

**PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
GEORGE FINA MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
314 EDMOND ROAD NW  
MONDAY JANUARY 23, 2012**

All regular meetings of the City Council of Piedmont for the 2012 calendar year were set on October 27, 2011. The above Agenda Summary is posted at Piedmont Civic Center – Front Door, on January 19, 2012, at 3:10p.m

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Valerie Thomerson; Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Gage, Councilman Vernon Woods, Councilman Hoss Cooley, Councilman Wade Johnson, Councilman Jeff Davis

**ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Manager Jim Crosby, City Clerk Jennifer Smith; City Attorney Tom Ferguson; Engineer Dr. Ellen Stevens, Community Development Director Arti Patel

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Valerie Thomerson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Smith called the roll. There was a quorum present. There were approximately 40 citizens in the audience.

**3. FLAG SALUTE:          Marcus Thomerson**

**4. INVOCATION:          City Manager Jim Crosby**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA - All items on the consent agenda are non-controversial and may be approved by one motion for items.**

- a. Approval of Minutes for the Special City Council meeting on December 29, 2011.
- b. Approval of Purchase Order/Disbursements for the City (Claims List).
- c. Receipt of December Financial Statements.

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Gage made a **motion** to approve items a, b and c on the consent agenda. It was **seconded** by Councilman Wade Johnson.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Councilman Woods, Councilman Cooley, Councilman Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Gage and Mayor Thomerson

**NYE:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Councilman Davis

6. **CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA –**

None

7. **HEARING OF CITIZENS - Topics to include those items *not listed in the agenda.***

Cindy Cheatwood got up to speak about the Piedmont Watchdog website. Ms. Cheatwood believes that the website contains inaccurate and false statements and that the City Council should put a stop to it. Mayor Pro-Tem Gage responded that it is not a City website, therefore it is not in the City Council's jurisdiction. She was asked by Mayor Thomerson to take her seat.

8. **BUSINESS ITEMS –**

- a. **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF PIEDMONT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2020 LAND USE MAP FROM THE PROPOSED FUTURE LAND USE AND REZONE THE PROPERTY FROM RE (RURAL RESIDENTIAL) TO RE-2 (RURAL MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL) AND CONTAINS 80.82 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED BETWEEN THE NORTHWEST INTERSECTION OF 164<sup>TH</sup> AND MORGAN ROAD AND THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE EMERALD POINT SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN PIEDMONT, CANADIAN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA. SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

Councilman Woods asked if this was a public hearing or not. On Tab 6 of the packet in the middle of the page it says Agenda Placement: Public Hearing. City Manager Jim Crosby responded that it was a staff error when preparing the packet and that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final hearing of this item. Councilman Woods wanted to make sure it was on record that it isn't a public hearing. City Attorney stated that it could be amended to reflect what is on the Agenda and the City Council could continue with this item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gage wanted to clarify that the original zoning was for 2 ½ acres before and now they are ½ acre lots

Councilman Davis made a **motion** to approve item a. It was **seconded** by Councilman Johnson.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Mayor Pro-Tem Gage, Councilman Cooley, Councilman Woods, Councilman Johnson and Councilman Woods

**NYE:** None

**b. CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PIEDMONT, OKLAHOMA, ADOPTING THE ADDITION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PIEDMONT REVOLVING LOAN FUND & APPLICATION PROCESS/FORM. (TAB #7)**

Rick DeWitt with the USDA was present to answer any questions the City Council has regarding the Piedmont revolving Loan Fund for small businesses. There was a discussion on how the fund works.

The total grant from the USDA is \$99,999 and the City would set the criteria for loaning that out. It can all be used for one large loan or divided out into smaller sums for multiple businesses. The city would not be responsible if any or all of the loan went bad, however if the entire amount was lost and the City tried to get another grant it would be taken into consideration.

Community Development Director, Arti Patel, stated that the goal is to put in for another grant when the population of Piedmont reaches 10,000. She stated that the grants would go toward economic development.

Mr. DeWitt stated that most communities that receive the grant have a loan committee that the applications will go through. The only downfall with a committee is confidentiality. These loans need to be kept confidential in the same way a bank does.

There was a discussion on how the loans would be divided out. The amounts and limitations would be up to the City's discretion and policies. The Community Development Director stated that the criteria would be set and the loans would be given out on a first come, first serve basis.

Councilman Woods asked if there was a sunset on this grant or would the money remain ours forever. Mr. DeWitt responded that as long as the City continues to use it for the revolving loan fund, then it is ours to keep. Councilman Woods commended the Community Development Director for her work on this project and thinks that this fund is definitely something the City needs.

Mayor Thomerson opened a discussion about the monitoring and disbursement of the fund. It was decided that the City Clerk would handle the disbursement and monitoring.

There was a discussion that in Article C under Administration it needed to be changed from Community Development Director to Financial Director and under Article D under Loans where it refers to the board needs to be changed to the City Manager. Article D under Term, Director needs to be added at the end of the first sentence. There are also a few other typos that the Community Development Director needs to correct.

Mayor Thomerson stated that it was her understanding that the Community Development Director would make the recommendation to the City Manager and that is how it is determined how a loan is awarded.

City manager stated that he thinks this is a good idea and the City Clerk will be the one handling the funds and it will not be handled by anyone outside of the City Clerk's office.

Councilman Davis made a **motion** to approve item b and it was **seconded** Mayor Pro-Tem Gage.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Councilman Davis, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Cooley, Councilman Woods and Mayor Pro-Tem Gage

**NYE:** None

- c. CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE CITY CLERK HAVING CERTIFIED THAT THE RECALL PETITION OF COUNCILMAN WADE JOHNSON WAS PREPARED AND CIRCULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND HAVING DETERMINED THAT IT HAS A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SIGNATURES, SUBMITS THE RECALL PETITION AND HER CERTIFICATE FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION FIXING THE DATE FOR A RECALL ELECTION.

Before opening this item up for discussion Mayor Thomerson asked the City Attorney if everything was followed to the letter, the City Attorney confirmed that it was. The City Attorney stated that he met with the City Clerk to review the petition and signatures. The signature form was proper and the signatures were studied by the City Clerk and a determination was made that there was a sufficient number of signatures. In accordance with State Statute, notice of that by the City Clerk was published on Thursday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. Mayor Thomerson asked if the city was in compliance with the Charter. The City Manager replied yes, now all that needs to be done is to set the election.

Mayor Thomerson then opened the item up for discussion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gage asked when you say set the election, what would that mean? The City Attorney explained that according to the Election Board the 1<sup>st</sup> election date that the city can have for this election is in June because of the timing involved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gage made a **motion** to set the election date for June 26, 2012. It was **seconded** by Councilman Woods.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Councilman Cooley, Councilman Davis, Councilman Woods and Mayor Pro-Tem Gage

**NYE:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Councilman Johnson

**d. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH JIM CROSBY.**

Councilman Davis made a **motion** to convene into Executive Session at 7:03p.m. It was **seconded** by Councilman Johnson.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Mayor Pro-Tem Gage, Councilman Davis, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Cooley and Councilman Woods

**NYE:** None

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### a. MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE TO THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Davis made a **motion** to reconvene the meeting at 7:33p.m. It was **seconded** by Mayor Pro-Tem Gage.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Mayor Pro-Tem Gage, Councilman Davis, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Cooley and Councilman Woods

**NYE:** None

## 8. BUSINESS ITEMS

### e. ACTION ON APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR JIM CROSBY FOR THE CITY MANAGER POSITION.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gage made a **motion** to approve Jim Crosby's contract as changed in the Executive Session. It was **seconded** by Councilman Davis.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Councilman Davis, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Cooley, Mayor Pro-Tem Gage and Councilman Woods

**NYE:** None

## 9. NEW BUSINESS –

### a. **Unplanned Items – Requires 4/5ths Majority to Declare “New Business.”**

NONE

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AND RECONVENE TO PIEDMONT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

Councilman Davis made this **motion** at 7:35p.m. It was **seconded** by Councilman Johnson.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Councilman Davis, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Cooley, Mayor Pro-Tem Gage and Councilman Woods

**NYE:** None

**10. PIEDMONT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

**a. MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM PIEDMONT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY AND TO RECONVENE TO REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

Councilman Davis made a **motion** to reconvene to the regular City Council meeting. It was **seconded** by Councilman Cooley.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Councilman Davis, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Cooley, Mayor Pro-Tem Gage and Councilman Woods

**NYE:** None

**11. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS-**

Councilman Woods requested an update in the status of the Williams contracts. The City Attorney gave an update. The contracts are being revised and are on his desk for review. The City Attorney stated that he has not looked at the contracts today, but plans to review them tomorrow. The City Attorney will report the contents to the city and provide the Councilman copies of the drafts. The drafts will be emailed this week.

Councilman Davis requested that all email correspondence be sent to him in Adobe, as that is the only format he can open and view in. Councilman Davis also stated that he would like to see the Williams Grocery contract, as it has been ongoing for many years.

12. **ADJOURN** –

Mayor Pro-Tem Gage made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m. It was **seconded by** Councilman Davis.

**The vote was:**

**AYE:** Councilman Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem Gage, Councilman Cooley and Councilman Johnson

**NYE:** None

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**Mayor, Valerie Thomerson**

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**Brandy Cherry, Administrative Asst**