

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

MARCH 15<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, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears, Mark Harper and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation given by Keith Word 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 \$400,769.39 were then presented for consideration for payment. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment unanimously.

The Mayor then asked for a motion for voting delegates at the League Convention in May. Terry Kiser made the motion that Frank Cobb be the voting delegate with Mayor Baker being the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate and Kenny Kelley being the 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor then called on Chief Norton to give the police report for the month of February 2016. Officers had 1445 total contacts with the public. There were 9 felony arrests, 42 misdemeanor arrests, 3 DUI arrests, 19 drug arrests, 8 crimes against persons arrests, 3 theft arrests, and 8 court/warrant arrests. There were 43 citations, 14 accident reports and 25 motorist assists. There were 2 violent crimes reported, 11 burglaries reported, 18 thefts reported, 23 cases investigated and 102 incident reports. Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$20,380.40 in fines for the month of February 2016.

Chief Norton gave the report for the Piedmont Animal Control for the month of February 2016. There were 48 calls for service, 1 follow-up investigation, 31 animals picked up, 7 animals returned to owner by ACO, 24 animals took to shelter, 20 strays/animals at large, 4 surrendered by owner and 4 reclaimed at shelter by owner.

Chief Norton then gave the report for the Piedmont Nuisance and Abatement for the month of February 2016. There were 29 total cases, 2 total new yard cases, 12 cases being processed, 2 cases completed, 2 community service workers, 1 court appearance and 10 verbal contracts.

In Other Business Mark Harper made a motion to bid the grass cutting out for the Chief Ladiga Trail. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Mayor discussed raising the starting pay for city employees to \$10.00 per hour. He stated that the city has around 10 employees that make less than \$10.00 an hour and that it is hard to pay bills and support a family with that amount of pay. Mark Harper made the motion to raise the starting pay for city employees to \$10.00 per hour. Kenny Kelley 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  
Kenny Kelley  
Brenda Spears  
Mark Harper  
Terry Kiser

Following the roll call the vote was unanimous to raise the starting pay for city employees to \$10.00 per hour.

The Mayor then reappointed Mr. Mac Singleton to the Piedmont Housing Authority Board to serve another 5 year term. Mr. Singleton's term will expire on April 1<sup>st</sup>. 2021.

In Visitor's Comments Keith Word announced the Throttle Kings Car Show would be at Fagan's Park on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said there is a tree leaning on Lea St. that needs to be cut.

Mary Bramblett said that she would like the city to purchase some of the brick from the SCT Cotton Mill and make a memorial to put somewhere in the city.

Kenny Kelley had no report.

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment for tonight's council is \$400,769.39 with Payroll and Taxes for the week of March 4 at \$56,060.22 and the week of March 11 at \$53,829.56. The total for our March 1 approval was \$517,807.92 and tonight's total is \$510,569.17. For the 2 council meetings in March, the council has approved a total of \$1,028,467.09.

The Bank Account Balances as of March 10, 2016 show that the Bad Debt for the Water, Gas, and Sewer and the Electric Departments has gone up from our March 1, 2016 report. It is the responsibility of the citizens to be accountable for their bills.

Mr. Harper made the motion on February 16 to refinance the 2010 A General Obligation Bond at a cheaper interest rate with the same payments (\$22,680.63 per month) and the end date staying the same (May 25, 2040) for the city to get around \$225,000 to be used for other city needs or to have as a reserve. I would like the council to vote to put the \$225,000 in a separate Savings Account at F&M Bank and withdrawals only with the council's approval for special projects and not put in the General Fund to pay monthly bills.

Mr. Robertson came to the council's meeting on March 1 and said he had purchased property on Forgotten Road to do a project called Tiny House Living. The Mayor told Mr. Robertson to talk to Building Inspector Carl Hinton. I would like the Mayor to get more information about his project and bring it back before the council for our consideration.

I am turning in a third work order to fix the large dip in the road where Third Avenue and Alabama Street meet. Mr. McGatha came to the council meeting on March 1 and informed the council that three incidents involving damage to cars have occurred at this location.

I am turning in a second work order to check the back alley ditch behind Third Avenue that causes front and side yard flooding for several houses on Third Avenue when there is a heavy rain. The drainage pipe should be checked for any possible blockage.

Holy Week is March 20-25. Easter is Sunday, March 27.

Mark Harper had no report.

Terry Kiser said that he would make signs for the new library hours.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor congratulated Kyle Naugher for getting his Eagle Scout Award. He congratulated the Spring Garden Girls Basketball team for winning the 3-A Championship. He also asked the council for permission to give the girls a medal for the championship. Kenny Kelley made the motion to purchase the medals. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried with one abstention by Mary Bramblett.

With no other business to come before the council Kenny Kelley made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.