

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT
JANUARY 19TH, 2016
6:00 PM

The City Council of the City of Piedmont met in regular session at the time and on the date above. Present were Mayor Bill Baker, Council Members Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Mark Harper and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation given by Frank Cobb and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Terry Kiser made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$333,827.54 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously for payment.

The Mayor asked for consideration of Ordinance No 606 which would declare 0.13 acres of land behind the Piedmont Museum as surplus property and to receive sealed bids on the property. Frank Cobb made the motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of Ordinance No 606. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mary Bramblett	Ben Keller	none
Frank Cobb	Kenny Kelley	
Brenda Spears	Terry Kiser	
Mark Harper		

Following the roll call there was not a unanimous vote to suspend the rules. Therefore Ordinance No 606 could not be considered at the meeting.

The Mayor asked for a motion to table Resolution 2016-01 following the advice of the City Attorney. Terry Kiser made the motion to table Resolution 2016-01. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and Resolution 2016-01 was tabled unanimously.

The Mayor then asked for consideration of Resolution 2016-02 which would be for the financing of the two used fire trucks that were voted on at the previous meeting. Mary Bramblett made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-02. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried with one abstention by Frank Cobb.

Next the Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2016-03 which would allow the Mayor to sign the financing paperwork with Bankcorp South Equipment Finance for the purchase and payments of the sewer truck that the Council voted on in the previous year. Kenny Kelley made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-03. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and Resolution 2016-03 was adopted unanimously.

Next on the agenda Mayor Baker informed the Council that Air Evac would provide air ambulance coverage for the city limits of Piedmont for \$17,301.00 per year. This would allow every household in the city limits coverage inside the limits of Calhoun County. Mark Harper made the motion to purchase the coverage for the citizens of Piedmont. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	None	None
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Kenny Kelley		
Brenda Spears		
Mark Harper		
Terry Kiser		

Following the roll call the vote was unanimous to purchase the Air Evac ambulance service for the city limits of Piedmont.

Next Mr. Terry Studdard asked to be taken out of the city limits. Mr. Studdard lives on the outskirts of the city with no land touching him that is in the city limits. Mary Bramblett made the motion to allow Mr. Studdard to be de-annexed from the city limits. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mary Bramblett	Ben Keller	Mark Harper
Frank Cobb	Terry Kiser	
Kenny Kelley		
Brenda Spears		

Following the roll call the vote was 4 yeas, 2 nays and 1 abstention to allow Mr. Studdard to be de-annexed from the City of Piedmont.

Next the Mayor called on Chief Norton to give the Police report for the month of December, 2015. There were 1803 total contacts with the public. There were 7 felony arrests, 39 misdemeanor arrests, 1 DUI arrest, 5 crimes against persons arrests, 5 theft arrests, 11 court/warrant arrests. There were 23 citations, 11 accident reports, 30 motorist assists. There were 4 violent crimes reported, 11 burglaries reported, 21 thefts reported, 40 cases investigated and 113 incident reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$14,977.92 in fines for the month of December, 2015.

Chief Norton also gave the Animal Control report for the month of December, 2015. There were 31 calls for service, 1 preliminary investigation, 1 follow-up investigation, 28 animals picked up, 8 animals returned to owner by ACO, 20 animals took to the shelter, 11 animals at large, 8 surrendered by owner and 1 abandoned.

Next Abatement Officer Charles McDonald gave the Nuisance and Abatement report for the month of December, 2015. There were 26 total cases (new and on-going). 3 total yard cases, 1 new house case, 12 cases being processed, 4 cases completed, 3 community service workers, and 1 contract on a building.

Next the Mayor called of Chief Ledbetter to give the Fire report for the month of December, 2015. There were 3 structure fires, 3 automatic alarms, 7 vehicle accidents, 6 ambulance assist, 1 hazardous materials call and 4 service calls.

