

The Council of the City of Villa Rica met in a regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 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, Woody Holland, and Shirley Marchman; City Manager Larry Wood; City Clerk Reedell Saxon and City Attorney David Mecklin. Councilmember Joey Kelley was absent with notification. Approximately 33 people were in attendance.

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

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

The minutes from the January 6 and 22, 2009 meetings were presented. Best moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood presented the financial update for FY2008-09. Combined cash accounts increased from \$7.3 million to \$7.9 million. General Fund revenues increased from \$5.6 to almost \$7 million. Expenditures also increased from \$6.6 to \$7.7 million. Water/Sewer is nearly 10% under for the month. Capital project expenditures increased from \$1.3 to \$1.6 million. The fiscal year is on tract to end at \$200,000 under budget which is approximately 2%. Wood said there will probably be a special called meeting of the Council and Public Facilities Authority toward the end of February to move forward with the remainder of the bond issuance for funding the West Plant.

Under Old Business: Wood presented a contract with Norfolk Southern for the property easement involvement for the new Wastewater plant. The cost was negotiated down to \$11,200 instead of the original \$53,000 Norfolk Southern had quoted. Mecklin said the contract looked fine. He noted the City's liability limits as required by Norfolk Southern and recommended this be explored. Holland moved to enter into the agreement, seconded by Marchman. Motion carried 4/0.

In reference to the agenda item ORD-09-01-ADM, golf carts on certain city streets, Wood announced that this was being permanently pulled with no plans to resubmit. Best moved to accept the removal, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood asked that the consideration of contracts postponed from January be postponed again to be considered along with the City Complex cost estimate and time line which will be presented at the March meeting. Holland moved to table until March, seconded by Best. Motion carried 4/0.

Under New Business: Wood asked Chief Mansour to present the February 2009 Employee of the Month. Chief Mansour asked that this be tabled until later in the meeting in order for that employee to be present. Holland motioned to move this item (item 9) until later in the meeting, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood asked for an amendment to the agenda to add one item to "Consideration of Contracts" for the addition of a construction materials testing and compliance contract with Geo-Hydro Engineers which was received this date. Best moved to amend the agenda accordingly, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/0.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Reese presented a resolution recognizing John Irizarry as the P&R Volunteer of the Year for 2008. Irizarry was presented with a plaque at the annual Volunteer Banquet in January. Collins asked the Clerk to read the resolution into the minutes which she did. Best moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood presented a nomination from Councilmember Kelley to appointment Nanette Folsom to the Villa Rica Library Advisory Board. Holland moved to approve the nomination, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/0. Collins administered the Oath of Office.

Wood introduced Jim Cooper, Director of the West Georgia Regional Library, and Julie Hall, Chairman of the Library Advisory Board. Ms Hall presented a request to the Mayor and Council to approve a resolution of support acknowledging the City's intent to match 10% of the first \$500,000 in project costs and 33% of any additional grant money up to \$2,000,000 in project cost. Wood said the City's match would come from SPLOST funds. He also noted that it will be two years before this particular grant would be rewarded and there is no guarantee the City will get the grant. After Council discussion Holland moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Best. Motion carried 4/0.

Marchman presented a Proclamation naming February 14, 2009 as Alfred F Wilson Day. She said the Proclamation would be presented to Mr. Wilson on that date at 6:00 p.m. during a celebration in his honor at Mount Prospect Baptist Church. Saxon read the Proclamation into the minutes. Marchman moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded simultaneously by Amidon/Best/Holland. Motion carried 4/0.

Interim Community Development Manager Taurus Freeman presented ORD-09-02-ADM, an amendment to Chapter 5, Building and Building Requirements, of the City Code of Ordinances. This ordinance would bring the City up to date on State requirements to use International Code Council rules and regulations on structures all built on or after July 1, 2004. Holland asked what would happen if this were not adopted. Freeman said the City would not be in compliance with the State code. Amidon moved to accept, seconded by Best. Motion carried 4/0.

Chief Mansour presented the February 2009 Employee of the Month, Officer Carol Collett, who is the School Resource Officer. Officer Collett and her family were present to accept the plaque and check.

Wood presented the second reading of ORD-09-03-CCO, an amendment to the Tax Ordinance to replace the two-table tax calculation with one simpler table. Wood said the recommended system would provide a decrease in taxes for 259 businesses, no change for 348 businesses and an increase to only 92 businesses. If approved, the change would take affect with the 2010 Occupation Taxes. Holland mentioned that in the past ten or so years these tables have been revised several times. He asked if the City could stick with this. Wood said yes. After further discussion, Holland moved to approve, seconded by Best. Motion carried 4/0.

Freeman presented a request to approve the dedication of the following streets, which have been found to meet city requirements: Rocky Branch Way, Millstream Ridge, Millpond Parkway, Millwheel Drive, Whetstone Way, and Weatherford Way. Freeman said Jeremy Dukes, Street Department Superintendent, has inspected the streets plus the City contracted the paving and installation of the street lights. After a brief discussion, Holland moved to accept the roads, seconded by Best. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood presented two intergovernmental agreements for tax collection through Carroll and Douglas Counties. Wood noted that both counties have newly elected Tax Commissioners and the City was asked to adopt one year contracts each at last year's rates to give the new Tax Commissioners time to acclimate to the positions. He said the cost would likely increase at next year's agreement. Collins questioned the difference in cost the two counties charge the City: Carroll being \$6.00 per tax parcel and Douglas being \$4.00. After further discussion, Best moved to accept, seconded by Marchman. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood presented five items under Consideration of Bids,

