

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT  
FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 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. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$449,528.81 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously.

The Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2016-06 which is the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 that requires jurisdictions to have a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kenny Kelley made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-06. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Tek Links gave a proposal to the city to upgrade the city phone system. Ben Singleton informed the Council that the phone system had gone down 6 times in the past couple of months and the equipment was out dated. The price for the upgrade would be \$158,608.10. Brenda Spears made a motion to table the proposal to a future meeting. 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>
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 table the proposal to a future meeting.

The Mayor then called on Chief Norton to give the police report for the month of January, 2016. Officers had 1467 total contacts with the public. There were 4 felony arrests, 48 misdemeanor arrests, 1 DUI arrest, 8 drug arrests, 9 crimes against persons arrests and 19 court/warrant arrests. There were 49 citations written, 2 accident reports and 31 motorist assists. There were 2 violent crimes reported, 2 burglaries reported, 8 thefts reported, 16 cases investigated and 98 incident reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court received \$14,639.00 in fines for the month of January, 2016.

The Chief gave the Animal Control report for the month of January, 2016. There were 27 calls for service, 2 preliminary investigations, 10 follow-up investigations, 18 animals picked up, 5 animals returned to owner, 13 animals taken to shelter, 10 strays, 3 surrendered by owner and 4 reclaimed at shelter by owner.

The Chief then gave the Nuisance and Abatement report for the month of January, 2016. There were 29 total cases, 1 total new yard cases, 2 new house cases, 3 new cases, 12 cases being processed, 2 cases completed, 2 community service workers, 1 contract on building, 1 court appearance and 11 verbal contacts.

Next Chief Ledbetter gave the fire report for the month of January, 2016. There were 3 structure fires, 1 automatic alarm, 1 false alarm, 2 woods fires, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 ambulance assist, 3 hazardous materials calls and 1 trash fire.

Chief Ledbetter then told the Council that he had an offer on the fire truck for \$150,000. Mary Bramblett made the motion to sale the fire truck for \$150,000.00 and to pay off the note for the two new fire trucks using an extra \$10,000.00 from the fire tax to pay the trucks off completely. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Park and Recreation Director Jeff Formby informed the Council that the cost from all departments to start the RV Park would be over \$40,000.00. The City Clerk informed the Council that the Alabama

Trust Fund money could be used to pay for the RV Park. Kenny Kelley made the motion to proceed with the RV Park and to come back to the Council with dates that it will be started and if the city will need to hire contract labor to help construct the park. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business Mark Harper made the motion to refinance the 2010 A General Obligation Bond at a cheaper interest rate with the payments and the end date staying the same. This would at this particular time give the city around \$225,000.00 back to be used for other city needs or to have as a reserve. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the vote was 5 yeas and two abstentions. Therefore, the 2010 A General Obligation Bond will be refinanced at a cheaper interest rate.

Brenda Spears said that she and Mark Harper were absent from the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and Ordinance No 606 was brought up about the surplus property that is located behind the Piedmont Museum. She stated that in the minutes that the Council had voted to purchase the land from Norfolk Southern Railroad and then declare the property surplus and sale it to the Historical Society 0.13 acres to move the Roberts House to that location. She asked where is our integrity as Council Members, to back up now and say that it is not going to be surplus. Also, where is our trust in the community? Also, the council told Dr. Ben Ingram that we would do this and he is the one getting the grants. She stated that we may not like how it looks on the property, but nevertheless we agreed to do that. She said the Historical Society does not expect any help from the City of Piedmont to move and relocate the house. She said we are not out any money and we are standing to our word, say what you mean and mean what you say. Brenda Spears made a motion to revote for Ordinance No 606 and make the 0.13 acres behind the Piedmont Museum surplus and offer it to the Historical Society. After some discussion Mary Bramblett said she would second the motion but she was tired of going back every two weeks and having to redo something. She said when we have something on the agenda that the Council Members need to be here to vote and not come back two weeks later and have to redo everything. The Mayor asked the City Clerk for a roll call and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the vote was 3 yeas and 4 nays. Therefore, Ordinance No 606 did not pass to declare the property surplus.

Brenda Spears made a motion that the salaries for the Council Members go from \$350.00 to \$400.00 and the Mayor's pay go up to \$2,000.00. No one seconded the motion so the motion dies.

In Council Reports Ben Keller had no report.

Mary Bramblett had no report.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley had no report.

Brenda Spears Council Comments:

The Bills for Payment for tonight's council is \$449,528.81 with payroll and Taxes for the week of February 5 at \$52,624.27 and week of February 12 at \$53,686.42 for a total of \$555,839.50. The total for the council meeting on February 2 was \$370,648.28. For the council's approval for February 2 and February 16 the total is \$926,487.78. Read the Council's minutes for each meeting at [www.piedmontcity.org](http://www.piedmontcity.org) to be informed of decisions discussed and voted on.

What extra measures can be taken/ done to prevent squirrels causing a power outage at the Electrical Sub-station?

I want to thank the Clerk for the information concerning the election for Mayor and Council members on August 23, 2016.

There will be a Seventh Judicial Circuit Judge Candidate Forum sponsored by the Calhoun-Cleburne County Bar Association on Thursday, February 18 at 6 p.m. at the Anniston City Meeting Center in Room A.

Pete Conroy, chairman of the Chief Ladiga Rails to Trails Committee and Anniston city officials, are hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, February 23 at 6 p.m. at the Anniston City Meeting Center to extend the riding trail 7 miles into Anniston to the Amtrak Train Station. Toby Bennington said the meeting is to let the public know about this \$512,000 project.

Mark Harper had no report.

Terry Kiser had no report.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor said that the Piedmont Boys basketball team won the area and if they win they will go to Jacksonville State.

He informed everyone that Black History Month Program will be held at the Bethune Center on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

He also said that Judge Debra Jones will be at the DAV building on February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am.

The Mayor also congratulated 3 Piedmont Football players on getting scholarships to further their education.

With no other business to come before the Council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.