

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY OF PIEDMONT, ALABAMA
AUGUST 22, 2005
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, Eddie Baldwin, Bill Baker and Doug Goss. Council Member Kevin Farmer was absent.

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. Doug Goss seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.

The bills totaling \$208,898.86 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.

Mayor Fagan then presented Ordinance No. 551 for a first reading. This ordinance addresses a petition for annexation by the Calhoun County Economic Development Council of approximately 35 acres of land in the Industrial Park at the corner of Vigo Road and Vigo-Ladiga Road. Ordinance No. 551 was carried over to the next regular session for consideration of adoption.

Police Sergeant Terry Kiser spoke to the Council concerning his pending retirement from the department. Sgt. Kiser expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work for the City and for the fellow employees he has worked with.

Sgt. David Kirk gave an abatement report to the Council stating that since November 2004 a total of 87 abatement letters had been sent to property owners with approximately 75% compliance. Sgt. Kirk also advised that five houses had been torn down in that time period and another was scheduled in the near future. Sgt. Kirk stated that he was beginning abatement procedures for downtown commercial properties that are not in compliance with the ordinance.

In other business Ed Hanson nominated Jeff Formby to be appointed to the position of Parks & Recreation Director. Bill Baker made the motion that the nominations be closed. Eddie Baldwin seconded the motion and Jeff Formby was appointed as Parks & Recreation Director by unanimous consent.

Bill Baker then made the motion to adopt the Annual Wage Compensation Grid and Compensation Chart prepared By Jacksonville State University and to instruct the Personnel Director to assign the wage grid with regard to the personnel positions of the city as agreed upon by the City Council. Doug Goss seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous consent.

In Council Reports each Council Member expressed their thanks and appreciation to Sgt. Terry Kiser for his years of service, dedication and loyalty to the City and its residents.

In the Mayors Report Mayor Fagan also expressed his appreciation to Sgt. Kiser and his wishes for continued success in future endeavors. The Mayor discussed current problems with Cingular cellular telephone service. Mayor Fagan advised that he has made several calls regarding the problems and hoped the problem would be resolved soon. The Mayor then discussed renovation work currently underway at the Memorial Park and asked for the public's patience while the work is being done. Mayor Fagan addressed the need for future rate increases in water and sewer rates based on a 2002 rate study done for the utilities, and the necessary improvements needed to achieve compliance with regulatory issues.

The Mayor then stressed his concern regarding natural gas costs for heating in the coming winter months. Mayor Fagan advised that gas rates continue to climb and have nearly doubled since the same period last year and that there does not appear to be any relief in sight. The Mayor stated that his primary concern was for families and elderly citizens on fixed incomes who may not be able to afford the increased costs of natural gas heating this winter.

In visitors comments Keith Word announced a Christmas Parade Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 23rd at 4:00pm at the Civic Center.