

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PIEDMONT

MARCH 1ST, 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 Keith Word and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were presented for consideration. Mary Bramblett made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried with two abstentions by Terry Kiser and Kenny Kelley.

The bills totaling \$400,644.41 were then presented for consideration for payment. Terry Kiser 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 2016-07 which would declare two vehicles surplus from the electrical department. Frank Cobb made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-07. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and Resolution 2016-07 was adopted unanimously.

Next the Mayor asked for consideration of Ordinance No 607 which is the City of Piedmont's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Frank Cobb made the motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of Ordinance No 607. 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>
Ben Keller	NONE	NONE
Mary Bramblett		
Frank Cobb		
Kenny Kelley		
Brenda Spears		
Mark Harper		
Terry Kiser		

Frank Cobb then made the motion to adopt Ordinance No 607. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and Ordinance No 607 was adopted unanimously.

Next Terry Kiser made the motion to contract with Teklinks to install a new phone system for the City of Piedmont. The cost of the new install would be \$154,708.10 and the funds would be taken from the 2010 A General Obligations Bond. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Mary Bramblett made a motion to move a water meter from Porter Johnson Road to Piedmont Cut off Road and to run a line with 3 new meters going to the residents that have been on the same meter for 30 years. Frank Cobb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Other Business Terry Kiser made the motion to close the Piedmont Public Library on Saturdays and Sundays and open new hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. and 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday. The new hours will start April 1st, 2016. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Frank Cobb said that the garbage customers and utility customers need to sign a release if the city trucks are going to be on their property. He said the city has to repair driveways that have been damaged by the trucks.

Brenda Spears said that someone complained that the city vehicles were parked in the back parking lot and customers could not get parking places at the door.

Mary Bramblett said the sweeper truck is not working and needs to be repaired.

In Visitor's Comments Mr. Kenneth McGatha thanked the Council for fixing his sewer problem. He said they are still having a problem where Third Ave. and Alabama St. meet with the large dip in the road. He said there have been three incidents that people have had damage done to their cars. He told them to contact Mrs. Spears because that is her district but he said they like him said it wouldn't do any good. Mr. McGatha said he would like to address Mrs. Spears by saying that she sat on his front porch while she was campaigning and he asked her how much does a councilperson make a month and she responded that she wasn't in it for the money. He said that a couple of weeks ago that Mrs. Spears asked for a raise for the Mayor and Council. He said how you can even ask for a raise when you don't even come over to where we are at. He said when you won the election you had to have a run off and you won but he said there will be two votes that you will not get this time and he said he would do everything he could to make sure that somebody gets elected that will come see the people and talk to them. At this time Mrs. Spears tried to reply and Mr. McGatha said he didn't need to hear a reply because she's had all this time that she has been elected to reply.

Thomas Robertson said he had purchased some property on Forgotten Road and was going to do a project called Tiny House Living and he was told that he had to get the approval of the city Council before doing it. The Mayor told Mr. Robertson to get with Building Inspector Carl Hinton and speak with him about what he will need to do.

In Council Reports Ben Keller said that he was talking to people about doing a clean-up day for the cemetery.

Mary Bramblett said she would like the steps to be put in at the Highland Cemetery.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley had no report.

Brenda Spears Council Comments:

The Bills for Payment for tonight's council is \$400,644.41 with Payroll and Taxes for the week of February 19 at \$55,302.73 and the week of February 26 at \$61,806.78. The total for tonight's council approval is \$517,807.92.

I have turned in eleven work orders for tree limbs, stop signs, street signs, household furniture at the curbs, and continuous yard sale items in the front yard.

The large turn-out for the "Remembering Piedmont" on Sunday, February 28 at the Clyde Pike Civic Center was enjoyed by all. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Gaynell Anderson!

Mark Harper had no report.

Terry Kiser asked to read a letter he had prepared to go in the minutes.

Mayor Baker,

I am very disappointed with Councilwoman's Brenda Spears comments at the last City Council meeting held on February 16, 2016. Her comments questioned the integrity of our city council members for voting our feelings and the feelings of the citizens in our districts.

I cast my vote based on what is in the absolute best interest of our city and community without any political agenda or favoritism. And Mrs. Spear's comments about integrity should have never been stated at a public meeting or been an issue at all. Her comments were very unprofessional and uncalled for at the city council meeting.

I would appreciate that each city council member to think about what you say and what your comments are since we speak on behalf of our citizens in a public meeting for all to see and hear.

Sincerely,
Terry Kiser

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor thanked the city employees during the bad weather and again said that the City of Piedmont has the best employees.

He congratulated the Piedmont Boys Basketball team for a game well played going into 5 overtimes.

He announced that the Spring Garden girls will play Thursday night in Birmingham for the State Championship.

He also congratulated Superintendent Matt Akin for being one of the 15 top educators in America.

With no other business to come before the Council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.