

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2020 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Janice Hart, Warkeen Jordan, and Dwight Vickers

Member(s) Absent: Nick Bert (Participated by Phone)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bert.

Invocation was led by Mr. Jerome Harris followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mrs. Karen Kent, 102 E 5th Avenue, Havana, Florida, expressed her concerns regarding the new drain installed near her property. The filter around the drain is filled with concrete and trash. She stated the debris is a concern when mowing. Mrs. Kent also mentioned yard trash not being picked up by Waste Pro. Mr. Bradford Johnson, Town Manager, stated he will address the drainage issue with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). DOT is replacing storm drains and will resurface US 27. Also, a Waste Pro representative will attend the January's council meeting to discuss garbage collection.

Mr. Robert Willis, 118 3rd Street SW, Havana, Florida, stated his concerns regarding trash problems at his location.

Mrs. Terri Paul, President of Havana Main Street, voiced concerns regarding the bike trail resolution the council passed in December 2019. Havana is lagging behind and need to complete the feasibility study. Fifty (50) trails are now being used and this is the time for Havana to capitalize. Havana needs to complete the feasibility study in order to get back in the queue for funding. Mr. Johnson stated there was a meeting with the Havana Main Street director to discuss the current status of the resolution.

Mr. Tony Lombardo, business owner, mentioned the shock in seeing the islands removed at the intersection of 7th Avenue and US 27. The islands cost was a \$27,000 investment by the Downtown Improvements Committee. They were installed to improve the appearance of downtown. He stated there was no public discussion and no plans for removal.

Mr. Johnson stated the islands became an item when DOT began the resurfacing on US 27. DOT had a concern with trucks turning and also the ADA compliance.

Mrs. Terri Paul, Havana Main Street, inquired about the proposed ordinances submitted by Havana Main Street for design and standards being reviewed by the town's legal team. There is a need for standards and guidelines. Mr. Johnson stated there was a meeting with Main Street and the council will need to decide on hosting a workshop to further discuss passing the ordinance. After a brief discussion, the council agreed to host a workshop on January 26, 2021 at 5 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Jerome Harris, Showtime Auto Detail, Havana, Florida, and the Southside Residents Committee recognized Chief Tracy Smith and the Havana Police Department. A plaque was presented to Chief Smith recognizing their outstanding community policing. Mayor Decorkus Allen read and presented a Proclamation to Chief Smith and his department for their outstanding service.

Neighborhood Medical Center reached out to host a food giveaway event. They are requesting to use the Havana Medical Center parking lot for distribution. The Less Fortunate Foundation also have plans to host a Food/Toy Giveaway, December 24, 2020, at the Cecil G. Trippe Municipal Building. Motion to approve the events was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson stated the Demand Star Service Agreement will allow the town to increase capacity when going out for competitive bids. There is no cost and this will allow the town to increase exposure. Motion to approve the Demand Star Service Agreement was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. Johnson wished all a "Merry Christmas".

On December 23, 2020, 1 p.m., the town's staff will host their winter luncheon at the Hazel Baker Community Center.

Earlier during the year, the council approved to name the police department in honor of Vernell Ross. We are now putting this in motion and working on the design. Councilman Bass inquired about the progress for the police station. Mr. Johnson advised Chief Smith is now working with the architect.

Councilwoman Jordan made a motion to extend Christmas Eve as a holiday for the Town employees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Vickers welcomed Ms. Jenny Stone.

Councilwoman Hart thanked the Town and citizens for participating in collecting trash in the community. This event had approximately thirty-one (31) volunteers. In February there are plans to continue this project.

Mayor Pro Tem Bert welcomed Ms. Stone and gave congratulations to Councilwoman Hart for cleaning up the community. "Merry Christmas" to all.

Councilman Bass thanked all that participated in the town cleanup and wished all a "Merry Christmas".

Councilwoman Jordan welcomed Ms. Stone to the council.

Mayor Allen thanked Ms. Stone and stated he looks forward to continuing the progress.

Councilwoman Stone stated she is glad to be a representative of the town and welcomes the opportunity to work with a very diverse board and community.

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

Motion to adjourn.

Decorkus Allen

Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelia A. Evans

Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk