

Town Of Havana

Regular Council Meeting

February 27, 2024 – 6:00pm

Meeting minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Loughmiller at 6:00pm. Invocation was led by Councilman Reed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call confirmed the presence of the following council members including Penny Key, Mayor Tim Loughmiller, Jr., Lawrence Reed, Matt Wesolowski, and Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Bass, ensuring a quorum for the meeting. Councilman Nick Bert and Councilwoman Tabatha Nelson were absent.

Recognition of Visitors

Visitors were invited to make statements to the council, including Allen Speed, Sheila Knowles, and Marcus Collins. Mr. Speed spoke on Capital City Outreach and Harley Davidson was working on a proposal for a Veteran's Event. Ms. Knowles represented Gadsden United Municipal Association and shared that City of Quincy and Gadsden Board of Commissioners are interested in moving the county forward with a stronger voice and in unity. Mr. Collins voiced his issues with his neighbor and dogs barking.

Request to Approve Minutes

The council reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous meeting dated January 30, 2024.

Motion Made by Councilman Bass, seconded by Councilman Weslowski and motion carried.

Old Business

Old Elementary School Resolution 2024-14R-2

The council revisited the resolution regarding the old elementary school, discussing options for fencing and security improvements based on past evaluations and newly received information on potential interest in the property. Attorney Jody Finklea reviewed the status of the tax certificates, litigation among owners, foreclosure process and recommended waiting until 4/1/2024 to see what happens with the tax levy and lien. After much discussion from council in regard to safety, responsibility and options, Motion was made by Councilwoman Key to update fines on tax lien and wait until April 1, 2024, and revisit. Second by Councilman Wesolowski and motion carried.

New Business

FMEA Award – Mutual Aid

The council celebrated receiving the 2023 FMEA Communities Award acknowledging the town's achievement in aiding neighboring cities during a storm in June 2023. Notable contributions were made by the electric utility department, with recognition extended to three staff members for their excellent service. Bronson Pinson, Electrical Supervisor, Rodney Stokes, Electric Department and Andres Hernandez, Gas Supervisor were recognized for their excellent service and value to the Town of Havana.

Fire Department Extension & Contract Update

An update was provided regarding the status of the fire department extension and contract negotiations with the county. Frustration was expressed over the lack of progress, prompting a discussion on strategies to address funding and contract terms issues. Don Harrison, Fire Chief, updated council on the needs and costs of equipment for the Havana Fire Department. Councilwoman Key made the motion to reallocate rescue funds

project to get the gear and hoses needed. Second by Councilman Reed and motion carried. Mayor Loughmiller and the council contemplated scheduling a meeting with county commissioners to resolve outstanding issues. Ms. Wilkerson will reach out to the county commissioners for a meeting with the council 2nd Tuesday of March which would be the mid-month council meeting.

Gadsden United Municipal Association Resolution – Resolution 2024-04R

The council deliberated on joining the Gadsden United Municipal Association, envisioning collaboration on legislative appropriations and information sharing. Councilman Reed made the motion to join the Gadsden United Municipal Association. Second by Councilman Bass and motion carried.

Councilwoman Key made the motion to nominate Mayor Loughmiller as the voting delegate, with Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Bass as the alternate. Second by Councilman Wesolowski and motion carried.

American Legion Post 84 – Hazel Baker Request

Approval was granted for American Legion Post 84 to regularly use the Hazel Baker Community Center, acknowledging the post's historical association with the facility and to be listed on the **Rules For The Use Of The Havana Community Center and Town Parks – Category A**. Motion made by Councilman Bass with second by Councilwoman Key. Motion carried.

Water Projects – ARPA Funding

The council approved funding for repairs to water systems, including well roofs and pump shafts, through ARPA funding. Motion made by Councilwoman Key to approve these funds and repairs. Second by Councilman Wesolowski and motion carried.

MSCOP Grant – Resolution for Paving Project – Resolution 2024-02R

The council adopted a resolution to apply for an FDOT grant for a paving project on 5th Street SE, supporting the town's infrastructure improvement initiative. Motion made by Councilman Bass to adopt with second by Councilman Wesolowski. Motion carried.

Good Friday – Request to Close Town Hall

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager requested the council to approve to close town hall in observance of Good Friday, allowing employees to spend the holiday with their families. Motion made by Councilman Wesolowski to close Town Hall, March 29, 2024. Councilman Bass seconded and motion carried.

Municipal Election Day – Request to Move Council Meeting

Considering the municipal election, Ms. Wilkerson requested to move the April Regular Council Meeting to April 23, 2024 ensuring all residents had the opportunity to vote. Councilwoman Key made motion to move meeting with second by Councilman Wesolowski. Motion carried.

The council was requested by Ms. Wilkerson to appoint two individuals to the Elections Canvassing Board. Councilwoman Key nominated Acting Chief, LT Kenny Lewis and Councilman Wesolowski. Councilman Bass seconded and motion carried.

Vulnerability Assessment – Contract for Services

Ms. Wilkerson requested approval for Dewberry Engineering to conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment, following federal procurement requirements. Councilman Bass made motion to approve Dewberry Engineering to complete the assessment. Second by Councilwoman Key and motion carried.

Special Events Permit Request – Havana Family Fun Day

Ms. Wilkerson presented the Special Events Permit for Havana Family Fun Day on April 27, 2024, 11a-2p in the community park. Free to everyone. The council with motion by Councilman Wesolowski and second by Councilman Bass endorsed the special event permit for Havana Family Fun Day, aiming to cultivate community spirit with a range of activities for families and local residents.

Special Events Permit Request – Arts & Crafts Festival

Havana Mainstreet has submitted a special event permit for the Arts & Crafts Festival on March 30, 2024. Ms. Wilkerson shared Councilwoman Nelson's request for additional Porto-Potties and also to issue conditions of no food vendors at local restaurant entrances and no vendors blocking entrances to the local businesses. Motion by Councilman Bass was made to approve the Special Events Permit with the conditions. Second by Councilwoman Key and motion carried.

Report of the Town Manager

The town manager provided updates on various topics, including the ongoing audit process, infrastructure projects, police department activities, and volunteer fire department call response statistics.

Recognition of Each Council Member

Mayor Loughmiller inquired as to the need of carpet in Town Hall. Ms. Wilkerson shared that the previous quote was given of \$25K. She stated that carpet has been in the budget but pressing needs in the Fire Department for the safety of community has been the focus. She will get updated quotes to purchase carpet and full installation including moving furniture. Councilman Reed acknowledged Ms. Amanda Daughtry, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Neal Dunn and expressed appreciation to all that Congressman Dunn and his staff have done to help the Town in the past.

Motion to Pay the Bills

Councilwoman Key made motion to pay the bills, ensuring the continued operation of town services and responsibilities. Councilman Wesolowski seconded and motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was concluded with a motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Key and second by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Mayor Loughmiller adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 7:36pm on February 27, 2024.



TIMOTHY LOUGHMILLER, JR, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Shrylan R. Alexander, Town Clerk