

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2019 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Cathy Johnson, Shirley McGill, David Norman and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Shakil Amin, Mott MacDonald, updated the council on the bids that were presented for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade. The bid opening date was December 20, 2018 and there were six bids received. Mr. Amin stated he recommends the council approve the lowest bidder, North Florida Construction. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve awarding the project to North Florida Construction. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon discussed the Joint Municipality Lobbying agreement. The agreement was received from Gunster, Yoakley and Stewart, P.A. and all municipalities were asked to sign. The cost for each municipality will be \$6,000. The county will do a separate agreement and their cost is \$25,000. This will be a great opportunity for Gadsden County because of being in a hurricane effective area. Mr. McKinnon stated he recommends the council approves the agreement. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the lobbying agreement with Gunster, Yoakley and Stewart, P.A. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-05R is being presented to approve the water/sewer rates increase. Mr. McKinnon stated the increase was discussed during the budget workshop. This will assist in funding the sewer treatment plant upgrade and the new water well. The typical resident will see an increase of \$1.31 for water and \$1.83 for sewer. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve **Resolution No. 2019-05R** to increase the water/sewer rates. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2019-06R is for Economic Development Week. This is a joint resolution to promote economic development and celebrate achievements throughout the Florida communities. Mr. Jerome Harris, wanted an explanation of what this consist of. Mr. McKinnon explained that each city/county was asked to approve the resolution and provide an effort to get the word out to all the communities. The resolution states we support economic development. Motion made by Councilwoman McGill and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve **Resolution No. 2019-06R**, Economic Development Week. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon advised the contract for the park southeast of town was received for approval. The contract contains a list of very reasonable stipulations. Councilman Bass discussed ways to get assistance to purchase playground equipment. A letter was written on behalf of the Town explaining there was property donated for a park. Three organization will be chosen and hopefully this will materialize. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the contract for the park located south of town. Motion carried.

The Alexander building demolition was discussed. All requirements were met and the owners signed a waiver and gave permission to proceed. Mr. McKinnon stated the council must formally adopt this procedure. Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the necessary steps were taken to ensure if insurance was on the building. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the demolition process for the Alexander building. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. McKinnon advised that he will be traveling to Washington DC for the legislative rally. The trip is sponsored by Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) and there will be an opportunity to meet with our federal local delegation. He advised that he will not be able to attend the regular council meeting scheduled Tuesday, February 26th but will return on Thursday, February 28th. If there are no objections, he recommends rescheduling to meet on Thursday, February 28th. If approved, an ad will be published in the newspaper. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman

Johnson to change the regular council meeting date to Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 6 p.m. Motion carried.

Information was received from Tallahassee Community College (TCC) for the proposed GED classes to be held in Havana. The information is to be handed out to individuals and local churches to assist in gauging the interest for the program.

FEMA performed a site inspection. They were here to look at damaged structures such as roofs, fences, etc. Pictures were taken to measure the damage.

The recreation director will be announced soon.

The council received an invitation from Ms. Berta Kemp inviting all to attend the Senior Citizen Valentine day celebration. The event will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Carver Heights Senior Center.

Mr. McKinnon advised after the installation of the new water well there were problems with the pumps not working properly. The pump manufacturer came and checked the system and found the problem. Thanks to David Vause, the town's water superintendent, for taking outstanding pictures during the construction which assisted in locating the problem. It was found there were orange caps left in the bottom of the storage tank. The caps were removed and the pumps are now pumping at their designed capacity.

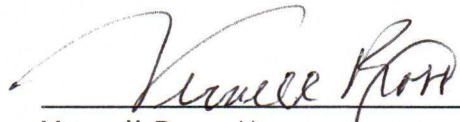
COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson asked how much is the Alexander's building is worth. Mr. McKinnon advised if the property sells it will be more than the lien and the town will also receive interest.

Councilman Bass discussed the number of times the council meets and made a motion to change from two meetings to one. After a discussion, motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert to change to meeting once a month beginning in March. All in favor; Councilwoman McGill, Councilman Norman, Councilman Bert and Councilman Bass and the oppositions were Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

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

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk