

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 27, 2021 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass (by phone), Nick Bert, Janice Hart, Warkeen Jordan, Jenny Stone and Dwight Vickers

Member(s) Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Allen.

Invocation was led by Mayor Allen followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2021 Regular Council Meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

The Downtown Improvements Committee is seeking approval for the proposed guidelines (attached). Mr. Johnson stated the guidelines will assist with certain provisions and will serve as the operating guidelines for the committee. The façade grant program is one of the committee's primary activities. Motion to approve the guidelines was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Jordan. Motion carried.

A dialogue was opened to receive any comments regarding **Ordinance No. 386**, proposed changes to the town's alcohol ordinance. The proposed ordinance is seeking to permit alcohol sales from 12 noon to 12 midnight. There was a brief discussion by the council and a request to read the ordinance by title. The ordinance title was read by Manager Bradford Johnson. Councilman Vickers mentioned stores open at 8 am on Sunday inside the town limits and stated the Town is losing revenue. After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Vickers' proposal was recommended by the council. Motion to change the ordinance time to 8 am to 12 midnight for Sunday sales was made by Councilman Vickers and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried with no oppositions.

The next item of business is the first reading of **Ordinance No. 387**, Central Business District Design Standards. Mr. Johnson mentioned working with Main Street and Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) to outline the central business district. This meeting is the public hearing and to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Mr. Ben Chandler, ARPC, advised there were a few minor changes. The crime prevention that was submitted by Councilwoman Hart was included under the district intent along with two additional minor changes regarding nonconforming uses. Mayor Pro Tem Bert made a motion to read the ordinance by title. Mr. Johnson, Town Manager, read the ordinance title. There were no additional comments and a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 387** was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 388 is to establish a local register of historical places. This will allow for identifying buildings and also the historic preservation of our town. Motion to read the ordinance one time by title only was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Town Manger Johnson read the ordinance by title. With no additional comments, a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 388** was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

Chief Tracy Smith stated there are two special event permits for approval. Blessings of Hope Empowerment is requesting to host a food giveaway and a fish fry for the seniors. This organization is doing wonderful things for the Havana community. Motion to approve the special event permits was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

Mr. Bill Piotrowski, Havana History and Heritage Museum, stated this presentation is a follow up from the last meeting. He gave a brief overview and advised he had a very productive meeting with the Town Manager and Councilwoman Hart. The Museum is before the Council with a proposal to request the town purchase the green space in front of the Museum. Councilwoman Hart stated the meeting was very productive but there is a need for feedback to see the support and funding. She also asked how will this affect educational inclusion for the community. Mr. Piotrowski advised he met with other community organizations, Havana Community Development Committee (HCDC) and Main Street and received support from both organizations. The Museum is very proud of what's been accomplished and is seeking to work with the Town. Mr. Bob Bruggner, Havana History and Heritage Museum, also gave an overview and stated the green space is extremely an important part of the purchase. The cost is approximately \$200,000.00 for both and requested the Town apply for CDBG funds. The Museum is requesting the Town commit to \$80,000. If approved, this will be taken to the Planters Chapter 11 attorney for consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Bert stated he is on the Museum board and will abstain from voting (attached). He also inquired if the Town will qualify for CDBG funding. Mr. Johnson stated the Town

received CDBG funds for the Community Center. There was also a request made to fund the Police Department and was denied. Mr. Johnson advised the site will need to have a fair market survey before being purchased. After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Vickers made a request for the Town Manager to seek the best way to secure funding. His suggestion is for the Town to own the property or loan the funds to the Museum. Councilwoman Stone stated the need to appraise the property before making any decision. After the discussion, it was determined instead of a donation, the Manager make an inquiry into the ability of a loan and also seek an appraisal for the purchase. Motion was made by Councilman Vickers and seconded by Councilwoman Stone to approve the purchase with the intent of the ability to loan the funds to the Museum and also seek an appraisal. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. Johnson gave an update on the town's current activities. 2018-2019 Financial Audit will be presented to the Council upon the conclusion from James Moore and Company.

A complaint was filed with the Gadsden County Clerk of Courts as well as the Second Judicial Circuit Court of Florida advising Planters Exchange to vacate the construction lien placed upon the Town.

The water department conducted its' five (5) year maintenance of above ground water tanks at Wells 1 and 3. This practice required draining of the tanks, thoroughly cleaning and restoring the water to the adequate levels.

The Low Moderate-Income Survey (LMI) was concluded on Friday, April 23, 2021. The results should be received within a few weeks. The survey will assist in financial needs for future state funding opportunities.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandates that all water systems conduct a Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan. Mr. Johnson advised the Town's reports were completed, submitted and approved by the federal government.

Mr. Johnson stated the Community Cleanup day was scheduled for May 8, 2021. After a discussion with Councilwoman Hart, it was postponed. The date will be changed after realizing this is Mothers' day weekend.

Senator Lorrane Ausley affirmed the \$50,000 for the FRDAP grant. The funds will be used for the bathrooms at the community park. Mr. Johnson stated the Town is really grateful for all funding opportunities.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:


Mayor Pro Tem Bert inquired about the COVID relief funds. Mr. Johnson advised there are no real directives. At this time, COVID money has not been coming to small local government.

Motion to pay bills was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.

Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk