

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT  
SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 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. Ben Keller seconded the motion. At this time Brenda Spears said that a sentence was left out of her council report and a code section number was typed wrong in the minutes and asked that the minutes be amended to reflect her statements. The City Clerk then stated that she had been cross training someone to do the minutes and that the mistakes would be corrected. The minutes were approved as presented with two "no" votes from Brenda Spears and Frank Cobb. Brenda Spears then made the motion to have the minutes amended to reflect her comments. Billy Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The bills totaling \$347,802.41 were then presented for consideration for payment. Kenny Kelley made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried with one "no" vote from Brenda Spears.

Next on the agenda Lois Brittian, a citizen of Piedmont voiced her concerns about changing the due dates for the utility bills and said that changing the dates to the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month instead of the 15<sup>th</sup> would make it hard for her to get her bill paid without receiving a penalty. She also stated that she was still having a problem with cats and dogs and her back alley needed to be repaired.

The Mayor called on Chief Tidwell to give the police report for the month of August 2013. Officers had a total of 804 contacts with the public, 4 felony arrests, 35 misdemeanor arrests, 1 DUI arrest, 1 drug arrest, 2 crimes against persons arrests, 5 theft arrests, 7 court/warrant arrests and 23 other arrests. There were 94 citations and 10 accident reports. There were 2 violent crimes reported, 5 burglaries reported, 50 cases investigated and 74 incident reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$14,786.59 in fines for the month of August. The Chief also reported that the new animal control officer had worked 33 work orders.

The Mayor then called on Chief Ledbetter to give the fire report for August 2013. There were two structure fires, 4 structure related fires, 2 false alarms, 1 vehicle fire, 1 woods fire, 3 vehicle accidents, 5 service calls and 2 medical assists.

Phillip Winkles gave an ambulance run report for the month of August. There were a total of 119 ambulance runs for the month of August 2013.

Next on the agenda the Mayor asked for nominations to fill a position on the Benevolence Board. Billy Baker nominated Sharon Kelley. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion. Terry Kiser nominated Brenda Spears. Frank Cobb seconded the motion. The Mayor then asked for a roll call vote for Sharon Kelley and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call vote Sharon Kelley was voted to be the new member of the Benevolence Board.

In Other Business Brenda Spears said she had a call from someone in District 5 concerning a water leak and she asked that the Mayor talk to the employees about being more proactive when letting someone know that they have a problem with the utilities.

Terry Kiser said that six manhole covers had been stolen in the past few months and asked if there was some way to put a lock on them. Water and Gas Superintendent Jesse McNight said that the covers could not be locked and that they were being stolen to sell for scrap and the price to replace the covers

are \$150.00 a cover. Terry Kiser then asked if Carl Hinton could have Prater Lane and Overland Drive surveyed to establish a right of way.

Ben Keller said that he would like to leave the due date for the utility bills at the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and made a motion. Mayor Freeman told the council that the utility due date could be put on the next agenda for a vote.

Brenda Spears said that the Eubanks Welcome Center had been without air conditioning since June and that the air conditioning unit was on the ground and a cement pad was not laid to put the unit on. She said the unit was 17 years old and asked if the city could get a new unit.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said he still had potholes that needed repairing. He also recognized his Citizens of the Month for District 1 which was Ms. Grace Adair and Ms. Estelle Diamond. He said they were always doing good things for the community.

Mary Bramblett thanked several residents on Gadsden St. for helping each other keep their neighborhood clean and cutting each other's yards when someone was out of town or in the hospital. She also said she still has abatement issues and potholes and ditches that need repairing. She said that speed signs were being put up on Cherokee Trail. She also told the council that a new barbershop and the urgent care had opened up in Piedmont.

Frank Cobb said that there had been a request for Hidden Driveway and Children at Play signs on Shady Grove Road. He said he had talked with some people that would like to start a fund for donations to the Highland Cemetery to make improvements. He also said that he would like to set aside some money in the budget to hire a recruiter for the city.

Kenny Kelley said he had some abatement issues on Woolf Ave.

Brenda Spears Council Comments: I read my Council Comments from a prepared and typed sheet and give the city clerk a copy for the minutes to be recorded for approval for the next meeting. Starting tonight, I will give an extra copy to the Mayor Pro Tem for future minutes and verification. On September 3, 2013, the City Clerk added comments into my Council Comments. It is not appropriate to insert comments from another city employee under this part of the agenda (per Carl Hinton) or leave out a sentence that was part of the original report. (I was told to contact the CPA, Joan Sanders, at the August 27 work session.) Also, in my 9/3/13 Council Comments, I stated Code of AL 11-43-101. Tonight I am explaining 11-43-101: Paying of bills is the responsibility to the council and by the council. The bills are submitted to the council for their approval from the City Clerk. In tonight's minutes for approval, the Clerk recorded that I used and referred to Code of Alabama 11-46-101. 11-46-101 states: the use of voting machines and voting qualifications. I asked that these parts of the minutes be corrected before approval.

Bills for payment for 9-17-13 council meeting is \$347,802.90 plus payroll is \$115,205.49 for a \$463,007.90 total.

District 5 Citizen for the Month for September is Mr. Earl Woolf. While delivering newspapers for the Anniston Star on 31 July 2013 at 4 am, Earl Woolf found Mrs. Virginia Hoff in her side yard during a thunderstorm. Mrs. Hoff had gone to get something out of her car at 7 pm the previous night, fell down and could not raise herself up. She was on her stomach from 7 pm to 4 am until Earl arrived and called 911. The EMTs arrived and Mrs. Hoff was taken and admitted to Jacksonville Hospital and has had a full recovery.

September Yard of the Month is Terry Baechtold at 220 South Center Avenue.

I appreciate citizens who are willing to speak up or speak out on Piedmont topics of their concerns. It is a blessing to live in a country where we have freedom of speech and freedom of press. An example is Mr. Harry Nuthall's "Sound Off" or Letter to the Editor in the Piedmont Journal dated September 11, 2013.

I am turning in a street sign needed for Johnson Street and Riddle Ave.

I am turning in a request for street paving from 401 Riddle Ave. to 418 Riddle Ave.

I am turning in one request dated 9-17-13 to the Mayor for Public Information Records.

Billy Baker said he continues to turn in work orders for abatement and street paving. He also announced the Old Fashion Country Fair on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and asked everyone to come out and participate.

Terry Kiser said he had turned in several abatement issues and we needed to stop talking about it and start getting some abatement problems solved. He said Ray Floyd at 507 Anniston Ave was his Yard of the Month. He said his Citizen of the Month was Dennis Ragsdale at 10417 Hwy 21. He also said that Ms. Connie Cantrell has set up a clean-up day for October 12<sup>th</sup>, to have volunteers help clean up the Hill Crest Cemetery.

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 7:04 pm.

