

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY OF PIEDMONT, ALABAMA  
MARCH 14, 2005  
7:00PM

The City Council of the City of Piedmont met in regular session at the place and on the date above. Present were Mayor Charles Fagan, Council Members John Lawrence, Mary Bramblett, Ed Hanson, Kevin Farmer, 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 \$130,158.23 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved for payment as presented. Ed Hanson seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment as presented by acclamation.

In Board appointments Bill Baker nominated Patty Glover for appointment to the Piedmont Housing Authority Commission replacing the expired term of Frieda Davidson. Doug Goss made the motion that the nominations be closed. Ed Hanson seconded the motion and Patty Glover was appointed to a full five-year term by acclamation. Bill Baker then nominated Carter Jones for reappointment to the Industrial Development Board. Ed Hanson made the motion that the nominations be closed. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and Carter Jones was reappointed to the Industrial Development Board for a consecutive six-year term by acclamation. Doug Goss then nominated Lewis Franklin for reappointment to the Industrial Development Board. Bill Baker made the motion that the nominations be closed. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and Lewis Franklin was reappointed to the Industrial Development Board for a consecutive six-year term by acclamation.

Mayor Fagan then presented the bids for sports equipment for the Council's review. The bids are for miscellaneous equipment items required for PARD league teams during the baseball/softball season to be purchased as needed. Ed Hanson made the motion that the bid from the lowest responsible bidder be accepted for each item at the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Director. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion passed by acclamation.

Mayor Fagan then presented a proposal for purchase of a transportation van through a grant offered by East Alabama Planning Commission. The grant proposal requires 20% matching funds by the City, which will result in an approximate expenditure of \$8,000 for a new thirteen-passenger van. The van is proposed to replace the Senior Center van, which was involved in an accident recently. Bill Baker made the motion to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City in securing the new van. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

In other business the Council appointed Doug Goss as the voting delegate for the City at the annual League of Municipalities business meeting in May. Bill Baker was appointed as first alternate and John Lawrence was appointed as second alternate.

In Council reports Ed Hanson reported that the Parks & Recreation department was conducting drafts for the upcoming baseball/softball season and presented the Eubanks Welcome Center report for January/February 2005. The Center had 143 visitors including 104 from Alabama, 19 from Georgia, 5 from Texas, 6 from North Carolina and 9 from other states. Kevin Farmer requested a committee be formed to review proposals for Christmas decorations for the downtown area and make a recommendation to the Council. Interested parties were requested to contact City employee Tara Reedy to participate on the committee.

Bill Baker commented on the continuing progress in the downtown business district including the beginning of installation of streetlights and further improvements to local storefronts. Doug Goss presented pictures of junk that had been dumped at donation boxes on the State right-of-way at Alabama Hwy. 200. The Council has been presented with draft letters to be sent to the Alabama Department of Transportation regarding the problems associated with litter being dumped at the donation box locations. Mr. Goss presented the pictures to the Clerk to be included with the letters to the State. Mr. Goss also commented on graffiti and litter in public parking lots and asked the Council's consideration of action to alleviate the problem.

In the Mayor's report Mayor Fagan discussed plans for improvements at the Memorial Park and asked for suggestions from the Council for further improvements at both City Parks. The Mayor advised that paving for previously approved projects is not yet complete and the contractor should return soon to work on the projects. Mayor Fagan addressed missing and stolen street and regulatory signs and advised that the Street department is replacing signs on a regular basis as time permits. The Mayor addressed continuing abatement of downtown properties that have not come into compliance and advised that the compliance officer has sent letters to the property owners again. Mayor Fagan praised the efforts of local business owners who have improved their properties and storefronts and asked for the support of local merchants by the Council and residents. The Mayor advised that a waste oil heater had been installed at the armory maintenance building in an effort to conserve energy costs. The heater burns waste oil from city vehicle and equipment eliminating disposal costs and provides heat for the building in the process. Mayor Fagan advised that striping in the downtown area should begin in the next 2-3 weeks and streetlight installation has begun as well. Mayor Fagan asked the Council's consideration of donating a vacant lot owned by the City in the downtown area to a prospective business for development. The lot is adjacent to Piedmont Auto Parts on West Ladiga Street and was donated to the City by the previous owner. The Mayor asked the Council's assistance in recruiting medical professionals to locate in Piedmont particularly addressing the need for family practice doctors and dentists. Mayor Fagan reported that retail and industrial recruitment efforts continue and that negotiations with prospects are ongoing.

There being no visitor's comments and no further business to come before the Council at this time Mayor Fagan declared the meeting adjourned sine die at 7:41pm