street department for cleaning the cemetery on Church Street.

Mary Bramblett said the street department is doing a good job keeping the grass cut in the city.

Frank Cobb asked how many more fire hydrants needed to be repaired and Jesse McKnight responded that about 50% were already repaired.

Kenny Kelley commented about the RV Park meeting and that he hopes the city can get started on it soon.

Brenda Spears council comments: The bills for payment for July 1 were \$385,971.10 with payroll and taxed for 6/20 and 6/27 were \$124,195.90 for a total of \$510,167.00

The Utilities revenue for Piedmont is very important. In our June 17 packet, the Bank Account Balance at Farmers and Merchant Bank for the WGS Fund was \$58,007.88. The balance in tonight's packet for the WGS Fund is \$702.52.

I would like to have in writing how the tax deductible donations to the new Cemetery Fund established June 2014 at the F & M Bank by Mayor Baker will be appropriated and used and to include that the account and a balance cannot be closed without council approval.

I would like for Mayor Baker to present to the council options for the City of Piedmont's financial participation in the McClellan Development Authority and includes the other Calhoun County municipalities and their participation. The MDA'S vision for short term and long term development will help Piedmont grow and prosper.

Under "Other Business" at the June 17 council meeting, I have concerns that the new knuckle boon truck and the new garbage truck were not going to bid out. By law, a bidding process has to be followed. I know that the city needs this equipment. My problem is that it was brought up under "Other Business" and in less than five minutes the council voted to spend almost \$400,000 on these two pieces of equipment. I asked to table the motion until more information could be provided to the council and put on the agenda at the July 1 meeting for discussion and a vote. My motion to table did not get a second. When the vote was taken, I abstained.

To all Piedmont citizens and especially the city employees, have a safe July 4th holiday. The City of Jacksonville is hosting a fireworks display on Thursday, July 3 at 9 PM on the JHS campus. All are invited to come and enjoy the fireworks!

Mark Harper had no report.

Terry Kiser thanked Craig Russell for the pool report.

In Mayor's Comments the Mayor said that he could open the cemetery fund after the minutes were approved. He said he hopes that the city will not need the cemetery fund and that the roads will be repaired soon. The Mayor said in response to Brenda Spears comments on the garbage and knuckle boom truck that the truck had broken down and that he didn't feel we could wait to purchase the truck. He said he didn't think we could wait two weeks to table something when we have to pay \$6,000.00 a month to rent. He said we are running a city and we have to provide the city services. The Mayor then asked for a motion to reappoint Lee Young to the Electric Cities Board. Mary Bramblett made the motion to reappoint Lee Young. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The Mayor then asked for a motion on whether or not to have Troy University come for a cost cutting financial analysis. Frank Cobb made the motion not to go with Troy or JSU for consulting. Mark Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears. The Mayor asked the Council if July 14th, at 6:00pm would be a good time to have another budget meeting. All the Council agreed to the meeting.

With no other business to come before the Council Terry Kiser made a motion to adjourn. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.