Chief Ledbetter asked if he could pay the tanker truck off two months early because the final payment was due in April of 2016. Brenda Spears made the motion to allow Chief Ledbetter to pay the truck off early. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business Terry Kiser asked about moving the skate park to a different location. The Mayor said that we are still making plans to move it.

Frank Cobb asked that the two cent gas tax increase and bond be added to the next agenda for a vote. Brenda Spears asked what the Ladiga Cruise bill was on the bills for payment. The Mayor said it was for a bike race.

Mary Bramblett asked for an update of the golf range at the sports complex. The Mayor said we were waiting for the weather to get better.

Mark Harper asked that the council look at filling the zoning board.

In Visitor's comments Mr. Harry Nuttall presented his annual check to the city of \$100.00. He said that even though he is not in the city limits he still gets police, fire and rescue protection and he likes to give back to the departments.

In Council Reports Ben Keller asked about the lights at the Bethune ballfield.

Mary Bramblett said that USDA had been in town and she and the Mayor took them around to look at possible grant projects.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley had no report.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment for tonight's council is \$333,827.54 with the Payroll and Taxes for the week of January 8: \$59,985.64 and the week of January 15: \$53,010.70. The totals for January 5 was \$549,256.86 and January 19 is \$446,823.74. The total for January comes to \$996,080.74.

The council voted on Ordinance 598 on November 5, 2012 that the mayor and council will follow Robert's Rules of Order during council meetings. According to league of Municipalities legal advice, the mayor cannot deny or stop a discussion after a motion and second before a vote. Mayor Baker was

unprofessional and incorrect when he denied me my right to ask questions before the vote on Bills of Payment during the council meeting. January 5's council minutes state: "At this time, Brenda Spears asked for a discussion for several bill items, and Mayor Baker said that the bills had already been discussed in the work session and that she should have gotten to that meeting on time." A mayor does not have the authority nor the right to refuse any council member the privilege to discuss any properly motioned subject matter. Mayor Baker, it is quite simple: Motion then second then discussion then vote.

The council agreed for the city clerk to provide us with bond information concerning the paving tax that has been discussed in two council meetings. When can the council expect to receive this information for review?

The council needs the following information provided by the City Clerk concerning Piedmont's 2016 elections.

1. What is the earliest date to file a Statement of Candidacy for the positions of Mayor and Council?
2. What is the last day to file for a Statement of Candidacy for the positions of Mayor and Council?
3. What is the qualifying fees for the positions of Mayor and Council ?
4. When will the Candidate Qualifications Packet Checklist be available?
5. When will the updated Piedmont Voter listings for each district be available?
6. What is the date of Piedmont's elections and run-off date for elections if applicable?

Why are we not charging off any amounts of money against Line Item 4200: Gas (\$144,000) and Line Item 4200: Electric (\$125,000) for Depreciation? What are these expenditures being charged against? I want to thank the Calhoun County Commissioners and Lee Patterson (Commissioner for District 5) for paving a street in each of Piedmont's districts. Vanderbilt Street was paved in my district.

Mark Harper had no report.

Terry Kiser said that he and Carl Hinton had the street signs up to date.

In the Mayor's Comments Mayor Baker pointed out to Brenda Spears that he contacted an attorney at the League of Municipalities and explained to them his actions in not allowing bills to be discussed during regular meeting. The attorney saw no problem with action taken and mentioned that the only problem seen involved Brenda Spears not getting to the meeting on time. It was pointed out to Mrs. Spears that she has missed or been late to several work sessions. Mayor Baker pointed out that the city council's time was just as important as her time and she needed to get to the meeting on time. Mayor Baker pointed out to Brenda Spears that his intent is not to get into an argument with her at council meetings. He reminded her again that it was a council vote to discuss the agenda at the work session so that the regular meeting can flow smoothly and end at a decent hour. Attend the work session on time; discuss bills during this part of the meeting and normally there is no need to spend additional time discussing bills.

With no other business to come before the council Frank Cobb made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.