

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PIEDMONT
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 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 Baker, Council Members Ben Keller, Mary Bramblett, Frank Cobb, Kenny Kelley, Brenda Spears and Terry Kiser.

Mark Harper was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by Mayor Baker and the pledge of allegiance to the flag the minutes were then presented for consideration. Terry Kiser made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Ben Keller seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The bills totaling \$541,284.45 were then presented for consideration for payment. Frank Cobb made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion with 2 abstentions by Kenny Kelley and one no vote by Brenda Spears. With not enough votes to pay the bills Frank Cobb made a motion to rescind the previous vote. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the Clerk did a roll call vote to rescind and the vote was as follows:

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

Following the roll call the majority voted to rescind the previous vote.

Frank Cobb then made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the bills were paid with one abstention by Kenny Kelley and one no vote by Brenda Spears.

Next Casey Ponder explained the Charter Franchise agreement. He said there were several changes to the agreement and the Council could review before the next meeting.

Next Chief Norton stated that Northern Package Store had no criminal record or other information which would affect the lounge retail liquor –class II (Package) permit application. Frank Cobb made the motion to approve the retail liquor permit. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2016-20 which is a surplus of six transformers from the Piedmont Power and Light Department to be placed on Gov Deals to be sold to the highest bidder. Frank Cobb made the motion to approve Resolution 2016-20. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Sunday alcohol sales time limit had passed and that businesses are now allowed to sale alcohol on Sundays. He stated that the Council could put a time restriction on the sales for Sundays or just not have any restrictions. Brenda Spears made a motion to put a time restriction for after church on Sundays. With no second to the motion the motion dies. Therefore, the Piedmont businesses may sale alcohol on Sundays with no time restrictions in place.

Next Mr. Boyd Canter asked the Council to de annex him from the city so he could have farm animals on his property at 868 Steinburg Road. Brenda Spears made the motion to allow Mr. Canter to de annex from the city limits of Piedmont. Mary Bramblett seconded the motion and the Clerk did a roll call vote and the vote was as follows:

<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Ben Keller	Frank Cobb	NONE
Mary Bramblett	Kenny Kelley	
Brenda Spears	Terry Kiser	
Mayor Baker		

Following the roll call vote the council voted to 4 yeas and 3 nays to allow Mr. Canter to de annex from the City of Piedmont. The Clerk then told Mr. Canter that an Ordinance would have to be done and five votes would have to be given to allow the de annexation to take place.

Next the Mayor called on Chief Norton to give the Police Report for the month of August, 2016. Officers initiated 1470 total contacts with the public. There were 16 felony arrests, 50 misdemeanor arrests, 19 drug arrests, 6 crimes against persons arrests, 3 theft arrests, 15 court/warrant arrests. There were 53 citations, 9 accident reports and 38 motorist assists. There were 4 violent crimes reported, 8 burglaries reported, 13 thefts reported, 25 cases investigated and 129 incident reports. The Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$14,245.00 in fines for the month of August, 2016.

The Chief then gave the Piedmont Nuisance and Abatement Report for August, 2016. There were 34 total cases, 2 new yard cases, 12 cases being processed, 4 cases completed, 2 community service workers, 2 court appearances and 8 verbal contracts.

The Chief then gave the Piedmont Animal Control Report for the month of August, 2016. There were 31 calls for service, 9 animals picked up, 5 animals returned to owner by ACO, 9 strays, and 6 sent to rescue.

In Visitor's Comments Mr. Carl Cronan asked the Council if he could have a Piedmont City Wide Cruise In and use the city parking lots for parking. Frank Cobb made the motion to allow the use of the parking lots. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In Council Reports Ben Keller thanked the Water Department for fixing a water leak on Morgan Ave. Mary Bramblett had no report.

Frank Cobb had no report.

Kenny Kelley had no report

Brenda Spears council comments:

The Bills of Payment for tonight's council is \$541,284.45. Payroll and Taxes for the week of September 9 was \$56,569.87. The Payroll and Taxes for September 16 was \$58,109.93. The total for tonight's council approval is \$655,964.25.

September 6 the Bills of Payment and Payroll and Spending was \$728,738.23 and tonight is \$665,964.25. For the two council meetings in September, the council approved spending of \$1,394,702.48. This is very high and a serious budget concern. The months of October (2015) March, April, June were over one million dollars.

At the September 6 meeting, Casey Ponder told the council that the Mayor of Piedmont in the 1980's signed a contract with AMEA, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, till 2035. I cannot imagine anyone signing such a long term and binding contract with a utility company. The citizens of Piedmont are concerned about high utility bills and are comparing AMEA and Alabama Power rates. The city's September 6 AMEA bill was \$271,273.56 and tonight's bill is \$281,687.51. The City of Piedmont will pay AMEA \$552,963.07 this month.

The council has not been given a copy or approved the minutes from the called meeting on Tuesday, August 20.

The Mayor should enforce the insurance regulations that state that only city employees are allowed to ride in city insured vehicles because of liability issues if there is an accident.

A citizen from District 5 has asked about water conservation tips that the WGS could provide and list on our utility bill or in the paper.

Piedmont's City Auditor, Kemp & Associates, CPA PC, answered questions from the council concerning the Auditor's Report for the Year Ended September 30, 2015 during the work session at 5:30 pm.

Terry Kiser had no report.

Jesse McKnight informed the Council that a sewer pump at the sewer treatment plant needed to be repaired. He said that the repairs would be \$11,163.00 and the current pump is 25 years old. He stated that a new pump would be \$19,650.00 with a warranty. Frank Cobb made the motion to purchase the new sewer pump with a warranty. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the carried unanimously.

In the Mayor's Comments the Mayor announced a DAV Reunion for the National Guard Unit on Saturday, September 24th.

He wished Mary Bramblett a Happy Birthday.

With no other business to come before the Council Terry Kiser made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Kenny Kelley seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.