

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
April 25, 2017**

**Member(s) Present:** T. J. Davis, Karen Bass, Shirley McGill, David Norman, R. L. Miller, Matt Thro and Vernell Ross

**Member(s) Absent:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis.

Motion was made by Councilwoman McGill and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**VISITORS:**

**Old Business:**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Tony Lombardo, 312 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW, Executive Director of Havana Main Street, briefed the council on the Main Street project. Mr. Lombardo stated Main Street began the process to obtain a Florida Main Street designation. Main Street is a national program. There are some surrounding communities that are already participating in the program such as Quincy, Chattahoochee, Perry and Monticello. The papers for a non-profit status was filed and pending. Mr. Lombardo mentioned the organization has adopted a mission statement. The goal is to economically revitalize Havana and the downtown area and bring Havana back to life. Havana's image must be changed in order to feel a sense of pride and prosperity. Mr. Lombardo advised that he is also very excited about the Havana History and Heritage museum. Their focus is on the rich heritage of Havana and their location will be Planters Exchange. This too should help with the downtown traffic. In starting up the program, there will be cost incurred and he advised that he is before the council to ask for financial support. The program would like for the town to give \$3,000 through the existing fiscal year and provide \$12,000 the first year and \$10,000 in 2018 and 2019.

Mayor Davis asked Mr. Howard McKinnon for his recommendation. Mr. McKinnon advised the committee is doing a great job and loves this community and CRA funds are available for \$3,000. For future years, financial support can be discussed when working on the budget. Motion made by Councilman Thro and seconded by Councilman Norman to approve the \$3,000 from the CRA funds with Councilwoman Bass abstaining. Motion carried.

Mr. Bruce Ballister, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, gave an update of the town's urban core district. The district allows a variety of uses and was meant to preserve the zero set back requirement. There are a wide range of commercial uses but it is mostly designed for retail. Councilwoman Bass inquired about buildings being used as a mixed use such as commercial and residential. The concern is buildings turning into residential uses only. Mr. Ballister mentioned the town can use an overlay zone and advised that he will discuss this with the Town Manager.

Mr. McKinnon stated Mr. Bill Piotrowski, Havana History and Heritage Society, is out of town and provided the council with an update. The Society applied for three (3) grants and wanted the council to be aware of their funding opportunities. They are also seeking funds from the council. Mr. McKinnon mentioned funds can be donated from the CRA money. The Town received payment from the old hotel property and we can approve up to \$3,500. Councilman Norman inquired if the funds being donated will strictly come from CRA. Mr. McKinnon advised yes. Motion made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Bass to approve financial assistance in the amount of \$3,500 to Havana History and Heritage Society. Motion carried.

Ms. Ingra Battles, Downtown Improvement Committee, stated the committee is seeking up to \$500 to the stage crew to assist in the cleanup at the fountain area. The committee is also asking to add two (2) seats to the board. Mr. Tony Lombardo agreed to serve and the other seat will remain vacant at this time. Ms. Battles advised that the council also approved the islands for 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. In order to reduce the price, the committee has taken out the signage. The signage will be put in phase II of the project and the committee will bid the landscaping. Mr. McKinnon advised the committee agreed to get bids in order to try to reduce the cost because they are interested in continuing the façade grant program. Their request is to spend up to \$500 at the stage area, add a new member, Mr. Tony Lombardo, to fill one seat. Mr. McKinnon stated a vacant seat cannot be approved. Motion made by Councilwoman Bass and seconded by Councilman Norman to approve the committee's request. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon advised the merchants presented the special events form to host their annual Spring Festival on May 13, 2017. All the necessary paperwork is complete. Motion made by Councilwoman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman McGill to approve the Spring Festival. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon presented Proclamations for approval. The proclamations are for two (2) individuals that served a long time with Havana's youths. Mr. Vic Vickers started back in the 70's and Mr. Ronald Burrell started in the 90's. Both gentlemen were very dedicated. Mr. McKinnon recommended naming field #3 at Gus Bert Ballfield in honor of Vic Vickers and the basketball court in honor of Mr. Ronald Burrell. Motion made by Councilwoman Bass and seconded by Councilman Thro to approve the Proclamations and name the field and court in honor of Mr. Vickers and Mr. Burrell. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon stated the council approved during their budget process to purchase a new police vehicle with bank financing. He recommends approving Resolution No. 2017-01, Loan Acceptance from Capital City Bank. Motion made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilwoman Bass to approve Resolution No. 2017-01 for the purchase of a new police vehicle. Motion carried.

The town received another funding opportunity with a DOT landscaping project. This is a 100% grant to beautify the medians on US 27. The funds will allow us to also do landscaping north of town near the sign. Motion made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilman Thro to approve the DOT landscaping project. Motion carried.

A customer service/solar survey was performed back in January. Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) conducted the survey to determine communities that are interested in solar power. There were ten (10) cities that participated in addition to Havana. 90% of Havana citizens feel we have a reliable system and helpful staff. Mr. McKinnon complimented the town crew and stated he appreciates the job staff is performing. He advised that most customers prefer that we communicate through mail by including inserts in the utility bills.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:**

Mr. McKinnon stated the town crew received a "Restoring Community Award".

The baseball program is underway.

The contractors started the well project. They have dug approximately 420 feet and the water is now being tested. There seems to be plenty of water and everything looks promising.

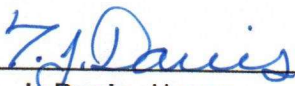
Contractors are now resurfacing 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

In conclusion, Mr. McKinnon reminded everyone that it is Election Day.

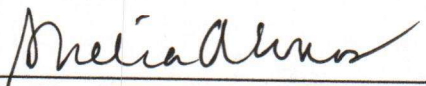
**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Motion made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Bass to pay bills.

Motion to adjourn.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
T. J. Davis, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk