

TOWN OF HAVANA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2022

Member(s) Present: Mayor Janice Hart, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Bert, Councilman Dwight Vickers, Councilman Tim Loughmiller, Councilman Decorkus Allen, Councilwoman Jenny Stone, and Councilman Eddie Bass

Member(s) Absent: N/A

Roll Call: Mayor Janice Hart, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Bert, Councilman Dwight Vickers, Councilman Tim Loughmiller, Councilman Decorkus Allen, Councilwoman Jenny Stone, Councilman Eddie Bass, and Chief Tracy Smith

The Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Janice Hart.

Invocation was led by Councilwoman Jenny Stone with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Post 84 Mr. James Brennan.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: N/A

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 29, 2022 MINUTES

Mayor Hart asks if there was a motion to approve the November 29, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Motion was made by Councilman Eddie Bass to approve the minutes seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Minutes passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM #1: FMPA Solar Project – Update. The Chief approaches the Council stating that he is filling in for the Town Manager tonight. He states we have Mr. Jody Finklea here with FMPA to talk about the partnership we have with the Solar Program and he is going to update us and let us know where we are with this Project. Mr. Jody Finklea, FMPA General Counsel, Chief Legal Officer approaches the Council. He states that back in 2019 the Town Manager and the Town Council approved the participation in FMPA's Solar Project. We call it Phase 2 which is the current phase we are working on. At the time the Town approved entering into the project in 2019 there was a price of about \$28.00 a megawatt that was the lowest price for solar in the State. Since then, there has been a lot of price increases, matter of fact in Jacksonville their pricing with solar is \$55.00 a megawatt. The developer of the project came to us a number of months ago and said because of tariff restrictions on the panels they were buying overseas they could not deliver the project to us at the sub \$28.00 a megawatt. The contract that we had with them allowed them to either terminate and we would have gotten a check for the Town from FMPA or we could negotiate a higher price per megawatt. Howard McKinnon is not here tonight.

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OLD BUSINESS

ITEM #1: FMPA Solar Project – Update (Continued)

Howard is the Executive Committee Chairman for FMPA and the Executive Committee ultimately agreed to a higher price of \$35.00 a megawatt. This is still substantially cheaper than what is on the market today. Mr. Finklea states he is here tonight to make the Town aware of this situation and he also states he is available for questions or comments. Mayor Pro Tem Bert asks Mr. Finklea where the two solar farms are located. Mr. Finklea said there is one in Putnam County and there is another in Alachua County. Mayor Pro Tem Bert inquired about FMPA owning the solar farm located behind Coastal? Councilman Vickers stated that Talquin owned the solar farm behind Coastal. Mr. Finklea stated that they have negotiated to go in possibly in Chattahoochee. Mayor Hart asked if there were any other questions or comments. Chief Smith stated that he did speak to Mr. Howard and he had a scheduling conflict so he could not be here tonight but he wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and he wanted to apologize for not being able to be here tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1: RESOLUTION 2022-07R Fire Pension Board

Chief Smith states this Resolution removes previous Town Manager Brad Johnson off the Fire Pension Board and replaces the new Town Manager Kendrah Wilkerson on the Board. Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

ITEM #2: REQUEST FOR LOT SPLIT – 1ST READING (HARRELL/SPOONER)

The Chief explains this is the property that if you are headed toward Tallahassee it is on the right hand side, the train tracks kind of splits the property. This request has been submitted to the Apalachee Regional Planning Committee and they have stated it does meet our Zoning guidelines this will be the first approval. The Chief stated that land splits require two approvals so you will come back at the end of January 2023 for the final approval. Mayor Pro Tem Bert asked where the five acres are and if they are the cleared part? The Chief presents with a map explaining the location of the requested lot split. Motion was made to approve the 1st reading of the request for lot split by Mayor Pro Tem Bert seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion of the 1st reading was approved.

ITEM #3: RESOLUTION 2022-12R4 – WW20053 SRF LIFT STATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Chief Smith is requesting the Council approve the Task Order for Mott McDonald to do this. This is the Sewer Lift Station upgrade project that we have been working on for some time. We have already approved and taken care of the planning and designing stage of the project. We are now getting ready to move into the Construction side of the project. This is going to be an 80% grant that will cover most of this and there will be a 20% low interest loan we are hoping to get from CDBG and according to the manager the impact on the city from all the sewer lift station upgrades will be about \$30,000.00.

ITEM #3: RESOLUTION 2022-12R4 – WW20053 SRF LIFT STATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

(CONTINUED)

Mayor Pro Tem Bert asked if there was any idea of when the debt service on the 1999 water and sewer bonds would be paid off? Chief Smith was not sure but he believed it would be soon. Mayor Pro Tem Bert moved to pass Resolution 2022-12R4 and the Lift Station Construction Project Task Order. Motion was seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried to approve Resolution 2022-12R4 and the Lift Station Construction Project Task Order.

ITEM #4: SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT – BLESSINGS OF HOPE FARM SHARE FOOD GIVEAWAY ON 1/14/23

Chief Smith states that Blessings of Hope would like to do a Farm Share Food Giveaway at Town Hall on January 14, 2023. Their only request they are needing assistance with is cones to help with traffic. He states he has spoken with them about traffic backing up on 27 in the past and they are going to assist with helping make sure this does not happen. Motion was made to approve the Special Events Permit by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

ITEM #5: RESOLUTION 2022-03R4 WASTEPRO ANNUAL CPI INCREASE – 8.26%

The Chief states the Town is under a three year contract with Waste Pro. Each year they have a CPI increase. We had it in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 and he states he believes this one will be for 2023. The rate increase under the current contract is \$1.67 per residential with the same for commercial customers and recycling will go up \$.54 cents. Councilwoman Stone asked when the contract with Waste Pro would be up? Chief Smith stated that him and Kim will be reaching out to Waste Pro about the contract. They both agreed they had seen one and will make sure that the Council gets a copy since it was not presented tonight. He states we did find something where it automatically renews every three years and the renewal would take place next year. There have been some discussion of bidding out this project. He stated there may be an out if the Council wanted to bid it out. He also said that the Town would need to get the Town Attorney to look at it to make sure the Town could get out if they wanted to. Mayor Hart asked that the Town Manager clarify the rationale of why the rate increase of \$1.67 is the same for residential and commercial customers. Councilman Vickers states he does know someone that is willing to submit a price to service the Town of Havana. He stated that you can call anybody and everybody in Jefferson County and they will do nothing but praise how good Pops Sanitation is. Ms. Karen Kent asked if this new service would include dumpsters? Councilman Vickers said it would provide full service. Motion was made by Councilman Loughmiller to approve the CPI increase seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried to approve Resolution 2022-03R4 Wastepro CPI Increase.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER VIA THE POLICE CHIEF

Chief Smith will be reporting in the absence of the Town Manager. The Playground Equipment repair parts have been delayed an additional four weeks as of December 12, 2022.

The Substation Reclosure Status for lack of a better term that is the big breaker that went out. We did receive the used breaker and the old breaker that went out is being rebuilt now so we will have a spare. When the rebuilt one is back up we will have the two running with a spare.

The 12th Avenue Lift Station Pump went out there is two pumps on the lift station and one of them did go out. The one on 5th Street is operating off of one pump as well and we were hoping to hold off and put this off until July as an estimated completed construction on the lift station upgrades that would take care of all of this. OMI who takes care of our lift stations does not like the two stations each running off of one pump. The cost of a refurbished one is \$2800.00 and a brand new one is \$3000.00. The Manager is asking for approval to purchase new pumps. Councilman Bass motions to approve the purchase of a new pump, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

The Town Manager would like to remind the Council that Town Hall will be closed on December 23, December 26th, December 30th, and January 2nd. The Chief told the Council the staff certainly appreciates the Council for allowing them this time off.

Mayor Hart thanks Chief Smith for stepping in for the Town Manager at this Council Meeting.

RECOGNITION OF EACH COUNCIL MEMBER

Councilman Tim Loughmiller stated he had nothing.

Councilman Dwight Vickers wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Nick Bert wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Decorkus Allen stated he had nothing.

Councilwoman Jenny Stone reminded any Council or anyone wishing to participate in the Toys for Tots shopping event. Councilwoman Stone also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Eddie Bass wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Janice Hart thanked the citizens who do come out and support the Council and she looks forward to seeing them in the New Year.

Motion to Pay the Bills

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert to pay the bills, seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion passed.

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Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Stone to adjourn. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Presiding Town Council Official

ATTEST:

Kimberly J. McMillan, Town Clerk