

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY OF PIEDMONT, ALABAMA
OCTOBER 22, 2007
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 presented. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.

The bills totaling \$485,967.77 were then presented for consideration for payment. Ed Hanson made the motion that the bills be approved for payment as presented. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment as presented by acclamation.

Resolution No. 2007-008 was then presented for consideration. This resolution adopts the 2007 Amended Comprehensive Plan as an advisory policy document on the recommendation of the Piedmont Planning Commission. Ed Hanson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2007-008. John Lawrence seconded the motion and Resolution No. 2007-008 was adopted by unanimous consent.

Ordinance No. 572 was then presented for first reading and consideration. This ordinance amends the Waste Disposal Fees for residential and commercial waste pickup due to increased cost to the City from the contractor. Having discussed the matter at the previous meeting Bill Baker made the motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration due to the fact that the contractor has already increased the fees to the City. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the rules were suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Ed Hanson then made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 572. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and Ordinance No. 572 was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Fagan then called on Lewis Jennings representing Jennings Interiors. Mr. Jennings addressed concerns about vandalism and damage to his business that has occurred over several years and asked for more police patrols in the area. Mr. Jennings also requested removal of a hedge adjacent to his business that he feels is a hazard. Mayor Fagan advised that he would discuss the matter with the property owner.

In Council reports Mary Bramblett advised that the meeting of the Industrial Access Grant Committee has been postponed until November and that she has discussed the Piedmont application with several legislators and the Lt. Governor's office. Mrs. Bramblett urged the Council members to contact legislators and Committee members regarding the Industrial Access application. Ed Hanson expressed his appreciation to the Piedmont Business Council for a very successful "Country Fair" event held downtown on October 13th. Eddie Baldwin welcomed Anniston Star reporter Anne Anderson to the meeting and urged her to be positive in her reporting of events. Bill Baker also thanked the Piedmont Business Council and others involved with the "Country Fair" event.

Doug Goss made a motion to rescind the previous policy amendment regarding water and sewer adjustments and to give authority to the Utility Board to make adjustments on a case by case basis to either utility billing retroactive to the previous amendment. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion. After further discussion and clarification the motion carried by unanimous consent. Mr. Goss then made the motion that pending sewer additions on forced mains in the City be postponed for 30-45 days so regulations can be prepared and adopted for future additions to any forced main sewer lines in the City and that expert consultation be sought to determine which customers might be eligible for addition to the lines without overloading the system or being cost prohibitive. After further discussion of the issue Ed Hanson seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous consent. Mr. Goss then thanked the Garden Club for the fall decoration of the gazebo in the downtown mini-park.

In the Mayor's report Mayor Fagan expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Piedmont Business Council in their recent event and thanked the group for helping to promote the City in a positive manner. The Mayor discussed grass and leaf pickup policies for clarification as well as the manner in which streets are selected for paving. Mayor Fagan advised that although it has become necessary to adjust rates on utilities and garbage service due to increased costs, the City still maintains very competitive rates in all areas and suggested that concerned citizens compare local rates to others in the area in order to be more informed.

In visitors comments Anne Wilkes discussed several items of concern to her including utility rates, paving of streets, grass clipping pickup and the need for more electrical plugs at the gazebo for decoration purposes. Keith Word advised that he had received very positive comments from Boy Scout groups that camped at the Sports Complex last weekend to ride the Chief Ladiga Trail. Danny Freeman discussed recent Business Council events and thanked the Council for the overwhelming support of the City. Mr. Freeman advised that the next planned event would be the Halloween Downtown event on October 31st.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time Mayor Fagan declared the meeting adjourned sine die at 7:58pm.