

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

AUGUST 6TH, 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 Pro Tem Billy Baker, Council Members Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley and Terry Kiser.

Mayor Freeman and Brenda Spears were absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Keith Word and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes from previous meetings was presented for consideration. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the minutes from previous meetings be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$530,472.52 were then presented for a consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the bills were approved with one "no" vote from Frank Cobb.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baker asked for consideration of Resolution 2013-10 which is the Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Public Transportation funded from the Alabama Department of Transportation. This includes a local match of 50% for operating expenses and 20% for administration and capital expenses. The local match is shared with other participating municipalities. The City of Piedmont commits the amount of \$25,192.00 as local non-federal match for capital, administrative and operations expenditures during Fiscal Year 2014. Frank Cobb made the motion to accept Resolution 2013-10. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the resolution passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker then called on Chief Ledbetter to give the fire report for June 2013 and July 2013. In June there was 1 structure fire, 4 structure related fires, 2 vehicle fires, 2 grass fires, 1 auto accident and 3 service calls. Also Chief Ledbetter and Captain Donaldson took 40 hours of Fire Inspector 1 courses through Alabama Fire College. In July there were 2, structure fires, 2 structure related calls, 1 woods fire, 2 auto accidents, 2 hazardous material spills and 4 service calls.

In council reports Ben Keller said there was a house near Haslam St. that needed tearing down and cleaned up. He said there was a ditch on Caldwell St. that needs cleaning out and also the fire lane had large potholes that needed to be filled in beside Piedmont Outdoors. He also expressed his concerns about the utility policy and the dates changing for the due date of the bills going from the 15th to the 10th of the month. He said several people had been to him complaining about this.

Mary Bramblett said her Yard of the Month was Jeff and Marie Jones. She said they always keep a beautiful yard. She thanked Street Supervisor Ricky Jackson and his crew for keeping the grass cut this summer. She also thanked the Water and Gas for coming out after nine on a Saturday night and fixing a big hole on 5th Ave. She also said she had got 1 lot in her district cut and working on more that needed to be cut.

Frank Cobb said progress was being made on Taylor and Haslam St. He said there were still 5 vacant properties on Taylor St. that needed cleaning up. He said that the health department was trying to solve an issue on Haslam St. He told the council that the AMEA meeting that he attended was very informative and encouraging meeting. He said that Mr. Fred Clark with AMEA said that wholesale rates should not go up in the next two years.

Kenny Kelley asked Chief Tidwell to look into people parking in front of the Charter building to go in a pay their bills. He said he has got several complaints that this is blocking traffic. He said he was glad to see that an address on Calhoun St. had been cleaned up.

Terry Kiser asked Carl Hinton for an update on the new aquatic center. Carl said the pool was filled up on Monday and looking at two more weeks before the slide is installed but that everything should be complete by the end of August. He said he also had abatement issues on Old Gadsden St. that he was looking into.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker said he had turned in various work orders on abatement, electrical and street. He said a tree on Dailey St. needed to be removed. He informed everyone that his Yard of the Month was Carol Milam on Logan St. and Keri Alberse on Hill Ave. He said that abatement was a serious problem and it affects the whole town and he believes that this job requires someone full time that only works on abatement problems. He also congratulated the 10 and under girls softball team for winning the

State Tournament and the boys 9 and 10 year olds for winning the State Tournament and going on the World Series. He also suggested that the new pool be opened up and everyone be able to swim for free for the remainder of August.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker read the Mayors comments in his absence. He said he would like to thank Mr. Dean Humphrey for working with the city on some areas in town. He said Mr. Humphrey did this on his own to help clean up Piedmont and I want to thank him for his help. He also said a lot of work is being done at the civic center with putting in handicap ramps, new doors and new steps and there would be more progress made. He thanked Mr. Sewell for having the house removed beside the First Baptist Church. He also wanted to inform the Council that this Thursday he would be going to UAB/VA for a major test and hoping to finally have an answer for his blood disorder and his leg and ankle not working right. He said this has not slowed him down and he had been told he was not doing his load and if he hadn't he apologizes but he hasn't been sitting and not doing anything. He also said that August 7th people that wanted to annex property into the city could come by and sign a form to do so.

In visitors comment Lois Brittan asked that the Animal Control laws be enforced more than they have been recently. She also asked that the back alley behind her house between Alabama and Brock St. needs to be repaired.

Tessa Maddox, the Piedmont Library Director, told the council that they had a great summer. She said there were 200 kids that signed up for the Summer Reading Program and 150 kids completed the program.

She also said the library applied for two different grants and they received both grants. The first grant is an education grant called STAPLE which stands for Sustainable Training for Alabama Public Library Employees. The grant is through the Public Library Service and the University of Alabama. The next grant is a Technology and Automation Grant that will replace all public library computers with new computers. She said the computers should be replaced by November.

Danny Freeman with the Piedmont Community Council let the council know that there would be a Cruise In with a 50's theme on August 23rd, 2013 from 6 to 9 pm. He said that the downtown needed the councils help to succeed in the things that they try to do.

Vincent Cottrell asked the council to consider the proposal he made several weeks ago about a "peoples watch program" with citizens helping to watch for crime in the city.

With no other business to come before the council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Michelle Franklin, City Clerk