

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PIEDMONT

APRIL 16, 2024

5:58 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 Richard Williams, Jubal Feazell, Caleb Pope, Greg South, David Ivey, and Terry Kiser.

Following the invocation and the pledge of allegiance given by Mayor Baker, the minutes were presented for consideration. Terry Kiser made the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Jubal Feazell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. Richard Williams and Caleb Pope abstained.

The bills totaling \$441,536.63 were then presented for consideration for payment. Caleb Pope made the motion that the bills be approved as presented. Jubal Feazell seconded the motion and the bills were approved for payment.

Fagan's Park was the next topic on the agenda. Jubal Feazell made the motion for the City to enter into an agreement with Charlie Fagan for a temporary lease and purchase agreement for Fagan's Park. This agreement will be executed by the Mayor. Greg South seconded the motion and motion carried.

The Pickle Ball Group was next on the agenda. Diana Rogers was the spokesperson for the group. She told the Council that there is a need for an outdoor pickle ball court. The group hopes that the Council will move forward on a new pickle ball court. In closing, they thanked the Mayor and Council for listening to their needs and concerns.

There was not any new information on the Civic Center Renovations.

The Mayor read the new Tree City Proclamation to the Council and the audience.

After the Police and Fire reports were given, Jubal Feazell made the motion to replace the five part time fire positions that had been vacated. David Ivey seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Fire Chief position was talked about after the part time fire positions. Caleb Pope made the motion to search for a Fire Chief effective immediately. He asked for this to be an administrative position that would work Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. Terry Kiser seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Byrian Watts gave the MWPP annual report. Caleb Pope made the motion to approve the report. Jubal Feazell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

There were two visitor comments. Larry Davis read a prepared statement addressing the Council and Mayor about the cost of relocating his utility pole for his shop. Terry Batey and Ashley Jones from the Arts and Entertainment Committee told about upcoming events. They received a grant from Keith Kelley for \$3900 and one from Mark Gidley for \$2600. Terry thanked Jeff and the PARD for the Danny and Beth Stone presentation on the Sports Memorial Wall. They told about the trail celebration on April

27. The Arts and Entertainment Committee will have a spot behind the Police Department on the Trail. The Independence Day celebration will be on July 6 at the Sports Complex.

In Council reports, John Lawrence was absent.

Richard Williams thanked the Pickle Ball group for coming tonight. He fully supports them. He also would like to thank Terry and Ashley for the hard work they do. In closing, he wanted to thank Governor Ivey for allocating money to help those in need of house repairs to weatherize their houses.

Jubal Feazell told the Council that we did not receive the paving grant. He made the motion to move forward with Plan B. The cost of the paving project will be \$291,825.00. Commissioner Lee Patterson has pledged \$100,000.00 to paving and the remaining monies will come from gas tax. Greg South seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Caleb Pope wanted to thank Jubal for the hard work on the paving project. He also wanted to thank Richard McCain and Butch Tolbert for their reports for the Fire Department.

Greg South wanted to thank the Fire department for their professionalism at the meeting. He appreciates all the City employees and the citizens. He is thankful for the Chief Ladiga Trail and all businesses in Piedmont. In closing, he wanted to apologize to the City Clerk for his actions at the last Council meeting.

David Ivey wanted to thank Terry and Ashley for all the work they do. He loves the passion that they have. The memorial at the Sports Complex for Danny and Beth Stone was very nice. He wanted to thank the Police and Fire departments for all their hard work. He wanted to let everyone know about the grant for weatherization. In closing, he stated that we can accomplish a lot by doing a little at a time.

Terry Kiser asked if we could look at the possible cost for a RV park. He said with 39 miles of the Chief Ladiga trail it would be great to have a RV park for the trail users. He said it would be a "WIN WIN".

Clerk Hinton told the Council that the lease agreement had been signed by Charlie Fagan. Insurance and the cutting of the grass was done the day of the signing. The purchase of natural gas was his question to the Council. Caleb Pope made the motion to put \$50,000.00 in a separate WGS account to purchase future gas purchases. The initial purchase cost will go back in the WGS account and the profit will go into savings. Greg South seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In the Mayor's comments he told Council and audience about the great employees that the City has. He appreciates the information from the Fire Department tonight. He wants to let the Pickle Ball group know that he fully supports them. He told the Council that the Piedmont Baseball team will be playing in the playoffs against Sylvania on Thursday night. He announced the AMEA scholarship winners for 2024. They were Addison Bennefield, Mayce Chandler, Ava Pope, and Gracie Epps. He advised the Council that the Statement of Economic Interest needs to be completed by April 30. He invited the Council to attend the meeting at the Duggar Mountain Assisted Living on April 23 at 5:30. In closing, he mentioned the sewer and clean water grants that we previously received and we are still waiting on results for a cast iron replacement grant.

With no other business to come before the Council, Caleb Pope made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Greg South seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.