

# Town Of Havana

## Regular Council Meeting & Public Hearing

### April 23, 2024 – 6:00pm

#### Meeting minutes

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bass 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, Nick Bert, Lawrence Reed, Matt Wesolowski and Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Bass, ensuring a quorum for the meeting. Members absent were Mayor Tim Loughmiller, Jr and Tabatha Nelson.

#### Recognition of Visitors

No visitors.

#### Request to Approve Minutes

Motion Made by Councilman Wesolowski to approve council minutes for March 26, 2024. Seconded by Councilman Bert and motion carried.

#### Old Business

##### Old Elementary School Resolution 2024-14R-4

Ms. Wilkerson requests council approval of Resolution 2024-14R-4 updating the fines owed by the owners of the school through April 23, 2024, to \$239,600.00. The council requested Ms. Wilkerson to reach back out to the realtor in regards the owners not cleaning up property as stated. Councilman Wesolowski made the motion to approve the Resolution and Councilman Bert seconded. Motion carried.

#### New Business

##### Havana Main Street – Presentation by Janice Eakin, President

Ms. Wilkerson requested the council's approval to table until May 14, 2024, meeting due to Ms. Eakin's absence. The council approved.

##### Fire Department Contract Update

Ms. Wilkerson requested the council's approval to postpone any decision until negotiations are completed. The first two quarters of the fiscal year have been paid.

Motion made by Councilwoman Key to hold off on any decisions until negotiations completed. Seconded by Councilman Reed and motion carried.

##### Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement – Resolution 2024-01R

Ms. Wilkerson requests approval of Resolution 2024-01R which the Town must adopt if they plan to at any time request or provide mutual aid from the State. This information was provided by Tashonda Whaley, County Emergency Management Director.

Councilman Bert made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-01R. Councilwoman Key seconded and motion carried.

## Ordinance No. 402, Moratorium on Business Tax Licenses relating to Electronic Simulated Gaming or Electronic Sweepstakes

Town Council approved Ordinance 402 in September 2023, issuing a moratorium of 180 days on the issuance of new business tax licenses relating to electronic simulated gaming promotions or electronic sweepstakes. The Town of Havana currently has no internet casinos or other simulated electronic gaming businesses. As the Governor has established a Gaming Commission to regulate, investigate and prosecute illegal simulated gaming establishments, and as establishments immediately outside the Town limits have continued to create crime issues including robbery and homicide, the Town Manager is requesting that Town Council consider extending the moratorium for an additional 180 days, from 3/26/2024-9/26/2024

Councilman Reed made a motion to extend the Moratorium. Councilman Bert seconded and motion carried.

Councilman Bert inquired of Acting Chief, LT Bui, as to enforcement. Lt. Bui stated the county is slow to act. Councilman Wesolowski stated there was a new establishment opened below town. The council requests the Town Manager to work with the Town Attorney on establishing an Ordinance to prohibit these in the Town.

Councilman Bert made the motion to have an ordinance established. Councilman Reed seconded and motion carried.

## Pending ARPA Projects

Previously the council approved use of Rescue funds to purchase Fire Hose. Community residents have since donated funding to purchase the fire hose. The fire hose has been ordered and will take approximately 16 weeks to arrive. Additionally, the Fire Chief ordered four new radios for the fire department using previously budgeted ARPA funding.

Since the last meeting, the motor in one of the two zero turn mowers has blown up. Also, our electric water pump has died. Both were unexpected and unbudgeted.

Ms. Wilkerson requests approval to use some of the remaining unobligated Rescue Funds to cover replacing the Electric Water Pump (\$1600-verbal quote) and either replace the motor in zero turn \$3,303 or replace with a new mower at state contract pricing \$13,529.

Councilman Bert made the motion to approve replacing the Electric Water Pump and purchasing new zero turn mower. Councilwoman Key seconded, and motion carried.

## Grant – Lincoln Avenue Waterline Project \$130,000

The Town has received numerous Lincoln Avenue resident complaints regarding low water pressure. Evaluation showed that the existing 2" water main was undersized to serve the area. The Town Manager worked with Dewberry Engineering to search for grant funding to replace existing main with a 6" main to provide additional water and to also add fire hydrants to increase safety.

The Town was notified on April 19, 2024 that we were selected to receive \$130,000 in grant funding from Northwest Florida Water Management District to complete this project.

The Town Manager requests approval to accept this award and initiate project.

Councilman Reed made motion to accept the award and initiate project. Councilman Bert seconded, and motion carried.

## Public Hearing 01A - 313 E 10<sup>th</sup> Ave Lot Split

Cancelled at owner's request.

## Town Manager Report

Ms. Wilkerson has been approached by a local insurance company, Brown & Brown, in regard to possible savings of \$50K. The Town has used FMIT (Ascentria) for many years. Ms. Wilkerson stated the Town has no complaints regarding its current agent. For the best interests of the Town, she will be placing a Request for Proposal to accept bids for consideration.

A Mid-Month Meeting is needed in May to pass several resolutions. Meeting date will be May 14, 2024 @ 6pm.

No activity for out Canvassing Board during elections on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Ms. Wilkerson publicly thanked the Fire Chief and the department for all their continued support. The Boot Brigade is set for Thursday, April 25. Currently 80 people for the noon event and 109 for the evening event. HVFD currently has 7 certified firefighters, 2 finishing up certification, 1 resigning, 1 new volunteer and Acting Chief Lt Bui & Officer Baity are beginning fire certification. Once the equipment is received, we will host a formal event inviting all the citizens who donated and publicly thank them.

Police Department – 200 calls and 40 cases.

Fire Department – 24 calls (23 county/1 Havana)

### Recognition of Each Council Member

Each council member had the opportunity to contribute remarks or raise issues. Councilman Bert inquired as to why owners cancelled lot split. Ms. Wilkerson stated all parties must agree and the Town had not received approval from the parties. The owners decided to pull the application.

Councilman Wesolowski thanks the Town Manager for updating the procedure for visitor recognition.

### Motion to Pay the Bills

Councilman Bert made motion to pay the Town bills. Councilwoman Key seconded and motion carried.


### Motion to Adjourn

Councilwoman Key made motion to adjourn the April 23, 2024, council meeting. Councilman Bert seconded, and motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Bass adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Shryan R. Alexander, Town Clerk

