

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 27, 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 August 1, 2019 Regular Council meeting was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. James Brennen, American Legion Post 84, stated it will be nice to start each council meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. Mr. McKinnon advised this will need approval from the council. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve. Motion carried.

Ms. Veronica Chandler, 95 Stillwater Lane, mentioned attending a previous meeting and petitioning for a street light to be added near her residence in the Twin Ponds subdivision. Mr. McKinnon advised lights are limited to where transformers are located. A crew will evaluate the area.

Mr. James Brennan advised he noticed the flag at the cemetery is worn and the American Legion will replace it. Flags were also replaced at the Veterans Memorial and the Library.

Mr. William Piotrowski, Havana History and Heritage Museum, gave a brief update on the museum project and highlighted the accomplishments. He thanked all that were involved and stated the museum is here to be a part of Havana's rich history. Mr. Piotrowski thanked the council for the support.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

The council recognized Mrs. Shirley McGill for serving as Councilwoman. A plaque was read and presented by Mayor Pro Tem Allen. Mrs. McGill served the council from May 2004 to August 2019. Mayor Ross thanked Mrs. McGill and wished her well. Mrs. McGill stated it was great to serve the Havana community and be among friends. Havana is a small town with great history.

Mr. McKinnon mentioned the appointment for replacing Mrs. McGill's remaining term will be made by the Mayor's recommendation and voted by the council. Mayor Ross stated he recommends Mrs. Phyllis Thomas. Mrs. Thomas previously served as councilwoman. Councilman Bass advised during the last council replacement his wife, Mrs. Karen Bass, was not approved because the council stated the people spoke during the election. The votes for Mrs. Thomas were as follows: Vickers, no; Johnson, yes; Allen, no; Bert, no; Bass, no. The Mayor recommended his second choice, Mrs. Warkeen Jordan. The votes were as follows: Vickers, no; Johnson, yes; Allen, yes; Bert, no; Bass, no. Vote failed.

Mrs. Jordan is in attendance and it will be appropriate to hear from her and retake the vote. Mrs. Jordan advised she is a widow, a retired school teacher and was in the classroom for thirty-seven (37) years. She is a member of Women of Divine Destiny which is an outreach ministry and works in the community. Mr. McKinnon explained it was fair to hear from Mrs. Jordan and reconsider the vote. Votes were retaken and were as follows: Vickers, no; Johnson, yes; Allen, yes; Bert, no; Bass yes. The majority prevailed. Mrs. Jordan will be sworn in at the next council meeting. Mr. McKinnon welcomed Mrs. Jordan.

The moratorium draft ordinance was discussed. It will be for new construction of commercial properties and not residential. This will be a twelve (12) month moratorium which will require two (2) public hearings. Mr. McKinnon stated Havana has a unique charm and the moratorium is a good idea. Motion to move forward with the moratorium was made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

A special events form was presented to host a Trunk or Treat in the town park on October 31, 2019. This event is a safe way for children to trick or treat. Councilwoman Johnson mentioned this is great event and will be safe for the entire community. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the October 31, 2019 event at the town park. Motion carried.

At the last meeting there was a discussion to revise the town's funding request application for funding in excess of \$10,000. This is a good policy and it is recommended to put on next month's agenda.

Jacobs 2018 Annual Report was presented to the council. Jacobs operates the town's sewer plant. Mr. McKinnon explained there were some special challenges during Hurricane Michael and also equipment problems. The RCB's are repaired and Jacobs handled the equipment repair well. Mr. McKinnon thanked Jacobs for their service and advised there is no action to be taken. The report was submitted for record.

Mr. McKinnon stated all action to remove the asbestos and the demolition for the Alexander lot costed approximately \$88,000. He advised the lien to recoup the cost is being filed. The Alexanders wants to give the Town first right of refusal. An appraisal was submitted and the Alexanders did the research and indicated a fair price for the property is \$250,000. Mr. McKinnon inquired if the Town wants to pursue purchasing the property. After a brief discussion, there was no interest in purchasing the lot. The Alexanders will be notified.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

A property owner is requesting to move their property line. They own two (2) lots and are interested in selling one. They are interested in moving the line a few feet. A survey was done and this will have to be recorded with the Property Appraiser, if approved. A sign will have to be placed on the lot to notify neighbors. This is not a major change and will conform with the zoning in the area. Mr. McKinnon stated a special meeting will have to be scheduled. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to host a special meeting for consideration. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon introduced Mr. Tom Vieth, the owner of Twin Ponds subdivision. Mr. Vieth is interested in natural gas. Municipal Gas Authority (MGAG) came out and did an economical assessment. In today's market, natural gas is a great market to be in. Mr. McKinnon advised more information will be provided from MGAG. Mr. Vieth stated he has been building homes over thirty (30) years and most homes today are being built with tankless gas water heaters. This will be a great source to consider and supply to customers.

Mr. McKinnon mentioned Hurricane Dorian. He stated Hurricane Michael has not been forgotten. It was a huge impact in this area. The town's staff is tracking Dorian and will be prepared.

An email was received from Tallahassee Community College (TCC). They are now committed to offering a GED program in Havana. A survey was performed and there were approximately ten (10) people interested in participating. TCC will schedule a class to measure interest.

Mr. McKinnon wished Mrs. McGill the best and stated it has been very special working with her. He also stated she served with humility and has been a great mentor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Vickers thanked Mrs. McGill for serving the Havana community.

Councilwoman Johnson mentioned it has been a pleasure working with Mrs. McGill and looks forward to working with Mrs. Jordan.

Councilwoman Johnson also advised she will not attend the budget workshop. She mentioned she attended the Florida League of Cities conference and also the 2020 Census conference. It is very important for people to answer the census.

Councilwoman Johnson stated she also attended the REAL training which is the Race, Equity and Leadership training.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen thanked Mrs. McGill for all the encouragement and wished Mrs. Jordan well. He also mentioned visiting with Havana Magnet School principal and sports director.

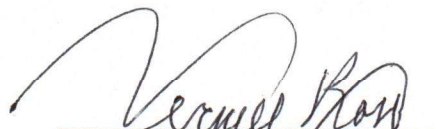
Councilman Bert thanked Mrs. McGill for being a great council member.

Councilman Bass thanked Mrs. McGill for taking an interest in the Town.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about searching for land for a park south of town. Councilman Bass mentioned there is a parcel of land off 9th Avenue and advised the owner has no interest in selling the property.


Motion to pay bills was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk