

The Council of the City of Villa Rica met in a regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 in the Council Chambers at 101 Main Street, Holt-Bishop Justice Center, Municipal Courtroom. 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 55 people were in attendance.

Collins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

The minutes from the November 6 and November 20, 2007 meetings were presented. Amidon moved to accept as presented, seconded by Carter. Motion carried 5/0.

Under Old Business: Mabry reported on the City's progress for compliance with the Governor's Executive Order to reduce water production by 10%. He said the majority of the City's "Top 25" water users, mostly industrial and commercial users, have submitted plans to reduce usage and have been very responsive in finding ways to save water. Residential users are also responding. The City has purchased water conservation kits and making these available to residential users upon request. A website has also been established to offer ways of conserving water. Mabry said the City has met the 10% reduction for November. Conservation rates and other items under Phase II will be presented in January. Collins publicly thanked the businesses and industries who have worked toward conservation.

City Accountant Larry Wood presented the second reading for the Second Quarter Budget Amendment. Wood said this amendment includes changes from decisions at the November meeting. Collins asked if Wood foresees the City maintaining a balanced budget. Wood said yes, as is required by law. Carter moved to adopt the budget revision as presented, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 5/0.

Under New Business: Mabry asked Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Reese to announce the December Employee of the Month, Concessions Coordinator Corlis Long-Hudson. Ms. Long-Hudson was present to accept the plaque and check.

Collins presented the nominees for some of the openings in the Downtown Development Authority and the Main Street Board. The DDA had recommended Pat Large to fill the unexpired term of Patrick Hendrickson. The Main Street Board had recommended Betsy Henley for a vacancy on that board. Best moved to approve the recommendations, seconded by Carter. Motion carried 5/0. Collins administered the Oaths of Office to the two appointees.

Taurus Freeman, Planning and Zoning Manager, presented a consent agenda for the 40 applications for renewal of alcohol licenses for 2008. Collins asked Mabry if the fees for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses are consistent with the area. Mabry said they are fairly in line with the area, except for the pouring license fee, which may be a little lower. Collins asked that Mabry look into this. After a brief discussion, Best moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Carter. Motion carried 5/0. [A list of the applicants is attached and becomes a part of the minutes]

Freeman requested that ORD-15-07CD, an ordinance to amend Article 8, Sec. 8.02, regarding Water Conservation, in the Unified Development Codes (UDC) be tabled until the January meeting and that ORD-16-07CD, an ordinance to amend Article 8, regarding Storm Water Management, in the UDC, be withdrawn. Carter so moved, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 5/0.

Collins presented a resolution to honor the Holidays by whatever name it is called. Best moved to approve, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 5/0.

Best presented a motion to give City employees a Christmas present of a floating holiday to be taken some time in 2008, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 5/0.

Mabry pointed out to Council that the January meeting date, the first Tuesday in January, falls on January 1. He asked if Council would prefer setting an alternative date. Holland motioned to move the January Council meeting to January 8, 2008, seconded by Kelley. Motion carried 5/0.

Mabry presented a resolution to adopt the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Pay and Classification Study as it was presented to Council at the November 20, 2007 work session. After some brief discussion, Kelley recommended that a \$41,000 ceiling for implementing the project be added to the approval. Carter moved to adopt the resolution with the \$41,000 ceiling. Holland asked that the actual document from ARC be attached to the resolution as a public record. Kelley seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

Community Development Director Eric Lacefield presented a resolution to adopt Summergate Lane and Brookhaven Drive, which have been submitted for dedication by the Contractor. Carter moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Kelley. Motion carried 5/0.

Mabry presented a request from Community Action for Improvement (CAFI) for monetary assistance from the City in order to make building and landscaping repairs and improvements at the Head Start Center on Cleghorn Street as CAFI attempts to qualify for licensing in the State's Bright from the Start educational program. Mabry introduced CAFI Executive Director Jerome Anderson who addressed Council. Anderson said the building at the Head Start facility on Cleghorn Street has undergone some settling. Staff there has observed cracking in the corners and buckling of floor tile. Some of this is due to water runoff from a hill next to the building. There is also a problem with snakes getting into the building and on the playground due to the proximity of wooded areas and large rocks. Collins noted that the City owns the property on which the Head Start Center sets. He offered to have City crews clear out approximately fifteen feet around the building and playground and remove some of the boulders. Anderson said that would be very helpful. Best asked that Mabry have someone look at the facility and make a list or plan of what needs to be done. Anderson thanked the Head Start parents who attended the meeting in support of CAFI.

Kelley initiated a discussion to consider a passive park on the soon-to-be-vacant lot at South Carroll Road and East Wilson Street. Holland spoke of a request from several years ago to create more parking spaces in the downtown area. Carter suggested the Council needs to see various layouts of passive parks and parking areas in order to make an informed decision. Best said there also needs to be a cost analysis of various plans. Kelley and Carter agreed that due diligence must be followed before any decision is formalized.

Mabry presented one item for Consideration of Bids:

1. Residential Backflow Preventers. Holland moved to approve the low bidder, Consolidated Pipe, at \$21,280.00 for 800 backflow devices, seconded by Kelley. Motion carried 5/0.

Mabry presented one item for Payments over \$5,000:

1. Grissom Roofing, \$9,800.00 – for emergency repair to the roof over City Hall due to potential destruction of electronic equipment and paper files from leaks during the recent rain events. Carter moved to approve the payment, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 5/0.

Collins opened the floor for public comment.

Scott East, 123 Meleray Court, asked if the property at South Carroll and East Wilson was public property which was for sale or was it owned by the City. Council told him it has been owned by the City for approximately forty years.

Jim Pack, 111 Berkley Drive, asked about the status of the City Complex project. Council told him it is still in the works. Pack asked if the City has an engineering department.

State Representative Tim Bearden voiced his support of a public parking area at South Carroll and East Wilson to help out customers of the downtown businesses.

With no further public comments, Collins closed the floor.

Holland said he has enjoyed working with outgoing Councilmember Carter and wished him luck if he chooses to run again. Carter said it has been an honor to serve the citizens. Kelley also expressed enjoyment at having worked with Carter.

Collins turned the chair over to Mayor Pro Tem Best and excused himself.

Mecklin said there was no need for executive session.

With no further business, Holland moved to adjourn, seconded by Kelley. Motion carried 5/0. Council adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

---

J Allen Collins – Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Reedell Saxon – City Clerk