

The Council of the City of Villa Rica met in a special called meeting on Wednesday, July 25, 2007 at the Powell Park Cultural Arts Center on Leslie Drive. Those present were Mayor J Collins; Councilmembers Perry Amidon, Verland Best, Danny Carter, Woody Holland and Joey Kelley; City Manager Danny Mabry; City Clerk Reedell Saxon and City Attorney David Mecklin. Approximately 12 people were in attendance.

Mayor Collins called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The invocation was given by Best. All recited the pledge of allegiance.

Collins ascertained that the meeting was duly advertised. The Clerk confirmed.

Collins presented the agenda item of setting the 2007 millage rate. Following the Mayor's veto on July 11, 2007 of the 6.825 rate [same as the 2006 rate] approved by council at the July 10th meeting, Council was asked to take action to either overturn the veto with a supermajority or set another rate. Carter presented a chart of data on property tax revenue and expressed his desire to roll back the rate [to 6.711]. Holland agreed with Carter. Kelley pointed out the record growth in the city which brings with it a demand for services. He said the City must have ways to generate the revenue to maintain those services. Kelley also noted that the three advertised public hearings on the millage rate drew no one to speak either for or against the 6.825 rate. Best said that everyone in the City has a right to water and sewer access. He said currently the water pressure in the downtown area is below a functional level and Council needs to use common sense and look "down the road". Amidon said the city is growing and needs upgrades in streets and other amenities. He pointed out that some things need to be done now rather than later when the cost would be higher to do them. After further discussion, Holland moved to set the millage rate at 6.711, seconded by Carter. Collins asked Mecklin if his veto of the 6.825 rate, if not overridden by a supermajority, had already set the millage to the rollback rate of 6.711. Mecklin said no. Collins called for a vote. Motion failed 2/3 with Best, Amidon and Kelley opposed.

Collins asked what happens now. Mecklin told Council that if a millage rate is not set, tax bills cannot be sent out; the City will eventually run out of money and would have to go before Superior Court for permission to send out temporary tax bills. Kelley moved to keep the rate at 6.825, seconded by Best. Motion carried 3/2 with Holland and Carter opposed. Collins indicated he would veto this as well. After further discussion, Best suggested a compromise in the rate. Mecklin said a member of Council who voted for the last motion could move to reconsider that motion. After some discussion, Best moved to reconsider, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/1 with Kelley opposed. Council discussed the percentage of a compromise. Best moved to set the millage rate at 6.775, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/1 with Carter opposed.

Collins opened the floor for public comment. There being no further comments, the floor was closed.

With no further business, Best moved to adjourn, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 5/0. Council adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

ATTEST:

J Allen Collins - Mayor

Reedell Saxon – City Clerk