

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
AUGUST 18, 2015

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, Brenda Spears and Terry Kiser.

Kenny Kelley and Mark Harper were absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Rev. Rodney Ragsdale and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Terry Kiser made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$270,793.15 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the bills were approved with one "no" vote by Brenda Spears.

The Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2015-17 which is an abatement resolution to demolish a house on 601 Morgan Ave. Terry Kiser made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-17. Ben Keller seconded the motion and Resolution 2015-17 passed unanimously.

The Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2015-18 which is an abatement resolution to demolish a house on 513 Riddle Ave. Mary Bramblett made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-18. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and Resolution 2015-18 passed unanimously.

The Mayor then asked for consideration of Resolution 2015-19 which is an abatement resolution to cut the grass on the property at 127 Taylor St. Frank Cobb made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-19. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and Resolution 2015-19 was adopted unanimously.

Next on the agenda Chief Norton informed the Council that he had run a background check on Jennifer South to obtain a beer and wine license for the Solid Rock Café. He said that there was no criminal history for Mrs. South that would cause her not to be able to obtain the license from the ABC Board. Ben Keller made the motion to approve the beer and wine application for the Solid Rock Café. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	None	None
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Brenda Spears		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call the beer and wine application for the Solid Rock Café was approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda Mr. Kevin Fagan asked the Council to do an automatic renewal on the Aquatic Concession Stand and also to do the same contract with the city's building that was formally the Mexican restaurant. Mr. Fagan said he would like to open it back up as a restaurant with the same percentage contract that he has on the Aquatic Concession Stand. After some discussion about the two issues Brenda Spears made a motion to table the automatic renewal of the Aquatic Concession Stand. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the vote was 3 nays and 2 yeas not to table the automatic renewal for the Aquatic Concession Stand.

Ben Keller made the motion to do the automatic renewal for the Aquatic Concession Stand for the next year. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	None	Mary Bramblett
Frank Cobb		
Brenda Spears		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call the vote was 4 yeas and 1 abstention to allow the automatic renewal for the Aquatic Concession Stand for the next year.

The Mayor then called on Chief Norton to give the police report for the month of July, 2015. There were 5 felony arrests, 28 misdemeanor arrests, 1 DUI arrest, 4 crimes against persons arrests, 1 theft arrest, and 12 court/warrant arrests. There were 34 citations, 8 accident reports and 31 motorist assists. There were 4 violent crimes reported, 9 burglaries reported, 23 thefts reported, 29 new cases investigated and 122 incident reports. There were 235 rescue calls dispatched, 22 fire calls dispatched and a total of 2117 calls to the communications center. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$19,626.00 in fines for the month of July, 2015.

Chief Norton then gave the Piedmont Animal Control report for the month of July, 2015. There were 33 calls for service, 1 preliminary investigation, 1 follow-up investigation, 40 animals picked up, 40 took to the animal shelter, 37 strays/animals at large, 3 surrendered by owner and 4 reclaimed at the shelter by owner.

Next Abatement Officer Charles McDonald gave the Nuisance and Abatement report for the month of July, 2015. There were 49 cases new and on-going, 7 total new yard cases, 1 new house case, 10 cases being processed, 9 cases with second notice sent, 14 cases completed, 4 community service workers, 2 contracts on building and 3 court appearances.

In Other Business, Brenda Spears asked if the Robert's House sale had gone through and the Mayor said he would discuss that in his comments. Mrs. Spears asked City Attorney Ron Allen if he had looked into

the man that was quoted in the Anniston Star as leading the efforts to start the bingo back. She stated that he had been convicted of two felony misdemeanor charges and had served prison time, and she asked the attorney if he could be actively involved in bringing the bingo back to Piedmont.

Brenda Spears also asked if the city had been notified by ADEM about a problem at the pool. The Mayor stated that the problem had been corrected. She also asked if the city had been notified by ADEM concerning the RV Park.

Mary Bramblett asked that the double parking be stopped at the back of the aquatic center in case an emergency vehicle needs to have access to the pool.

Frank Cobb said that he appreciated what the county does for paving in the city but he thinks the city needs to get a bond issue to pay for paving up to 10 or 15 miles throughout the city.

In Visitor's Comments Kenneth Stewart asked the council if there was a decision made about moving his doublewide home to Chapel Road. Mary Bramblett made the motion to allow the move to Chapel Road. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Attorney Heather Fann a former resident of Piedmont spoke to the Council about the anti-discrimination Resolution that was proposed to the Council by the LGBT. She asked the Council to give consideration to the Resolution.

Rev. Rodney Ragsdale spoke out against the Resolution for the LGBT.

Next Mr. and Mrs. Tim Cowan and Aubrey Cowan asked the Council to consider opening the road at the end of Oak Ridge Lane to allow them access to their property where a house is being built. The Cowan's stated that this is a dedicated city road and all they want is for it to be opened for their access.

In Council Comments, Ben Keller thanked Charles McDonald and all the city workers for doing a good job for the work that has been done on Church St. He also asked about getting lights put up on the ballfield at the Bethune Center.

Mary Bramblett said she would also like to see the lights put up at the Bethune ballfield.

She thanked County Commissioner Lee Patterson for tar and graveling the Highland Cemetery. She also asked that everyone drive carefully Thursday morning for the first day of school.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Brenda Spears Council Comments:

The Bills for Payment for council tonight is \$270,793.15. The payroll and taxes for August 7 was \$59,605.23 and the week of August 14 was \$58,510.11. The total for tonight's council approval is \$388,908.49. The total spent for August 4 and August 18 is \$787,819.05.

At the August 4 council meeting, the motion passed for moving the Roberts' house to the property behind the Piedmont Museum pending the sale of the property for Norfolk Southern Railroad to the city AND pending all city code inspections necessary for the new site. The city must enforce its codes for drainage and electrical pole and access to city right-of way. I support the relocation of the Roberts' house only if the city codes are enforced by the mayor and approved by the council.

I was informed on July 3 that Booker Tee's had not paid any city sales taxes since January 2015. Why wasn't the council informed and involved in decisions to get this financial problem solved before the restaurant closed in June? As a council, where is our responsibility to the taxpayers?

An issue has been brought to the mayor and council's attention about city owned right-of-way property and the Cowans' adjoining private property. I hope the mayor will keep the council informed in a timely manner concerning this issue.

I have turned in work orders for Animal Control and Abatement for Riddle Avenue and the Street Department for limbs on Center Avenue.

Lee Patterson, County Commissioner for District 5, has approved Vanderbilt Street for the one street in my district to be paved.

Terry Kiser thanked County Commissioner Lee Patterson for paving the roads.

In the Mayor's Report, the Mayor informed the Council that Booker T's was turned over to the court for legal action.

He also said that the Cowan property was with the attorneys.

He informed the Council that the Roberts House would fit on the property behind the museum and all codes had been met.

With no other business to come before the Council, Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.