

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PIEDMONT

February 4, 2025

6:14 PM

The City Council of the City of Piedmont met in regular session at the time and on the date above. Present were Mayor Baker, Council Members John Lawrence, Richard Williams, Jubal Feazell, Caleb Pope, Greg South, David Ivey, and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation by Greg South and the pledge of allegiance given by Mayor Baker, the minutes were presented for consideration. Terry Kiser made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Jubal Feazell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. John Lawrence abstained.

The bills totaling \$427,182.06 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. John Lawrence seconded the motion and a roll call vote was requested. John Lawrence – Yes, Richard Williams – No, Jubal Feazell – No, Caleb Pope – No, Greg South – Yes, David Ivey – No, Terry Kiser – Yes, Mayor Baker – Yes. Vote was tied 4-4. Caleb Pope made a motion to pay the bills with keeping the General Fund balance above \$400,000.00. The bills that fall under the \$400,000.00 balance would be paid once the money was available. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jubal Feazell made a motion that we would keep the General Fund balance of \$400,000.00 and would not pay the gym membership to Foundation Fitness in the amount of \$5,000.00. A roll call vote was requested. John Lawrence – Yes, Richard Williams – Yes, Jubal Feazell – Yes, Caleb Pope – Yes, Greg South – Yes, David Ivey – Yes, Terry Kiser – No, Mayor Baker – No. The motion passed 6-2.

The vinyl siding quote for the scout house was the next item on the agenda. Caleb Pope made a motion to table this until the next meeting. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Commercial Development Authority appointment was the next item on the agenda. Caleb Pope made a motion to table this until a later date. John Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Industrial Park land was next. We received a fair market value from Kim Kimberly of \$43,000.00 for the 10 acres. Jubal Feazell made the motion to accept \$50,000.00 for the 10 acres of land in the Industrial Park. Caleb Pope seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Tim Frost from the Street Department asked the Council to purchase a new trailer from Jake Baggett. The cost will be \$34,500.00. He will pay for it with his Gov Deal monies. Greg South made the motion to approve the purchase of a new trailer in the amount of \$34,500.00 from Baggett Trailer Sales. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In visitor comments, Dustin Formby from the WGS Department told the Council that equipment they were using was in very bad condition, trucks needed replacing, a new backhoe was needed, and they were short on help. He also explained that they were in dire need of safety equipment that was used in the field to do repairs in a safe manner.

In Council reports, John Lawrence had no report.

Richard Williams told the Council that the train depot looked very good. He told everyone they needed to stop by and take a look if they were able to.

Jubal Fezell appreciates Chief Kirkland for the job that he is doing. He appreciates the work that Chief Kirkland put in to the one and five year plans for the Fire Department. He hopes that the fire department can find a solution for the gym membership.

Caleb Pope understands the problems that the departments are going through. All he is hearing is cuts, cuts, and cuts. He would like to know where we can cut. A lot of our departments are running off skeleton crews. The departments have equipment that is in very bad condition. He does not believe that we have frivolous spending. We are not blowing money and are doing the best we can do with what we have. He is thankful for the hard work and dedication of all city employees. He does not mind being the bad guy, just let him know so we can try to figure it out.

Greg South had no report. He told Chief Johnson that he did not appreciate the police officers that attended the Council Meeting by trying to intimidate the Council prior to the vote for the hazard pay increase.

David Ivey wanted to let everyone know that he and Jeff Formby would be meeting with Gametime next week to look at some ideas and pricing for the Lowe's grant.

Terry Kiser wanted to let everyone know that he had spoken with Byrian Watts and he told him that the WGS workers have had recent gas and water leaks that were hazardous working conditions. The dispatchers at the Police Department have stressful situations. The trash truck employees that ride on the back in extreme cold conditions are hazardous jobs also. He told the Council and the audience that at the last meeting he voted to give the police department officers a \$100.00 per pay period increase for hazard pay. He wants to go on record that he is changing his vote to NO. He would like to thank Craig Russell for the letter that he sent to all the Council about the hazard working conditions of all city employees. He would like a resolution to be on the agenda that requires anything that would be voted on would have to be on the agenda.

Clerk Hinton told the Council that we needed to be working on passing a budget in the near future. He also let everyone know that Vulcan has started paving the Chief Ladiga Trail.

In the Mayor's comments he asked everyone to keep Tracy Cain in our prayers. He said that Piedmont Boys basketball won their first game in the playoffs. The Piedmont girls will play tonight. He mentioned that Spring Garden Boys and Girls basketball teams are doing very well. He told everyone that he is passionate about the City. He appreciates everything that was said tonight. He knows our money will fluctuate on a daily basis. He asked Corey Horton to speak about the utility increase update. Mr. Horton told the Council that fuel prices have been down the past few months but will be rising due to the cold months. He told the Council that funding needed projects needs to be our number one concern. We have major improvements that are needed at the substations. In closing, he asked all council members to please give him input on the upcoming utility increases.

With no other business to come before the Council, Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Greg South seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.