

TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, FLORIDA
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2008
GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER, 8450 FIRST STREET, GRANT VALKARIA, FL 32949

The Workshop Meeting of the Town of Grant-Valkaria, Florida, Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Del Yonts followed by the Pledge, and roll call to the Council Members, with the following present:

Mayor – Del Yonts	Town Administrator Richard Hood
Seat No. 1 – Joe Hackford, Vice Mayor	Town Clerk Susanne Krueger
Seat No. 2 – Danielle Morgan	
Seat No. 3 – Pat Bryan	
Seat No. 4 – Cathy DeMott	
Seat No. 5 – Dan Faden	
Seat No. 6 – Jason Mahaney	

WORKSHOP ITEM

1) Continuing Discussion of Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget

Town Administrator Hood stated that due to an error in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Amended Budget, the calculation for Fiscal Year Budget 2008-2009 Proposed Alternate 2 is actually 6.78% increase not 10%. He stated that all the anticipated revenues are correct for next fiscal year; ad valorem taxes and Florida Power and Light franchise fees will be the bulk of the budget; there are numerous entries where revenues and expenses were credited to the wrong account numbers; stormwater fees will have a carry forward from this year budget \$30,600.00. He stated that year-to-date expenses have entries in the wrong account numbers and that he should by the end of August have everything in the correct accounts; there was an increase in life/health insurance expenses for employees due to Linda Munroe going full-time, and providing family health coverage on Town Administrator as per contract; there is an increase in administrative assistant salary due to being full-time. He requested a 3% COLA and up to 3% merit raise for employees, and health insurance for dependent coverage with employee paying 50%.

He stated that expenditures made to Miller Legg have exceeded work authorizations and the contract; in the last meeting of the month he will have Miller Legg come before Council to request another work authorization; he will meet with Town Attorney to discuss contract and work authorizations prior to meeting with Council; all calls are now being handled in-house and when needed he will out-source and issue work authorizations for specific items; Todd Peetz was informed that no more payments will be made to Miller Legg until the accounting issues are resolved.

Council Member Mahaney stated he would not be at the first regular meeting in September, and Council Member Bryan stated he would not be at the last meeting in August. It was Council consensus to have a special meeting on September 3rd to discuss Miller Legg bills.

It was Council consensus that the intent of Miller Legg developing a fee schedule was so that the amount we collected would be the amount that they would charge us.

Town Administrator Hood stated that invoices for road and street were placed in wrong categories, which caused the year to date actual to be incorrect. He stated that he has been in contact with a local engineer who would charge \$3,500.00 per month which would include anything that the town needs no matter how many. He also stated that he would go out for bids for this service.

Town Administrator Hood stated that all street lights have been accounted for by Don Whitehouse. There are about 6 to 8 that probably should be billed to the county, and about 1 or 2 at Grant Historical House. He stated that it would cost about \$150,000 to remove all the street lights, where it costs \$18,000 per year to keep them. He suggested that the Town pay the light bills, and start meeting with homeowner associations to possibly turn over the street light cost over to them or to private parties. Since the process to remove the lights is not clear, he will contact Sandy Sanderson, Florida Power and Light.

Town Administrator Hood stated that he has met with the grader today, he was concerned about how the roads were graded, and how the Town was charged per street based on a 24 foot road. After checking several roads, it was determined that they were 12 feet, 17 feet or 19 feet and that the Town was charged based on 24 feet. He will negotiate with the grader regarding this and noted to Council that all road and street contracts are renewable in December this year. CDM will be cleaning in the areas of Corey Road and Farnsworth. Vice Mayor Hackford was concerned about the overgrowth getting bad, and Mr. Hood informed Council he is waiting for pricing.

Council discussed COLA's and merit raises as follows:

Mayor Yonts – not a strong believer in COLA's

Council Member Mahaney – should give COLA's and not potentially merit raise; limit raise and offer insurance package

Council Member Bryan – not for COLA's; no problem with giving 6% raise based on merit

Council Member Morgan – should give 0-6% merit where it would not include an automatic 3% COLA

Council Member DeMott – agrees with up to 6% merit

Council Member Faden – agrees with up to 6% merit

Vice Mayor Hackford – agrees with up to 6% merit

It was Council consensus to budget up to 6% merit increase, no COLA's for employees, and provide dependent insurance with the Town paying 50%. Town Administrator Hood stated that he would go out for bid for insurance providers and bring back to Council at a later date.

Council Member Morgan offered her assistance in employee benefits. Council Member Faden requested a pay-out if we have an employee who chooses not to take insurance.

Town Administrator Hood requested purchasing a software bundle from IMS for next fiscal year which consists of Business Tax Receipt Module, PDF Reporter, and Permits Module. It was Council consensus to budget \$12,000 for software purchase for next fiscal year.

Town Administrator Hood stated that he was approached by the landlord that we could renew the building lease an additional year past the contract for an additional \$100 per month only in the third year, and he will continue paying the electric bill. Mayor Yonts was concerned about not sufficient parking and requested Town Attorney look into the definition of “available spaces” on the contract. It was Council consensus to have Town Administrator look around in the meantime.

Town Administrator Hood explained the three budget proposals as follows: 1) existing budget is .4261 mills which would expect \$942,305 in revenues; 2) alternate 1 is .4524 mills which would generate the same revenue as this year at \$954,814; 3) alternate 2 is .4976 mills which would allow adding 10% - which it actually is 6.78% at \$975,278. He stated that the expenses do not change but it allows a difference in the amount brought forward. Mayor Yonts noted for the record that the county raised District 3 Road and Bridge more than what the Town anticipated Road and Bridge would be last year.

Council Members individually thanked Town Administrator for a good budget. Lisette Kolar stated that it is important for residents to know what they would have paid if they were in the county as compared to now.

Town Administrator Hood requested Council input regarding excessive yard trash – are they seeing more than usual yard trash that is not being picked up. Majority of Council agreed that it is better but not where it should be. Vice Mayor Hackford stated that he has not heard anything from Waste Management regarding the holding station at Grant Community Center.

Motions by Council Member Mahaney, second by Council Member Bryan, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

(signature on file)

ATTEST:

Del Yonts, Mayor

(signature on file)

Susanne Krueger, MMC, IIMC, Town Clerk