

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

AUGUST 4, 2015

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 Rev. Michael Ingram and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. During the July 21<sup>st</sup>, meeting a motion was made not to move the Roberts House to the location behind the museum. Following a roll call vote of two yeas and four abstentions the clerk said the motion didn't carry. After speaking with the Alabama League of Municipalities Attorney the decision was that the vote in fact did carry and the Roberts house would not be relocated behind the Piedmont Museum. Brenda Spears made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The bills totaling \$272,339.31 were then presented for consideration for payment. Ben Keller made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously.

Next Abatement Officer Charles McDonald asked that the Council table Resolution 2015-14 which pertains to the nuisance and abatement of 213 Harris Ave. S. He said there was a controversy on who actually owns the property. Terry Kiser made the motion to table Resolution 2015-14. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and Resolution 2015-14 was tabled.

Charles McDonald then asked the Council to approve Resolution 2015-15 that pertains to the nuisance and abatement of 0 US 278 Cedartown Highway which is an overgrown empty lot. Kenny Kelley made the motion to approve Resolution 2015-15. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Charles McDonald also asked the Council to declare 604 Morgan Ave. a public nuisance. Ben Keller made the motion to declare 604 Morgan Ave. a public nuisance. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Mark Harper moved that the city sell the piece of the land to the Historical Society pending the sale of the property from Norkfolk Southern Railroad to the City and also pending the approval of all inspectors to move the Robert's House to the property. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the Clerk for a roll call and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	Frank Cobb	NONE
Mary Bramblett	Kenny Kelley	
Brenda Spears	Terry Kiser	
Mark Harper		

Following the roll call vote of 4 yeas and 3 nays, the Robert's House was voted to be moved to the property behind the Piedmont Museum pending the sale of the property from Norfolk Southern Railroad to the City and pending all inspections necessary.

Next on the agenda Melody Studdard spoke to the council and read a letter from a LGBT youth that lives in Piedmont. The discussion turned to rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. Ms. Studdard then presented the Council with a Resolution that would include sexual orientation and sexual identity. Several comments were made on the subject by the audience, including, Tori Wolfe-Sisson from the Human Rights Organization, Ashley Cherry, the mother of Ashley Cherry, and Keri Roberts in support of the Resolution. Others that spoke out against the Resolution were, Rev. Michael Ingram, Rev. Rodney Ragsdale, James Rosser, Pat Smith, John Haney, Ronnie Kirkpatrick and Harold Martin. City Attorney Ron Allen stated that this needed to come from a federal, state and then municipalities.

In Other Business the Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2015-16 which would vacate a cul de sac on a portion of Crimson Trail requested by Geoffrey and Amanda Cobb. Mary Bramblett made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-16. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Visitor's Comments Mr. Kenneth Stewart asked to be allowed to move his doublewide trailer to Chapel Road. The Mayor told him to speak with Carl Hinton and let Carl come back to the Council with more information.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said a tree on Church Street needed to be cut down.

Mary Bramblett said the sign had not been put up yet on the Safe Route to School sidewalk to keep trucks from driving on it.

Frank Cobb asked for an update on the paving to which the Mayor replied that each council person would be getting a street paved in their district.

Kenny Kelley said that we needed to make a decision about the garbage and also needed more patrolling on Dink Moore Dr.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment for council tonight is \$272,339.31. The payroll and taxes for July 24 was \$64,250.99; July 31 payroll and taxes was \$62,320.26. The total for council's approval is \$398,910.56.

I campaigned for Responsible Spending. I have asked the mayor to have work sessions to amend the budget. The fiscal budget is from October 1 to September 30. The council's approved Fiscal Budget for 2014-2015 was over \$11.6 million dollars. The Bills of Payment and Payroll and Taxes as of the July 18, 2015 council meetings come to over \$10.3 million dollars.

I gave the clerk the information concerning the Alabama Food Cottage Law. This topic was discussed at the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention in May. SB 159 sets the standards that protects the public's health with food items sold at public venues. SB 159 was passed on June 1, 2014.

The mayor gave the city employees extra time off on Friday, July 3 at noon. According to the AL League of Municipalities counsel, the mayor has the authority to grant time off, but he does not have the authority to pay them. The council is the only governing body that can approve time off with pay to city employees at a council meeting or a called council meeting. This is Code of Alabama: Section 11-43-56. This states that the council is responsible for all finances and fiscal budget.

Anniston Star July 29, 2015:

'City Council Could Decide to Bring Bingo Back to Piedmont'

According to this article, the man who is quoted as “leading the effort” to bring bingo back to Piedmont was convicted in 1995 in Calhoun County Circuit Court for two Class A misdemeanors and sentenced to prison. I would like a legal opinion for our City Attorney concerning his efforts to get back bingo. I asked the city clerk in December 2012 for a City Employee’s Handbook and never received one. With the information that Mr. Harper requested in our tonight’s packet, I again am asking for a handbook for my own use.

Thanks to the PFD for their response to the fire Saturday, August 2 on Calhoun Street.

Mark Harper thanked Commissioner Lee Patterson for the paving that he was going to do for the city.

Terry Kiser thanked Commissioner Lee Patterson and the Mayor for the streets that will be paved in each district. He also said he was glad the RV Park was started.

In the Mayor’s Comments the Mayor thanked No Worries Kayak Rentals and Cumberland Presbyterian Church Youth Group for organizing a Terrapin Creek clean-up day. He thanked the police, fire and rescue for the hard work they did getting the house fire out on Calhoun Street. He informed the Council that the RV Park was being laid out and that the city would probably start with 10 to 15 camping spots close to the creek.

He also commented on Brenda Spears council comments saying that there would not be a budget meeting while the budget committee is meeting and that he also sent out an email to each councilmember about letting the city employees off for two hours for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. He said that the employees deserve it and that whoever complains about it should ride the back of a garbage truck in 100 degree weather.

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 8:07 pm.