

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 29, 2017**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, T. J. Davis, Cathy Johnson, and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent: Shirley McGill and David Norman

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. Larry Simmons addressed the council and stated he is visiting from Midway, Florida. He is employed with the Gadsden County School system and is before the council to seek assistance. Mr. Simmons advised that he would like for Havana to partner with Midway. Midway offers a football program and a lot of children are participating but lives in Havana. Midway's resources are scarce and Havana has no football program. One major problem is providing transportation for the children from Havana to and from practice. Mr. Howard McKinnon, Town Manager, advised that he met with Mr. Simmons who is a great role model and partnership is always a great endeavor. Councilwoman Johnson inquired if Midway's football program would accept donations. Mr. Simmons advised her to contact the Midway's city manager for information. Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Simmons and advised this request will be considered.

Ms. Stacy Henderson, 331 4th Street SE, Havana, Florida, advised that she attended the last meeting and addressed the council with her concerns. Ms. Henderson thanked the council and advised that everything was taken care of.

Mr. Williams Chukes, 902 Conyers Street, Havana, Florida, mentioned that he is before the council to ask for respect from each council member and also the audience. He mentioned things have improved in Havana and he wanted to commend the police department, town manager and also the council members. He stated there are good citizens in Havana but most do not know to call when things need to be done. Mr. Chukes stated he appreciates the work the council and the town workers are doing. Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Chukes for his kind words.

Mr. James Grant stated there are sewer issues on the south side of town and there has been no improvements made. When it rains the scent is horrible. Mr. McKinnon

advised the town is currently in the process of upgrading the sewer plant and DEP has approved major renovations. Another item discussed were the ditches on the south side and no bathrooms or drinking water at the park. Mr. McKinnon stated a fountain was installed at the park. Mr. Grant also discussed the Gadsden County School system. He was advised that anything pertaining to the school system must go before the school board for a final decision. Mr. Kermit Henderson stressed his concerns as well. Ms. Shirley Aaron stated that community members are what the schools are. We have gone for years letting our schools go. Councilman Allen stated he has met with Ms. Jackson of Havana Magnet School and advised that he will get involved. Mr. Chukes stated some good points were discussed and we can possibly ask the school board representative, Ms. Audrey Lewis, to attend a council meeting to address issues. Councilman Allen stated he will contact Ms. Lewis to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

The vacant council position will be an appointment by the Mayor and will be voted on by the Council. Anyone interested in becoming a council member must submit a resume to the Town Clerk by 5 pm on September 15, 2017. The Mayor will make the recommendation and the council will vote.

Ms. Beth Kirkland notified the council about Project Azalea at the last meeting. **Resolution No. 2017-03** must be approved by the council to move forward. Gadsden County Development Council is working with the State of Florida, to locate a manufacturing facility in the county on 43 acres in the future land use/heavy industrial area. The company has filed the appropriate paperwork and will have rail access and be close to raw materials. There will be 25 jobs created over a three (3) year period and the average wage will be approximately \$40,000. The Town will provide the utilities, water and natural gas. 80% of the award is paid for by the State and the community matches 20%. The Town will contribute 5% with the County contributing 15%. Mr. McKinnon stated the requirement is a \$10,000 contribution from the town and can be paid in increments of \$2,000 per year. The revenue will be a larger return with the company being a natural gas user. Councilwoman Johnson asked if this will affect what Coastal Lumber Company is doing and was advised no. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve **Resolution No. 2017-03**, Project Azalea. Motion carried.

Mr. Jerome Harris addressed the council and presented a proposal for the items he mentioned at the last meeting; a playground, GED/Adult Education program, restrooms at the town park and a community center. Mr. Harris stated he would like to see a playground on the south side of town. Possible location would be 1st Street SE or the old Busy Bee property. The suggested name for the playground would be William S. Maxwell Playground. Mr. Harris stated that Ms. Kirkland advised there is a GED program in Havana. His concern regarding the town park is there are no restrooms or pavilions. He also stated the town needs a full-fledged community center. Mayor Davis advised this is a good list and very good ideas. The council can use this as a guideline when working on the budget. These items will be taken into consideration.

Special Events Permit was submitted by the Havana Main Street program to host their monthly car shows. Main Street is trying to get people to participate downtown. There will be cars parked along the streets. The request is to close 1st Street NW for several dates through December 2017. All the necessary paperwork has been completed. Motion to approve the events for Havana Main Street was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilman Allen. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon advised that the Interlocal Agreement for Road Maintenance between the Town and Gadsden County must be approved. The Town uses the County to maintain certain roads and the agreement is with all the municipalities in the County. Councilman Allen inquired if 1st Avenue was the only street the county will assist with maintaining. Mr. McKinnon stated the county will entertain all requests and he will contact the county to clarify the language to include ditch grading. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Road Maintenance with Gadsden County. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. McKinnon reminded the council of the Budget Workshop, the First Public Budget Hearing and the Final Public Budget Hearing.

Mr. McKinnon stated he will draft guidelines to set policies for public comment during the council meetings if the council is interested. Mayor Pro Tem Ross mentioned this will be beneficial and all agreed.

Mr. Tony Lombardo announced that on August 15, 2017 Havana Main Street was approved. Communities that are designated as a Main Street community qualifies for

grants and consultations along with many other perks. The organization is trying to accomplish revitalization. In August, Main Street was approved to receive funds for a Vision Grant. Mr. Lombardo mentioned there is a need to come up with a master plan for downtown Havana. This is very positive for Havana and many thanks to Town Manager, Mr. Howard McKinnon, for assistance.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:


Councilwoman Johnson extended congratulations to Mr. Tony Lombardo and Havana Main Street. She advised she was glad to see the fence was installed south of town. The fence was installed for safety and looks good. Councilwoman Johnson mentioned she attended the Florida League of Cities conference. The conference was such an enlighten experience and it was very nice to attend all the workshops that were offered. She advised she is very interested in attending the Regional conference.

Mayor Pro Tem Ross inquired if there is anything the council can do to assist the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Mr. McKinnon advised he will need to do some research.

Councilman Allen congratulated Mr. Tony Lombardo and Havana Main Street as well. He stated he also attended the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference and learned a wealth of information and shared information with the Council (attached). He explained there is grant money available from the different sources.

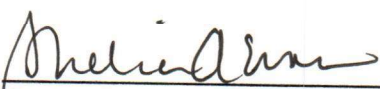
Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to pay bills.

Motion to adjourn.



T. J. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk