

City of Piedmont
52 Second Street
Piedmont, WV 26750
Official Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2026
Terry LaRue – Recorder

Commissioners present: Rhonda Niland- Mayor, Terry LaRue-Recorder
Beverly Noonan, Freda Fisher, Paul
Coleman, Sharon Shumaker, City Clerk,
Greg Harvey, Water Administrator
Liz Beavers
Comm. Jason Whitlock
Del. Rick Hillenbrand
Robbie Smith, Police Chief

Residents: Joe and Christa Braithwaite, Karen Lease, James Hartman, Jeff Coleman

Guests: Emma Cayton; The Thrasher Group

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Niland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Citizen's Comments: None

Guest Comments: Emma Cayton reported that the fencing is now complete at the water plant and they're basically down to "punch list" items for project completion.

Minutes Approval/Correction: Commissioner Coleman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting; Commissioner Noonan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Agenda Approval: Agenda was reviewed by council for approval. Motion for approval made by Comm. LaRue and seconded by Comm. Fisher. All were in favor

Approval of Bill Payments: The May 6th invoices/bills were reviewed by council. Comm. Coleman made a motion to approve and that motion received a second from Comm. Fisher. All were in favor.

Correspondence: A letter from Denison Powers was read. He is asking why water rates have not been decreased since we are no longer paying Westernport.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Mayor Niland: Read a list of completed tasks from the streets including repair of a water main break near the Piedmont Housing Authority, pool opening preparations, general cleanup, preparing the park restrooms for summer along with general park preparations. She thanked the citizens for being patient during the RT 135 shutdown and also thanked Bill Kady and Marcus Clay for volunteering to cut the trees at the top of Child's Ave. She mentioned that any citizens comments should be responded to during the meeting, and not outside of it. She passed the Class C Wastewater Certification in April, putting the city in compliance.

Commissioner Coleman- Housing: Reported that there are still 20-25 dilapidated properties in town that he is keeping in mind for DLAP when that money becomes available and he continues to work with Del. Hillenbrand on securing that. Ms. Nibblins now wants to donate her dilapidated property to the city for future demolition.

Streets: Covered by the mayor's comments

Commissioner LaRue:-Finance.

General - \$3,219.72 **Water** -\$7,714.76 **Sewer** - \$5,482.01 **Parks** - \$2,935.98
Pool - \$3,712.61 **941** - \$0.00 **Sec. Dep.** - \$1,194.96 **Coal Sev.** - \$445.90
Excess Levy - \$2,199.87 **Water Improvement Project** - \$189,851.69
Water CWCR - \$6,656.58 **Sewer CWCR** - \$3,680.98 **WV GoPay** - \$1,426.26
Renewal & Replacement - \$3,249.00 - **Police Acct.** - \$1,660.66
Opioid Account - \$685.08 **Water & Sewer Dep.** - \$437.46

Comm LaRue also inquired about the fire hydrant rebuilds and where we were on that. We do have some parts and will probably seek help from Luke, MD workers to assist us with those rebuilds.

Commissioner Noonan:-Parks and Rec: Mentioned that we are still pursuing the case involving destruction on our new park pavilion roof.

Commissioner Fisher-Water: Stated that our well continues to function properly and all compliance samples have been completed with favorable results. We also have a new URL built into our website homepage where our CCR results can be posted.

Water Administrator Harvey: Thanked our town workers for getting the water main break fixed as quickly as they did. We've received several complaints of brown or, dark water recently which has been attributed to residual manganese in the system. We're now treating the water to mitigate that. We're running the plant approx. 14 hours a week now and Rick Mayhew has agreed to stay on as our water operator. As far as our punch list for the water project goes, we still have to repair damage at Jack Amoruso's building and, a gate. The GWUDI testing for the well has passed the first two phases and we'll complete phase three as soon as weather requirements for that testing have been met.

Chief Smith: Referenced the recent behavior of a citizen at the city building and also behavior toward a town worker and our Water Administrator while at his residence. Chief Smith stated that

threats will not be tolerated and, will be dealt with. He also stated that city workers are actually government employees and all threats will be taken seriously.

OPEN BUSINESS:

1. **Region 8 drawdowns for Well Project:** #1: Thrasher, post Construction: **\$5,000.00**. #2: Region 8 Administration: **\$2,216.49** #3: Mid-Atlantic: Construction contract 2: **\$97,963.52**. Comm. LaRue made a motion to accept the drawdown amounts and Comm. Noonan provided a second. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **City Boundaries:** There was some question about our boundaries and them not matching the Census Bureau's records. Mayor Niland worked with the Mineral Co. Clerk, the Mapper from OEM and Dave Tackett from the Sec. of State's Office. After the Charter boundaries were applied to the county map, it shows that all citizens from the east side of the city are included in the city. The current outlined map was reviewed by council and they're in agreement that it is correct. Comm. LaRue made a motion to accept the map as true and received a second from Comm. Coleman. All were in favor.
2. **DEP Fine Payment Plan:** The DEP fine received by Piedmont had been dropped to \$4,647.50 from a significantly higher number. We think it would be wise to make no counter offers and may pay \$422.50 for 11 months to clear that debt. Comm. Fisher offered a motion to accept and received a second from Comm. Noonan. Comm. Larue cast a nay vote and Comm. Coleman approved. It passed with a 3 to 1 vote.
3. **Fair Housing Resolution:** Mayor Niland Niland read the resolution. Comm. LaRue made a motion to accept, receiving a second from Comm. Noonan. All were in favor.
4. **Approval for Piedmont online website store:** WV Printshop approached us about adding an online store to the city's website. The store would carry Piedmont-centered items such as shirts, coffee mugs, etc. Mayor Niland did contact the Ethics Comm. and we're ok to go with an online store. Comm. Fisher made the motion to approve, receiving a second from Comm. Coleman. All were in favor.
5. **New Hire:** With the retirement of T.I. Kady, we're a person short in our city crew and would like to fill the position. Comm. LaRue made the motion to approve, receiving a second from Comm. Noonan. All were in favor.
6. **Phase IV Water Project:** Water Administrator Harvey and I met with Kim Ruddle from Region 8 about starting our Phase IV water project for a second well and updated water meter equipment. As soon as it's approved by council, Kim will put bid announcements out, according to state protocol. Comm. Coleman made a motion to move forward, receiving a second from Comm. Fisher. All were in favor.

With no other business to be discussed, Commissioner LaRue made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**Next meeting will be Wednesday May 20, 2026 beginning at 6:00,
in the upstairs of the Piedmont Legion.**