1. Training Center Roof – seventeen sealed bids received. Reese recommended the second lowest bidder, Architectural Contractors, at \$23,588 due to references, documentation, and past performance with city projects. Holland moved to approve, seconded by Marchman. Motion carried 4/0.
2. Library HVAC system – three quotes were obtained. Staff recommended the low quote from Advanced Comfort at \$12,100. Holland asked what efficiency these were. Wood said he would make sure it was sufficiently high. Holland moved to approve, seconded by Best. Motion carried 4/0.
3. Police K-9 unit (replacing Oscar who was put down due to advanced cancer) – five quotes obtained. Staff recommended the seconded low bid, Shallow Creek Kennels, at \$10,000 due to potential problems with the low bidder and another agency. The funds will come from the \$10,000 donation from the Carroll County Sheriff's Department for this purpose. Chief Mansour stated that a \$6,000 payment would be submitted initially followed by the final \$4,000 at delivery. Also, an additional donation of \$500 from the Upson Family will be used to purchase and install a K-9 cooling system for the assigned vehicle. Best moved to approve, seconded by Marchman. Motion carried 4/0.
4. Patrol vehicle cameras – single source, Watchguard (low bidder from 2007), to match cameras in all other City patrol vehicles. Two cameras to be purchased from available, budgeted funds for \$9,364 and two more with Federal Drug Seizure funds for \$ 9,364. Captain Keith Shaddix reported excellent maintenance and service from Watchguard. Best moved to approve, seconded by Marchman. Motion carried 4/0.
5. Phone recording system for Police department – three quotes obtained. Staff recommends low bidder, Public Sector Technologies, at \$11,575. Marchman/Amidon moved to approve, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood presented two items under Consideration of Contracts,

1. USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services for mitigation of beaver infestation inhibiting the flow of treated water discharge from the West Plant causing back up and potential property damage. Investigation revealed four colonies and 12 beaver dams. The Notice of Cooperative Agreement with the Wildlife Services calls for mitigation from the West Plant to U S Highway 78. The agreement is not to exceed \$10,000. Best moved to accept the agreement, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 3/1 with Holland opposed.
2. Geo-Hydro Engineers for construction materials testing and NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) compliance services including stormwater monitoring at the new West Wastewater Reclamation Facility. An estimated allowance of \$300,000 was built into the construction budget; Geo-Hydro proposes an estimated amount of \$200,000. Wood pointed out that while this was a preset amount in the Contractor bidding, the monitoring company should be responsible to the City and not the Contractor. Holland moved to enter into the contract for a fee not to exceed \$200,000, seconded by Best. Motion carried 4/0.

Wood presented one item for Payments over \$5,000.

1. Sandstone, Inc. – \$5250 for the purchase of 13¼ pallets of pavers consistent with the pavers used for the railroad park sidewalks. This amount is equal to the final remaining funds in the City's 1993 SPLOST draw and would close that account as requested by Carroll County. These pallets will be stored until the pavers are used in various Downtown projects. Amidon moved to approve the payment, seconded by Holland. Motion carried 4/0.

Best initiated a discussion to resume the City-Wide Cleanup Day beginning this spring. Best said this project would again be using Community Service workers, Inmate crews, and City public works employees to pickup curbside items. Best suggested that the elderly could sign a waiver allowing crews to come onto their private properties to remove whatever outside items these citizens requested. Best said everyone could put out up to five tires for free removal. Any over that amount would cost citizens \$2.00 each. Best expressed concern with the removal of Freon-containing items since that particular gas must be professionally removed but thought there would not be enough of these items to create a big problem. Marchman asked if junk cars would be allowed. Best said junk cars and other scrap iron would be welcomed as the City would sell these as scrap to recoup some of the cost of the Cleanup Day. Council agreed that citizens could put out any items at curbside over a weekend and the City would begin pick-up on Monday and throughout that week. Collins suggested Codes Enforcement could put pressure to participate on those violators whose properties were in need of cleanup. Council agreed this service would only be available to private residences and the items would be put out at curbside during the last full week of March with pickup beginning Monday March 30, 2009.

Wood presented a City update: (1) Cameras have been installed in the Courtroom and Council meetings were scheduled to be webcasted live beginning in March. (2) The Wastewater Reclamation Facility contracts with RTD Construction have been executed and the Notice to Proceed is expected to be issued on February 16, 2009. (3) Jeff Reese passed the Certified Parks Professional exam with the highest score ever and is now able to add the acronym *CPRP* to the end of his name. (4) Erin Sims has passed the Class II Water Operations test and has been promoted to Operator 2 at the Water Treatment Plant.

Collins opened the floor for public comment:

Isaac Robinson, 294 Berkley Drive, asked about an amendment to the Downtown Overlay zoning to allow arcades. Holland suggested he meet with the DDA, specifically Bill Taylor since the Downtown Overlay was created in conjunction with the DDA. Robinson said he wanted to offer special programs for Villa Rica youth in addition to the arcade. Collins suggested Robinson rethink the inclusion of an arcade and concentrate on the other youth programs he was considering.

Jim Pack, 111 Berkley Drive, asked that the City look into restriping the area on South Carroll Road at State Route 61 for safety purposes. He said there have been near collisions at that location recently.

Best moved to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition, seconded by Holland. Carried 4/0. Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:40 p.m. Collins announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

With no further business, Holland moved to adjourn, seconded by Amidon. Motion carried 4/0. Council adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

J Allen Collins – Mayor

ATTEST:

Reedell Saxon – City Clerk