

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

JULY 2ND, 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 Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Billy Baker and Terry Kiser.

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 \$284,184.16 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 with one "NO" vote from Brenda Spears.

Mayor Freeman asked for consideration of Resolution 2013-09 which would allow the city to apply for a Community Development Block Grant through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs for a sewer rehabilitation project to serve local residents. The amount of the grant to be applied for is \$450,000.00 with a local match from the city of \$76,460.00. Kenny Kelley made the motion to adopt Resolution 2013-09. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and Resolution 2013-09 was adopted unanimously.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve an off-premises beer and wine application for the Piedmont Texaco. Billy Baker made the motion to approve the application for Piedmont Texaco. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the application was approved unanimously.

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the City's revised utility policy which would raise the amount renters pay for new service and instead of being a fee it would be a deposit which would allow the renter to receive the deposit back if the bill is paid in full at time of departure. After some discussion and an approval from the City Attorney that the policy was legal a roll call vote was taken and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call vote the utility policy was approved.

Kenny Kelley made the motion to allow the public safety to do an upgrade on the communication system and purchase equipment through McCord Communications at the amount of \$3,486.41. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Mayor asked for a motion to allow the city employees to be off July 5th, 2013 for an added day for the 4th of July holiday. Billy Baker made the motion to allow the city employees to have the extra day off. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

In visitors comments Trudy Loy from Guttery Insurance told the council that she and Steven Glover from Lover's By Glover solicited 18 businesses in the city to landscape the mini park downtown and only four donated to the cause. The four were Dr. Ulrich, Mike Douglas with State Farm, Noble Bank and Mayor Freeman. She thanked the city employees for the new curbing around the flower beds and the First United Methodist Youth Group for painting the gazebo. She thanked Brenda Spears and Frank Cobb for coming to the downtown event the previous Saturday.

Andy Bonds asked that the city look into cutting a tree down at the corner of Vanderbilt Street and Riddle Ave.

Keith Word thanked the City of Piedmont for sending flowers when his Mother in Law passed away. He also thanked City Clerk Michelle Franklin, Casey Ponder and Carl Hinton for coming to the service.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said a house at 210 East Ladiga Street was an abatement issue and needed cleaning around the property.

Mary Bramblett said she appreciated everything everyone did on the habitat house and that it was a very moving ceremony.

Frank Cobb said he had complaints about abandoned houses and he had four on Taylor Street and two on Southern Ave.

Kenny Kelley said he picked two ladies for the yard of the month. He said one reason is that they live right beside each other and both yards are beautiful. His picks were Ms. Sally Sanford and Jackie Ledbetter on Wolfe Ave.

Brenda Spears said she appreciated the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority and CEO, Fred Clark, for awarding an AMEA Scholarship to a deserving senior in her neighborhood, Miranda Casey, who will be attending the University of Alabama in the fall. She said her June yard of the month was Jeff and Amy Knapp on 112 Calhoun Street. She stated that she is asking the Mayor and Council to follow Roberts Rules of Order and Ordinance 598. All council members should feel free to add agenda items and vendors to upcoming council meetings. I have asked for a representative from Municode for updating Piedmont ordinances from 2008 and topics for budget concerns and possible money saving measures for past agendas and each has not been added for discussion. She stated that as nuisance abatement chairman she is asking the Mayor for the names and addresses by districts of all abatement letters mailed as of today, July 2. She said she is also asking the Mayor or Abatement Officer to inform the council of addresses where city employees tear down or do work on property concerning nuisance abatement issues before the work is done for council notification and or approval. I am asking the Mayor or Abatement Officer to mail second nuisance abatement letters as registered letters. The cost is more but we must be specific with notifications for possible legal issues. She said she was asking the Mayor for the public to have a chance to voice their opinions and concerns at council meetings before an Animal Control Officer is hired. The animal control issue has been brought up at several council meetings lately and is very important to me as a council member and concerned citizens in the area. She also thanked Lois Walters for coming to the July 2 meeting with pictures of her flooded yard and neighborhood. She said a picture is worth a thousand words and according to Ms. Walters, many calls of this problem to city hall. Thanks to city employees who cleaned out the ditch at Piedmont Ave. and Calhoun St. She said in her opinion, if the city employees cleaned out one ditch or drain pipe per week in the city limits, would it take 26 or 52 weeks to help our neighborhoods with similar problems?

Billy Baker said his yard of the month for June was David and Judy Wallace. He also said the Benevolence Center needed a new member and asked the council to be thinking of a good person to go on the board. Terry Kiser said his yard of the month was Paul Formby at 605 Johnson Street. He said that the Police Department did a fine job at the Jack's Restaurant Robbery. He said within three hours the police had the suspect caught and behind bars. He also said that everyone needed to stay focused and get one project done and then move on to another one.

In the Mayor's comments Mayor Freeman addressed the amount of roadblocks that were taking place in Piedmont from out of town people. He asked that at the next meeting the council vote for Chief Tidwell to review the roadblock solicitations and then bring them to the council for approval. He said that abatement letters had been sent out.

The Mayor also asked for approval for the street department to purchase a new Z9604 Zero turn mower with a 60 inch deck at the price of \$9,824.00. This would replace a fifteen year old mower at the street department. Billy Baker made the motion to purchase the new mower. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In closing the Mayor wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July and said to remember all the people who gave their lives. He also asked the council members that had their citizen of the month people there to recognize them. Billy Baker recognized Mrs. Sarah Ray who has for 15 years walked the neighborhood picking up trash to help keep the neighborhood clean. Mary Bramblett recognized Mrs. Charlotte Adderhold as her citizen of the month stating that she is always active in helping with school events and booster club projects.

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 7:02 pm.