

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PIEDMONT  
MARCH 4, 2025

6:09 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, and David Ivey.

Following the invocation by Greg South and the pledge of allegiance given by Mayor Baker, the minutes were presented for consideration. Caleb Pope made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Jubal Feazell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. Richard Williams abstained.

The bills totaling \$693,503.20 were then presented for consideration for payment. Richard Williams made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. David Ivey seconded the motion and the bills were approved to be paid as presented.

Resolution 2025-04 was the next item on the agenda. Richard Williams made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-04. John Lawrence seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Resolution 2025-05 was the next item on the agenda. Jubal Feazell made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-05. David Ivey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The City budget was the next item on the agenda. Jubal Feazell made the motion to pass a budget that would use actual revenues and take a four year average on expenditures. Greg South seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jubal Feazell also made the motion to discuss the utility increase at the next meeting. Caleb Pope seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Library Board appointment was the next item on the agenda. Donna Garmon asked to replace Dr. Eddie Blackwelder with Charity Cummings. Dr. Blackwelder is in assisted living now. David Ivey made the motion to replace Dr. Blackwelder with Charity Cummings. Greg South seconded the motion and the motion carried. Donna Garmon also asked to replace Sheila Cochran with Brooke Thompson. Ms. Cochran resigned on February 3, 2025. Richard Williams made the motion to replace Sheila Cochran with Brooke Thompson. Jubal Feazell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Airport Board appointment was next. Donnie Free, manager of the CPCC Regional Airport, requested that Lee Hubbard and Brent Morrison be reappointed. Greg South made the motion to reappoint Lee Hubbard and Brent Morrison to the Airport Board. Richard Williams seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Housing Authority Board appointment is a Mayor appointment. The Mayor appointed Patti Glover to another 5 year term.

Corey Horton presented the Council three quotes for a new equipment trailer. Bama Built Trailers was \$12,025.00. Baggett's Trailer Sales was \$16,500.00. Gator Made was \$28,470.00. Caleb Pope made the

motion to take the low bid of \$12,025.00 from Bama Built Trailers. Greg South seconded the motion and the motion carried. The money will come from the electrical bad debt account.

The replacement officer was the next item on the agenda. Cody Quinn left the department for a job at JSU. Caleb Pope made the motion to fill the vacancy in the police department. David Ivey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Johnson gave the police report for last month.

Chief Kirkland was next on the agenda talking about the gym membership. The League said it was not in the best interest of the City to use fire tax for a gym membership. He told the Council that there would not be any further discussion on the gym membership.

A new scholarship application was presented by Chief Kirkland to the Council for approval. This would be for a student who would like to become a certified fireman and would help with tuition cost. Jubal Feazell made the motion to approve the scholarship application. Richard Williams seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In visitor comments, Ashlee Jones told the Council about an event being hosted on May 19 by the Arts and Entertainment Committee for a private school in Atlanta to come and tour the museum and trail in Piedmont. She also mentioned the State of the County will be Friday at the DHR building in Anniston. Brittney Williams asked the Council if they could look in to getting the basketball courts and goals fixed on Lea Street. She also mentioned the speeding on Church Street. Shavone Clark addressed the Council and asked if Amelia Street could be put on the paving list for future paving. Peter Leavitt also spoke in visitor comments. He expressed his concern for the increase in electrical rates. He expressed again no taxation without representation. He also asked about line items in the budget report that pertained to the aquatic center and how it would be losing money.

In Council reports, John Lawrence had no report.

Richard Williams had no report. He told that his Alabama Power Co. bill showed .1689 per kwh.

Jubal Feazell told the Council that we do audits every year and we do bills for payment every council meeting. The Council is given a report on the second meeting of the month that shows how the money is spent by each department and the money that is collected from each department. There is complete transparency for the revenues brought in by the Sanitation, WGS, and Electrical department. He thinks that the Aquatic Center is vital to our community even though it does not make money. He asked Chief Kirkland about burn permits with all the wild fires that have been happening over the county. He asked about the paving on Woodland Circle. He asked if the leaf machine could make one more run through the City. He has turned some work orders in for Tim Frost. He would like for the Council to be thinking on the method to distribute the new utility increase. He would like to see half go to the utility fund and half to the general fund. In closing, he told everyone that we passed a new budget tonight with savings.

Caleb Pope had no report.

Greg South told the Council that we do not need to worry about the differences that Alabama power charges compared to Piedmont Power. He said we can't run the City on what Alabama Power charges for utilities. We have to look at what it cost to produce power for Piedmont. He has talked with Corey Horton and Fred Clark concerning the utilities. If you only put \$10,000.00 in a fund instead of the whole

increase, you will still be increasing the pie that determines where the money will be spent in the general fund. The Council is showing they are trying to save money with the new budget that was passed.

David Ivey told the Council the weatherization grant was awarded to 20 homes in Calhoun County. The federal government now has the money frozen for the grants. Hopefully it will be back to normal soon. This was a great program that allowed residents to help weatherize their homes to help with high utility bills.

Terry Kiser was absent due to Covid.

Clerk Hinton told the Council that Vulcan should finish paving by the end of the week. Shoulder material would be next on their agenda.

In the Mayor's comments he wanted to let everyone know about the chili cook off that was last Saturday. He was a judge and they raised around \$1,300.00. He wanted to congratulate Spring Garden girl's basketball team for winning the 1A State Championship title. The HOSA had the state leadership conference last week. Ansley Pope was the State champion. She is the daughter of Caleb and Breanne Pope. In closing, the Mayor submitted a letter that he read to the Council stating he was not seeking re-election for Mayor.

With no other business to come before the Council, Caleb Pope made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Greg South seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.