

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 1, 2019 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Cathy Johnson, Shirley McGill, Vernell Ross and Dwight Vickers

Member(s) Absent: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2019 Regular Council meeting was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mrs. Karen Kent, 102 5th Avenue East, stated her concerns about the ditch located near her property and the fence that was installed on both sides of Short Street. The fence was installed by the town and one side of the street is being kept immaculate and the other side is overgrown. Mr. McKinnon stated the crew will evaluate the ditch and take care of the fence line.

Mr. William Chukes, 902 Conyers Street, Havana, Florida, stated things were previously brought before the council; park for south of town, restrooms at the community park and annexation. He also inquired about the position that was available at town hall. Mayor Pro Tem Allen stated a recreation director was hired in lieu of the position. Mr. Chukes stated he would like for the council to reconsider the annexation.

Mr. Russell Sanders, 711 1st Street NE, mentioned 1st Street is due to be repaved and suggested installing speed breakers to slow the speeders down. Mr. McKinnon stated this project is funded by Department of Transportation (DOT) and is now being designed. The engineers can check into this and provide options.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Wilbert Butler, stated HCDC is seeking money to repurpose and renovate the property. HCDC presented a memorandum of understanding to the council for consideration. The completion of the gym will assist in offering projective activities to the community. HCDC board members are honorable and have put their hard-earned money into the project. HCDC is financially sound and pays all bills. Upon completion of the gym, HCDC plans to honor and award key people in the community.

The main reason for the ask of funds is to see this project completed. After a lengthy discussion and information provided by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, a motion was made by Councilwoman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Bert to table the HCDC funding until September 24, 2019 meeting request. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Scott Seagle, Coppins Monroe, stated the council is considering instituting a temporary moratorium in the urban core district. Mr. Seagle gave a brief overview of the drafted ordinance. He explained the process and stated it will take two (2) public hearings and proper notices. The council must decide on the exact area to implement the moratorium. The draft states this will include reconstruction, renovation and/or remodel. Mr. McKinnon stated the draft was provided for informational purposes to get the council's feedback. Mr. Bruce Ballister, Havana Planner, stated he encourages the council to consider the 12-month moratorium and not change to 6 months. Mr. Tony Lombardo mentioned his concerns.

Mrs. Karen Kent, Downtown Improvements Committee, explained she is before the council to request an additional \$1,800 for façade grants. There were more merchants that applied during this grant cycle. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve an additional \$1,800 for façade grants. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 379 was discussed at the previous meeting. It is to revise the nuisance on private property ordinance. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to read the ordinance by title only. Town Clerk Shelia Evans read the title of Ordinance No. 379. Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 379 was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen. Motion carried.

The town bid out the project to repair the fences that were damaged by Hurricane Michael. There were three (3) bids received for the fence repairs. The low bid amount was \$7,170 received from B&T Fencing. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the low bidder B&T Fencing, with Councilwoman Johnson opposing. Motion carried.

A special events form was received to host a back to school giveaway at the community center. The applicant met the town's criteria. Motion to approve the back to school event was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen. Motion carried.

The proposed tentative millage rate for 2020 will need to be set in order to get the information to the Property Appraiser and the Department of Revenue (DOR). The proposed rate is \$1.85. Last year's rate was \$1.8777. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve the tentative millage rate of \$1.85. Motion carried.

The hiring of the new town manager was discussed. Mr. McKinnon provided the council with a draft of qualifications and essential duties for the position. The council's intent is to start advertising next week. After discussing, Councilwoman Johnson made inquiries about the qualification language.

Chief Smith discussed the old elementary school's nuisance. The owners started the cleanup of the property and are in the process of mowing the front lawn. Mr. McKinnon complimented Chief Smith and Lt. Stone for getting this process started.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Budget workshop will be held on September 5, 2019 at 3pm. A public hearing will follow.

The property owners located on 7th Avenue near the police department wants to subdivide their property. This location was once platted as four (4) lots and the owner is interested in changing to three (3) lots. The owners are requesting the council's consideration to subdivide the property. Mr. McKinnon mentioned a sign will have to be placed on the property to notify the neighbors, if the council approves. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve to the owners moving forward. Motion carried.

Mr. Ronny Butler, Recreation Director, mentioned the next recreation program will be kickball. The start date will be determined. This program will include both adults and children.

The Kiwanis summer camp program is now complete.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Vickers mentioned the large tree roots growing in the street on 3rd Street NE and 4th Ave.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the park south of town and the community center. Mr. McKinnon stated the town is waiting on the land owner to sign the

agreement for the park. The community center is in the hands of Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and has not been approved. As soon as it is approved, the town can start advertising the project. Mr. McKinnon advised the roofing project was approved and underway.

Councilwoman Johnson mentioned the Florida League of Cities annual conference. There is a need to select a delegate to vote at the conference. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve Councilwoman Johnson as the delegate to represent the Town of Havana at the FLC Annual Conference. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen stated he attended Opportunity Florida. He advised there are funds available to assist in starting new businesses. For anyone interested he will provide the information.

Councilman Bass stated he apologize for things said. He stated he ran for council to represent everyone in the community. He explained he would like the council to prepare an application for funds, for all funding request over \$10,000.

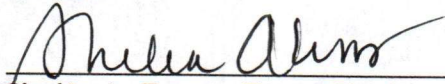
Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert to pay bills.

Mrs. Audrey Lewis Vice Chair for Gadsden County School Board, addressed the council. She mentioned three things the district is celebrating; (1) Havana Magnet School was ranked an "A" school, (2) Havana Magnet School has a new leader/principal, Mr. Parish Williams and (3) August 10th there will be a backpack give away in honor of the late Mr. Henry McGill. Ms. Lewis asked for a donation to assist in accomplishing this goal. After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve donating \$400 to Havana Magnet School for the backpack giveaway. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.

Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk