

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT  
SEPTEMBER 1, 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. Rodney Ragsdale and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$472,376.76 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment unanimously.

Next Cayce Grimes asked the Councils permission to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Venecias Foundation 5K that will start downtown at 5:00 pm. Mary Bramblett made the motion to allow the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Venecias Foundation 5K. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda Phillip Winkles gave the Piedmont Rescue Squad report from 01/01/2015 to 08/31-2015. The rescue squad has done 934 calls during the time period.

Chief Winkles also asked that the City consider working with the rescue squad to allow them to acquire the property behind the office space that the rescue squad purchased on 101 South Center Ave. Mary Bramblett made the motion to take the necessary steps to negotiate with the Piedmont Rescue Squad for the property. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chief Winkles also asked if the skate park could be relocated to a different location to allow them to build bays for the ambulances.

An agreement was also discussed to contract with the town of Ohatchee for the Piedmont City dispatchers to dispatch calls for the town in order for the Piedmont Rescue Squad ambulance service to respond to calls for the Ohatchee area. After some discussion the Council decided to check with the city attorney and see if a clause could be added so that the city would not be liable in case the ambulance was sent to the wrong address.

The Mayor then asked for consideration of Resolution 2015-20 which is an abatement at 403 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Frank Cobb made the motion to approve Resolution 2015-20. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and Resolution 2015-20 was approved unanimously.

In Other Business the Mayor asked Carl Hinton to update the Council on the Anniston Ave. property and also the ADEM situation. Carl said that the Alabama League of Municipalities had said that the city could use the county tax appraisal for the amount to sale the two pieces of property that the city owns on Anniston Ave. He said that it would be put in the local paper for two weeks as a bid item.

Carl said that the ADEM problems with the holding pond at the pool and the area at the creek where the RV Park is going have been handled and approved by ADEM. The Mayor then stated that there does not have to be a liner placed in the holding pond according to ADEM.

Mary Bramblett asked what the state did with the state championship signs that was on the Cedartown Hwy. and asked if it could be replaced and put back up.

Brenda Spears then asked what the status was on the BP settlement. The City Clerk informed her that a check had been received in the amount of \$21,221.25 and \$7,073.75 in attorney's fees was taken out. She also asked the Mayor to repeat about the event at the Veterans Park this coming Saturday. The Mayor said the event would start at 12 noon on Saturday and end at 8:00 pm. He said that Tracy Hutcheson and some other churches were responsible for the event and it was to honor the police, fire and rescue departments of the city. He said there will be food, games, music, and prizes given away. The Mayor then asked Electrical Superintendent Casey Ponder to present the bid to the Council for the power transformer. Casey informed the Council that the low bid was \$215,089.00. He said that this transformer would be placed at the substation located on Memorial Dr. He said other items that needed to be purchased were a scada control, animal protection for both substations and other materials just to get the transformer in place. Frank Cobb made a motion to use the electrical bond money to pay for the transformer and all other necessary equipment. The electrical bond has a total of \$379,161.28 which should cover the transformer and equipment. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Water and Gas Superintendent Jesse McKnight informed the Council that the sewer project had started and that contractors would be in town starting next Tuesday for the cast iron replacement.

In Visitor's Comments Mr. Doyce White asked the Council if the city was still going to be allowing the \$10,000.00 funds to help with the Indian Festival next May. After some discussion by the Council the Mayor asked the Council Members to let him know by this Thursday if they wanted to continue with the festival.

In Council Reports, Ben Keller thanked County Commissioner Lee Patterson for coming to the meeting. He also asked that a danger tree be cut down on Church Street.

Mary Bramblett asked that now that the Highland Cemetery had been tar and graveled that the city put in steps and handrails in areas that are difficult to walk down.

Frank Cobb welcomed Commissioner Lee Patterson to the meeting.

Kenny Kelley also welcomed Commissioner Patterson to the meeting and also said he was having some abatement issues in his district.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment for council tonight is \$472,376.76. The payroll and taxes for August 21 was \$56,335.54 and the week of August 28 was \$59,610.63. The total for tonight's council approval is \$588,323.63.

If you cannot attend the council meetings, read the minutes on the city's website: [www.piedmontcity.org](http://www.piedmontcity.org). Stay informed.

CONGRATULATIONS to three businesses in Piedmont that were voted one of the top three in their category for the Anniston Star's 2015 Reader's Choice. Classy Cuts/Hwy 278: Solid Rock/Center Avenue: The Pool Doctor/Ladiga Street. Shop local and support all businesses in Piedmont and Calhoun County. The City received an inspection Warning Letter from ADEM on July 21, 2015 concerning the uncontrolled discharge of sediment and other pollutants at the Aquatic Pool. Why wasn't the council made aware of this letter? The letter was certified mail addressed to the Honorable Brian Young, Mayor of Piedmont. At the August 18, 2015 meeting, the Cowans presented and provided the council with legal documentation for the mayor to open the dedicated city road for access to their private property. When is our city attorney, Ron Allen, going to make a legal and clarifying statement about this issue? City Attorney, Ron Allen, informed the council during the August 4, 2015 meeting that he wants to have the council go into an executive session. When will this be scheduled and on the agenda?

The council approved the AMEA (Alabama Municipal Electric Authority) following bills: July 7, 2015- \$171,893.69: July 21- \$245,163.18: September 1 (for August) \$264,337.02. Do we currently own AMEA any additional money?

In the August 18, 2015 council report under Bank

Account Balance at F & M Bank, the balance for the General Fund was \$33,552.81. Tonight's council report list the General Fund balance as \$337,108.67. How is this over \$300,000 difference accounted for? Has additional money been taken out of the Utilities accounts to increase the General Fund? What lines items is this money going to be applied to?

In tonight's September 1 council report, the Bank Account Balance at F&M Bank for the Electric Department is listed with \$8.20 and the Water, Gas, and Sewer Department with \$87.28. Why are these accounts so low?

The Anniston Star reported on August 19 that the concession stand at the Aquatic Pool made a profit for the city for the sum of almost \$10,000. Was this \$10,000 based on gross sales or gross profits?

Mark Harper also thanked Commissioner Patterson for coming to the meeting and he also said that he would like to see the light put up at the Bethune ballfield.

Terry Kiser also welcomed Commissioner Patterson to the meeting.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor stated that the Mr. and Mrs. Cowan came in before the meeting began and were upset about the Oak Ridge Lane Road not being open. He stated that he was not taking sides in the matter and that this was with our city attorney and that he wanted it done legally and he would follow the advice of the city attorney.

He also informed the council that Electric Supervisor Phillip Johnson had left the city for another employment opportunity. He informed the Council that he had placed Lineman Corey Horton over the department as interim until the job could be posted internally.

The Mayor asked for the Council's approval to have the Aquatic Center open on Labor Day for a free swim to anyone. Terry Kiser made the motion to approve the Labor Day free swim. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

He also congratulated the Piedmont Bulldogs for the victory of Centre.

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 7:46pm.