

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PIEDMONT
8-17-2021
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 Richard Williams, Jubal Feazell, Caleb Pope, Greg South, David Ivey and Terry Kiser. John Lawrence was absent from the meeting.

Following the invocation given by David Ivey 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. Caleb Pope seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with one abstention by Jubal Feazell.

The bills totaling \$542,791.17 were then presented for consideration for payment. Jubal Feazell made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the bills were approved unanimously.

The mayor asked the council for consideration of an interim city clerk to take the place of City Clerk Michelle Franklin who is retiring October 1st. After some discussion, Terry Kiser made the motion to make Carl Hinton interim city clerk. Richard Williams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jubal Feazell made the motion to appoint interim Chief Nathan Johnson as permanent Police Chief. Caleb Pope seconded the motion and Nathan Johnson was appointed Chief of Police unanimously.

The mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2021-17 which is the annual section 5311 nonurbanized area public transportation agreement. Caleb Pope made a motion to adopt the agreement. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and Resolution 2021-17 was adopted unanimously.

The mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2021-18 which is an abatement for grass cutting on 318 East Ladiga St. Jubal Feazell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-18. Greg South seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2021-19 which is an abatement for grass cutting on 105 Williams St. Greg South made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-19. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and Resolution 2021-19 was adopted unanimously.

The mayor asked for consideration of Resolution 2021-20 which is an abatement for grass cutting on 108 Memorial Dr. Caleb Pope made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-20. David Ivey seconded the motion and Resolution 2021-20 was adopted unanimously.

The mayor then asked for consideration of Resolution 2021-21 which is an abatement for grass cutting on 407 North Center Ave. David Ivey made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-21. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and Resolution 2021-21 was adopted unanimously.

Caleb Pope made a motion to allow Water and Gas Superintendent Byrian Watts to purchase a new John Deere lawnmower from AG Pro for \$10,000.00 to be taken out of the capital account. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

After some discussion on the training fire facility the council tabled the matter until the next meeting.

Greg South made a motion to allow Chief Ledbetter to spend \$16,000.00 from fire tax to purchase the materials to start the utility work for the fire training facility.

Next Jubal Feazell made the motion to use \$70,000.00 from the fire tax fund and 7 \$70,000.00 from the rescue plan funds to purchase a new console for the police and fire department and discuss purchasing radios after the council receives the quotes from Chief Ledbetter. Caleb Pope seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The mayor called on Chief Johnson to give the police report for the month July 2021. Officers initiated a total of 1,035 contacts with the public. There were 18 felony arrests, 44 misdemeanor arrests, 3 DUI arrests, 20 drug arrests, 4 crimes against persons arrests, 3 theft arrests, 10 court arrests, and 15 other agency arrests. There were 21 citations, 2 accident reports and 23 motorist assist. There was 1 violent crime reported, 1 burglary reported, 6 thefts reported, 18 cases investigated, 118 incident reports. Piedmont Municipal Court collected \$17,571.42 in fines.

The Chief then gave the ACO report for July. There were 17 calls for service, 2 court cases, 34 animals picked up, 7 taken to the shelter and 27 reclaimed by owner.

In Visitor's Comments Cody Spoon addressed the council by reading a statement concerning former Chief Norton and then asked the council questions regarding Chief Norton's retirement. Mayor Baker explained to Mr. Spoon that Chief Norton had retired and that he couldn't discuss personal matters. Misty Shell asked about the process of getting training and a taser for the animal control officer. Butch Tolbert spoke to the council concerning the fire training facility and the need for it. He explained that the younger fireman needs a place to train and how important this is to the department.

In Council Reports Richard Williams thanked Mike Ledbetter for the information on the fire training facility.

Jubal Feazell said the website would be up and running tomorrow and he thanked the police department for the active shooter training.

Caleb Pope said that the police and fire do an outstanding job. He also said that covid is bad and need to remember to wear a mask, wash your hands and stay a safe distance from people.

David Ivey thanked Chief Johnson for the active shooter training. He said that there would be training for the website.

Terry Kiser asked that the raises be given to employees that receive there CDLS.

In the Mayor's Comments the mayor congratulated Nathan Johnson on the chief position. He congratulated Carl Hinton on the interim city clerk position. He said that the Mapco Road was paved and to thank Commissioner Lee Patterson.

With no other business to come before the council Greg South made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.