

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2019 6 pm**

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

Member(s) Absent: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by the American Legion Post 84.

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2019 Regular Council meeting was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Howard McKinnon welcomed and introduced the new town manager, Mr. L. Bradford Johnson.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Debra Coury, 416 Red Fox Lane, Havana, FL, mentioned she is the President of the Friends of the Library. Their main goal is to promote reading and literacy. A new project was started by installing library boxes around town to give adults and children access to books when the library is closed. Mrs. Coury stated the group is requesting to install a box at the park, possibly near the gazebo. Someone from the group will be responsible for keeping the boxes filled. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the installation of the library box. Motion carried.

Mrs. Terri Paul, Havana Main Street Branding Campaign, thanked all that attended the focus group meetings and explained their findings. There are still a lot of fine tuning and adjustments to be made.

Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration will be January 20, 2020. The committee started the event and parade years ago. After a brief discussion, the council agreed to participate in the parade. Motion to approve the celebration was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Hurricane Michael funding was discussed. FEMA offered additional funding. The contract was competitive bid and fees will be reimbursed by FEMA. Money will be used to purchase generators for town hall, police department and extra generators for the lift station and sewer plant. Councilman Bert inquired if FEMA reimbursed the town anything. Mr. McKinnon mentioned no but hopefully the town will see funds in the next several months.

The bike trail is a concept that will not happen soon but there is a need to plan and educate the public. The route chosen is an adequate right of way for bikers. As of this point, the council is not approving but supporting the concept. Resolution No. 2019-11R must be approved and submitted. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve Resolution No. 2019-11-R. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon asked the council to allow him to purchase his town issued cell phone. Mayor Ross inquired if other cities allow this process. Councilman Bass stated the council should give the phone as a going away gift to Mr. McKinnon. Motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Jordan to approve gifting the cell phone to Mr. McKinnon. Motion carried.

The community center construction bids were opened. Tip Top Construction was the lowest bidder, \$168,670. A special meeting to award the bid and also discuss the Alexander property must be set and advertised. The special meeting date was set as January 7, 2020 at 3pm.

State employees will receive Christmas Eve and New Years Eve as a holiday. Mr. McKinnon suggested the council consider Christmas Eve as a holiday for the town employees. After discussing, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve Christmas Eve and New Years Eve as a holiday for the town employees. Motion carried.

Mayor Ross stated he has been a member of the council over thirty-five (35) years. He advised he would like to do something special for the citizens during the holidays. Possibly offer a 10% discount on their utility bills. Mr. McKinnon mentioned this is a good idea but this will need to be discussed further.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. McKinnon mentioned Chief Tracy Smith had a medical emergency over this past weekend. All are glad to see him in attendance.

As a reminder, the town manager's residency requirements must be discussed. Mr. McKinnon reminded the council the residency requirement was changed for the Chief of Police.

The bid for contractors for the roofing program is underway. During the January meeting the bid results will be presented. There were eight (8) to nine (9) candidates that met requirements.

Mr. McKinnon thanked his wife, Elaine, for her support during his tenure. He also thanked the council and staff. He stated no manager can do it alone. Mr. McKinnon also gave a brief summary of main projects that were completed during his tenure.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Jordan stated the town is glad to have Mr. Johnson as town manager. She advised it has been an honor to work with Mr. McKinnon.

Councilman Vickers mentioned he wish Mr. McKinnon the best.

Councilwoman Johnson stated its been a delight to work with Mr. McKinnon and wished all a Merry Christmas.

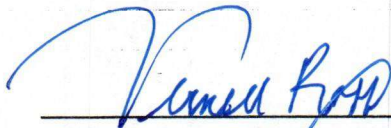
Mayor Pro Tem Allen mentioned he has grown to respect Mr. McKinnon. He also recognized Mr. McKinnon and his wife for the work done during the hurricane. The town appreciates all your work. Mayor Pro Tem Allen welcomed Mr. Johnson and advised he looks forward to working with him. Mayor Pro Tem Allen thanked Chief Smith and offered a token of appreciation.

Councilman Bert stated congratulations to Mr. McKinnon.

Councilman Bass thanked Mr. McKinnon and welcomed Mr. Johnson.

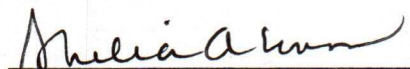
Motion to pay bills was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk