

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE FINA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
314 EDMOND ROAD NORTHWEST
Thursday, August 2, 2012 – 5:30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Valerie Thomerson, Mayor Pro Tem Larry Gage, Councilman Charles Coffman, Councilman Albert Gleichmann, Councilman Donnie Robinson, Councilman Vernon Woods

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manger Jim Crosby, City Clerk/Treasure Jennifer Smith, Attorney Mike Segler, Police Chief Alex Oblein, Water Works Supervisor Bud Stuber and Secretary Mary Ramsey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Valerie Thomerson called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. ROLL CALL – City Clerk/Treasure Jennifer Smith called roll. There was a quorum present. There were approximately 8 people in the audience.

3. FLAG SALUTE – Waved without objection

4. INVOCATION – Waved without objection

5. BUSINESS ITEM –

a. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON WATER RATIONING.

Mayor Pro Tem Larry Gage made a motion to discuss item a. It was **seconded** by Councilman Donnie Robinson.

City Manager Jim Crosby explained that during the August 23rd City Council meeting he mentioned the City's was at 13 million gallons of water usage. End the month of August using 16 million gallons of water form Oklahoma City.

Last Monday the City Manager sent letters out to the Councilman letting them know that at that time the City was at 19 million gallons. The City offices have received phone calls from citizens with concerns about low water pressure in certain areas of the City. Communicated with Council and the decision at that time was to go to no outdoor

watering. Low water pressure is a major concern for fire fighting capabilities. City Manager Jim Crosby referred to a slide presentation and explained that during good water times the fire hydrates are considered marginally adequate. Understanding the heat and drought continuing and there is a maximum amount of water that can be purchased from Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City is looking closely at their water situation and is current on an odd/even water rationing program. As of August 1st the City has purchased 731,000 gallons of water from Oklahoma City, if you take 400,000 gallons a day over 30 days that is 12 million gallons. If averaged out City would be purchasing an additional 10 million gallons at the cost of an additional \$50,000. Last month used a little over 20 million gallons, \$42,000 penalty from Oklahoma City. Budgeted \$260,000 for water, have put money in budget in case of a situation like this, but no one thought it would be as bad as it is.

The wells are downing presently they are holding their own, for the short term they are doing well.

As part of the City's contract with Oklahoma City we have to at least follow their water rationing program. Oklahoma City is currently on odd/even water. The City could consider odd/even water with limited watering as far as hand watering, or no outdoor watering with hand watering only. Made Council aware that no matter which program is considered the City will still be purchasing a lot of water from Oklahoma City.

Discussion occurred amongst the Council. Councilman Vernon Woods asked Police Chief Alex Obien how the water rationing will be enforced.

City Manager explained that for the first several days give warning to make sure everyone is aware of the situation and has received the message. 2nd violation gives a warning and then after write citations. Wants to make sure everyone is well informed.

Councilman Donnie Robinson explained that 60 days is short term, keeping hand water solve many problems with citizen flowers, shrubs and home foundations. If we get into a situation that we need more water then it should be purchased to keep the City's tanks at safe levels.

Councilman Charles Coffman odd/even is not the best option considering how much water is being used. Hand watering allows citizens to protect their investments in landscaping.

Councilman Vernon Woods feels like keeping the tanks full is the number one priority. He asked Water Supervisor how long it would take to get the tank to a safe level. He explained that it would take a day or two depending upon the heat.

City Manager Jim Crosby suggested that the City go to hand watering only and monitor the situation with the tanks, wells and water from Oklahoma City. Can put out a CTY message out to the Citizens tonight.

Mayor Valerie Thomerson suggested putting a time limit on when citizens can water. Watering in the evening is better, also noting that some residences have wells or septic sprinklers.

Discussion continued with best ways to communicate with Citizens about the watering program, suggestions of reaching out to the schools, church, bank by use of the digital signs. Use of online newspapers and the CTY system.

Councilman Charles Coffman asked about vibrations coming off of City water wells. Discuss continued about why the well are vibrating and ways to improve the water wells productions. Looking into improvements of these wells could possible save money from purchasing water from Oklahoma City?

Councilman Vernon Woods asked for the Council to script the message to go out to Citizen. Hand watering only evening hours, asked that police monitor and if broken they will receive a violation with price of ticket.

Discussion continued on what the message should read to Citizen it was decided a shorter positive message is better. City of Piedmont is implying water rationing, hand watering only; put sign up if you have a well, will keep them informed and things are subject to change.

City Manager Jim Crosby will keep the Council informed of water levels and if any more changes are needed.

6. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

7. ADJOURN - 6:15

Councilman Donnie Robinson made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:15. It was **seconded** by Mayor Pro Tem Larry Gage.

The vote was:

AYE: Councilman Donnie Robinson, Councilman Albert Gleichman, Councilman Charles Coffman, Councilman Vernon Woods, and Mayor Pro Tem Larry Gage

NAYE: None


Mayor, Valerie Thomerson


Secretary, Mary Ramsey

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