

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
August 28, 2018 6 pm**

**Member(s) Present:** Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Cathy Johnson and Vernell Ross

**Member(s) Absent:** Shirley McGill and David Norman

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2018 regular council meeting. Motion carried.

**VISITORS:**

Mr. Fert Richardson, 264 Carver Avenue, Havana, Florida, stated he represents Havana Community Development (HCD). Mr. Richardson mentioned the council had the budget workshop and he is making an official plea for the council to consider his organization in the budget. HCD is working tirelessly to bring culture, education and recreation to Havana and the surrounding area. His plea is for the council to consider a \$20,000 to \$30,000 donation. Councilwoman Johnson mentioned she has visited HCD and is very impressed with their efforts. Mr. McKinnon stated this request can be further discussed during the September 10<sup>th</sup> budget meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Ronald Burrell, Chairman of the Havana Recreation Committee addressed the council and advised the committee will meet and prepare a budget for the council to consider. Mr. Burrell advised there are five (5) programs that are being considered at this time. The programs are flag football, softball, baseball, basketball and soccer. Mayor Ross inquired if there were any activities for adults. Mr. McKinnon stated the committee plans are to start with the children but their mission statement includes adults. Mayor Ross stated he is very impressed with the organization and looks forward to more details.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Bill Piotrowski gave an update on the Havana History and Heritage Society. He explained in detail their five (5) year plan which included the objectives and outcomes, their planned events to date and gave a count of visitors that have attended the museum. Mr. Piotrowski introduced Mrs. Nell Cunningham. Mrs. Cunningham thanked the Town for letting their organization do all financial obligations under the Town's umbrella. She explained donations have come from all over the country and this has become a national project. Councilman Bert commended Mr. Piotrowski on all the accomplishments.

Mr. Howard McKinnon mentioned he received a request from the interim county manager asking Havana to contribute \$5,000 toward hiring a lobbyist. She indicated her proposal is for all municipalities to contribute \$5,000 and the county contribute \$25,000. A lobbying team will be a more effective approach and will have more influence. Mr. McKinnon stated his purpose is to see if the council is interested in moving forward to obtain more information. After a brief discussion, the council was open to receiving more information.

Chief Tracy Smith stated the mutual aid agreement between the Havana Police Department (HPD) and the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) is up for renewal. He advised that Tallahassee has more resources which includes hostage negotiation and swat teams with more equipment and manpower. If approved, Havana will have access to all their resources which will be very valuable. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement between HPD and TPD. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon mentioned changes to the community center policy was discussed at a workshop. The policy change was revised and also reviewed by the town's attorney. The attorney's suggested changes was to the hold harmless agreement. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the community center policy changes. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:**

Mr. McKinnon updated the council regarding the median improvements project. He stated he had a discussion with the contractor that will perform the installation of the islands downtown. There was a delay with the rain and he plans to start the project next week.

Mr. McKinnon advised the council that the CDBG application for the sewer plant upgrade was ranked and is now in the fundable stage. It looks very promising that the town will receive the \$650,000 for the sewer plant upgrade.

There was an inquiry from Coastal Lumber Company. They are interested in purchasing natural gas which will be a very good gas load for the Town. This is just a possibility at this time.

The old Nicholson Farmhouse Restaurant is now Havana Springs Resort and will open soon. Their plans are to have Sunday brunch and open Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

In conclusion, Picnic in the Park will be September 30, 2018, 4 pm to 6pm. This event is hosted by the Havana Ministerial Association.

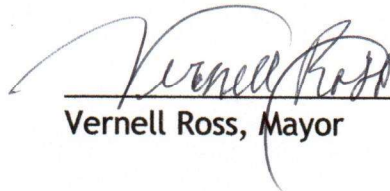
**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilwoman Johnson stated she is pleased to announce her appointment to the Florida League of Cities Land Use and Economic Development Committee. Also, she attended the FL League of Cities Annual Conference and was able to network with Chattahoochee and Gretna. There are plans to involve them in the retreat and possibly include Midway.

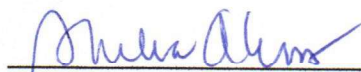
Mayor Pro Tem Allen stated he also attended the FL League of Cities Annual Conference. He recognized Senator John McCain for standing up for what is right.

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

Motion to adjourn.

  
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Vernell Ross, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk