

Minutes – March 16, 2010

The Council of the City of Villa Rica met in a called to review the 2010-11 proposed budget, Tuesday, March 16, 2010 in the Council Chambers at 101 Main Street, Holt-Bishop Justice Center, Municipal Courtroom. Those present were Mayor J Collins; Council members Rusty Dean, Verland Best, Woody Holland, Patrick Henrickson and Shirley Marchman; City Manager Larry Wood, and City Attorney David Mecklin.

Collins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 16, 2010. The invocation was given by Mayor Jay Collins. All recited the pledge of allegiance.

Request by City Manager to move Public Facility Authority meeting to April 1, 2010 at 5:30pm at the Holt-Bishop Justice Center. Holland made motion to change meeting/Best seconded. 5/0 motion carried.

City Manager Larry Wood present the proposed 2010-2011 Budget and the general funds summary. Total General Fund Revenue projected at \$8.5 million, down 7%; original request from department reduced 10%; no salary increases; medical coverage up 20%; transfer to reserve \$300,000.

Breakdown:

Mayor & Council: Discussed cost of city council insurance which increased \$15,000+. Save \$10,000+ if council pays same as full time city employee. Wood was directed to place this on the April council agenda for a vote by council to change benefits.

City Manager Cost Center: Largest increase \$45,000 to replace roof on city hall.

Elections: Higher cost due to fact that we used Douglas County Election Board for election in Douglas County. We can now contract with Carroll County even for elections within Douglas County. No election during next budget year, the \$12,500 will cover the cost of the invoice currently due, will hold and pay out of the 2010-2011 budget.

Finance: Working with one less staff (part-time person). One employee retired, moved current staff member into that position, deleted the part time position and hired the part-time staffer to work full time.

Data Processing: No increase with our current computer service company.

Human Resource: New item-Unemployment Insurance, covers 3 staffer that are not longer employed by city (two will roll off, one in April of 2010, one in June of 2010).

Police Department: Largest increase is in salaries, received grant to fill position and rehire the training position, 50% for drug task force officer and school officer. We get reimbursed. Training officer paid by grant money and last patrol officer hired will be paid by grant. (Grant money comes from Department of Justice, stimulus money). Need 3 cars, but will take 2 rather than lose an officer.

Community Service: Some of the increase due to increase in supplies for this program, vest, etc. Start using community service on Sunday and drop one day during the week. Staff to determine best day to drop. Largest increase in building maintenance due to needed repairs to trailer.

Streets & Highways: Add two new subdivisions, omitting some extra lights, especially in the downtown area where we double lights on pole, use acorn lights and not lights on top. Largest increase in stripping and signs (good bit of state funding has gone away).

Note: Holland commented that he really wanted snow equipment for the city put back into the budget. Added as a budget adjustment.

Building & Vehicle Maintenance: Vehicles charged to each department.

Cost of inmate labor is officers salary which is to reimburse county and includes benefits.

Largest increase is for electricity, cost for entire building, amphitheatre will cause increase. Rewiring did not eliminate the four dry transformers.

Look into high cost for electricity. Talk to GA Power and third party.

Senior Citizens: We receive Federal & State money to subsidize this program of \$73,255.

Participant Recreation: Largest increase in salaries due to reorganization from last year, Jeff to Deputy City Manager and two staff to salary status rather than hourly.

Mayor-adding one full time employee? Jeff-That is not in this budget, will eliminate part-time from 6120 and add one to 7550

Consideration of Fireworks & Band contracts:

Fireworks, questions regarding cost, will get sponsors, can we cut cost, part of cost includes games, stage cost, fireworks and band.

Gold Mine Museum: Budget down 4% from last year.

Pets/Animals, where do we stand with zoning; working on getting inspection report from USDA and have a vet help with vaccination. City medical does not cover if someone gets bitten by animal, but we are also not covered for anything else, i.e. pedestrian falls on sidewalk, not covered. Check on this and if necessary bring to April council meeting.

Post script: Zoning is ok and application to USDA is in progress.

Library: 3% increase and that is related to insurance, we still do not plan to hire a director at this time.

Building Inspection: 1% increase due to insurance. One person staff. (note this also include code enforcement). Taurus to check to see what it would cost to contract with Carroll County for these services (for inspection only, not code enforcement-move this to PD). Could lose the personal touch and control of the community.

Planning & Zoning: Moved some of the DDA programs, beautification to this department. Increase in professional is a historical inventory and updated aerials for the city.

Code Enforcement: No budget proposed.

Downtown Development Authority: Decrease in funding to DDA from \$47,500 to \$20,000.

Position for Main Street, which is currently part time, to become full time. Salary to be budgeted under 7550 budget line.

PD has to fill the two vacant positions to qualify for the JAG grant.

General Fund: Good news – GO Bonds paid off!

Still paying UDAG Loan and V Plex (to be paid off 2015, brick/mortar thru GMA)-
\$267,000/year

Police Department/Federal Seizure: Large item \$25,000 for cameras for downtown area

Hotel/Motel: Revenues down just a bit.

Cemetery – Hillcrest: Sold 76, 24 still available. Once all collected for the 76 sold – revenue of \$34,000 for cemetery account; remaining 24 another \$12,000 in revenue. Will utilize some of this revenue to upgrade landscaping along Highway 78.

SPLOST: Wood gave overview of all projects.

Ryan McClain Playground: Note: checked back council meeting, city council has not committed to paying for this park, so this will provide additional funds by City to build Phase I. they will continue to raise funds.

Avanti Building Parking Lot: complete as much as is possible on the two parking lots with \$280,000.

Water Sewer Project: \$915,000.

Utility Director Department: no changes, reduced salaries by removing mileage allowance for Lacefield

3% increase is for insurance

Watershed Protection: Cut 2 positions we wanted to hire, we told EPD we would hire, but so far not a problem.

\$70,000.00 largest figure for continuing GPS project and add utility stormwater fee, possibly hire someone to come up with what fee should be. Mayor...no we don't...Wood suggested we check with Mecklin regarding how we can implement a fee.

Wastewater Treatment: No budget increase until next year as related to new plant. Biggest cost is going to be electrical cost with new plant.

Plant doing good job, overall 9% decrease in budget.

Should companies who cause spills pay a fee, if we can guarantee or in certain percent we pass along our fine cost to the company.

Water Plant Department: No staff changes, reduction \$123,000.00 coming from purchased water line item (saved by making water rather than buying).

Water Sewer Distribution: Increase is for overtime which was not budgeted for last year.

Capitol Projects: PD has 3 vehicles (\$60,000), and will upgrade equipment (\$21,730); Rec. Dept. cut: HVAC for Gold Dust Gym Project (\$230,000); Gold Dust Walking Track (\$60,000); Gold Dust Renovations (\$78,000); and Equipment (\$2,500). Best requested additional funding to Capital budget for golf carts, added \$3,000.

Museum: no additional money for exhibits; need to purchase Golf Carts, not rent, purchase 2

TEA Grant remains, \$20,000, trail from downtown to Health Center

Reduced Capital spending by \$644,000.00

Comments:

Dean: Place, \$300,000 not in reserve, but as a contingency budgeted item, can later move to reserve

PD take probation department back in house to generate more dollars (place on future agenda)

Wood: Fireworks, Band...need to make decision regarding this event: Dean made motion to approve payment/Best seconded with stipulation that they continue to raise more money to reduce cost. 5/0 motion carried.

Dean made motion to adjourn/Best seconded. 5/0 motion carried.

J Allen Collins – Mayor

ATTEST:

Larry Wood – Acting City Clerk