

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY OF PIEDMONT, ALABAMA  
JANUARY 14, 2008  
7:00PM

The City Council of the City of Piedmont met in regular session at the time and on the date above. Present were Mayor Charles Fagan, Council Members John Lawrence, Mary Bramblett, Ed Hanson, Kenny Kelley, Eddie Baldwin, Bill Baker and Doug Goss.

Mayor Fagan declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Following the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes of the previous meeting were presented for consideration. Bill Baker made the motion that the minutes be approved as amended. Doug Goss seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.

The bills totaling \$584,131.25 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved for payment as presented. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment as presented by acclamation.

Building Inspector Carl Hinton then reviewed procedures for abatement of two nuisance structures located at 118 Caton Street and 111 West Ladiga Street. Resolution No. 2008-001 was then presented for consideration. This resolution addresses the nuisance structures above and authorizes the Mayor to take the necessary actions to abate the nuisances relative to each of them. Ed Hanson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2008-001. Bill Baker seconded the motion and Resolution No. 2008-001 was adopted by unanimous consent.

Captain Steven Tidwell then presented the annual Police Department activity report to the Council and answered questions from the members.

The Clerk then presented two marketing video drafts for the Council's review. The videos were produced by Potts Marketing for industrial/commercial recruiting and tourism recruiting. After review and discussion of the two videos the Clerk requested that the Council advise of any suggestions or comments as soon as possible for disbursement to Potts Marketing representatives.

In Board appointments Bill Baker nominated Peggy Freeman for reappointment to the Cemetery Board. Doug Goss made the motion that the nominations be closed. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and Peggy Freeman was reappointed to the Cemetery Board by unanimous consent. Mayor Fagan then appointed Kelly Rampy to the Piedmont Housing Authority Board to complete the term of Tammy Thompson who recently resigned from the Board.

Bill Baker then made the motion to appoint Steven Tidwell as the new Chief of Police. Ed Hanson seconded the motion and Steven Tidwell was appointed as Chief of Police by unanimous consent. When asked for comment Chief Tidwell advised that he was honored to accept the appointment and that he would do his best to live up to the confidence and expectations of the Council.

The Clerk then presented an application for Off-Premises Beer and Wine license from Bhakti C. Patel and Sujit Singh d/b/a/ Raceway 985. The petitioners formerly owned and operated Country Corner with the same licenses but moving to a different location requires a new permit from the City and State. Doug Goss made the motion to approve the permit application to be forwarded to the ABC Board. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the permit application was approved by unanimous consent.

In Council reports John Lawrence welcomed everyone back after the holidays and expressed his hopes that the Council will finish the last year of the administration in style. Mary Bramblett congratulated Chief Tidwell on his appointment and expressed her appreciation for all of the department's officers. Ed Hanson also congratulated Chief Tidwell on his appointment. Kenny Kelley welcomed and congratulated Chief Tidwell and advised that he looked forward to working with the Chief and his officers. Eddie Baldwin expressed his appreciation for the new visitors in the audience and invited them to come back. Bill Baker expressed his congratulations to Chief Tidwell and also congratulated the Piedmont High School girl's basketball team citing their current 19-0 record and number four ranking in the state.

In the Mayors report Mayor Fagan echoed Mr. Baker's comments regarding the girl's basketball team and commented that all of the school's sports teams have been very good recently. Mayor Fagan also commented on the draft recruitment videos provided by Potts Marketing and asked that the Council submit their comments and suggestions in a timely manner.

In visitors comments several local business owners commented on recent electrical demand rate increases and the effect of those increases on their businesses. Mayor Fagan advised that the City was doing all it could to keep rates low and competitive but we could no longer continue to absorb all the rate increases passed on by energy suppliers. The Mayor encouraged all of the demand rate customers to come to the administrative offices and review their individual circumstances with the utility manager.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time Mayor Fagan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.