

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 22, 2019 6 pm**

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

Member(s) Absent: Shirley McGill

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mrs. Billie Blaine, 108 NE 5th Street, Havana, Florida addressed the council regarding Gadsden County Humane Society. Mrs. Blaine gave a brief overview of the organization and services that are offered. There is no funding from government entities and the organization is concentrating on community outreach and assisting to keep pets in the homes by offering spay and neuter programs. The society is not able to respond to animal cruelty and will not pick up unwanted animals because there is no facility. They will also assist in finding owners of pets if they are lost and local vets are contacted to assist in finding homes for pets. She mentioned if animals are picked up and taken to animal control, they will be killed if not claimed within three (3) days. Mayor Ross inquired about barking dogs in neighborhoods and was advised to call the police department. Mayor Ross thanked Mrs. Blaine for the presentation.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

The garbage contract with Waste Pro was discussed. Mr. McKinnon advised this year there is a cost of living increase and residential garbage rates will increase to \$18.80. The last increase was in 2009 and he recommends approving the new rates. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the cost of living increase for garbage. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon mentioned during Hurricane Michael there were several that reached out and donated items for the community. All were recognized with a Resolution. **Resolution No. 2019-02R** was presented to the 1200 Church, 1200 Tharpe Street, Tallahassee, Florida; **Resolution No. 2019-03R** was presented to the Alzheimer's Project; and **Resolution No. 2019-04R** was to Mr. Gill Ziffer. Motion to approve the Resolutions was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen read the proclamation honoring Mrs. Rosa Lee Smith McGriff on behalf of the council and presented it to her for her 102nd birthday. Mayor Ross thanked Mrs. McGriff for attending the council meeting and stated she is a tribute to our town, state, country and world.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. McKinnon briefly updated the council on the park south of town. He advised there are plans to present the contract at the next meeting.

Mr. McKinnon discussed program income and advised that all CDBG guidelines must be followed. The ad ran for the grant administrator and the renovation for the community center will have to be rebid. He advised that we are looking at three to four months and an environmental study will have to be completed. Mr. McKinnon gave an update on housing rehab and advised the council will have to approve policies/criteria for the program. He mentioned the money will be used for roofs only.

Information was received from Tallahassee Community College (TCC) regarding the GED Program. Flyers were provided that will assist in engaging interest in the program. Mr. McKinnon advised that if there is enough interest, the program will be held at the community center.

Mayor Ross inquired about the status of the recreation director position. Mr. McKinnon stated the committee is now interviewing candidates. Councilman Bert inquired about the little league baseball program and was advised that baseball will start and once a director is hired he/she will be bought up to speed.

Chief Tracy Smith made a special introduction and welcomed a new police officer, Ms. Jazlynae Chandler. Ms. Chandler grew up in Havana, graduated from FAMU, worked at Subway and was previously a dispatcher at the department.

A prayer breakfast will be held at the Havana Magnet School, February 2, 2019 at 9 am. Tickets are \$10 and all are invited to attend.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson mentioned she met with Mr. Jefferson at the Havana Magnet School. He is interested in the 7th grade civic class visiting town hall. Councilwoman Johnson stated she will confirm the date of the visit. She stated she would like to have all department heads available and also have the council host a mock council meeting.

Councilwoman Johnson mentioned she attended the Rural Economic Development meeting in Tallahassee and this was a very informative meeting.

Councilwoman Johnson advised it is such a blessing to show unity in the community and to keep the dialogue flowing and relationships growing.

Mayor Ross thanked Councilman Bass for providing the float and transportation during the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen stated he met with the director regarding an action plan for the Town and spoke with the Principal of the Magnet School. The purpose of the plan is to foster and teach our youth about local government.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen also stated he wanted to recognize the participation from all during the MLK parade. This was an extraordinary example of unity in the community.

Mr. McKinnon advised the proposed lobbyist agreement will be presented at the next meeting. They will help formulate the \$1.6M request to update the wastewater treatment facility. Hopefully we will be successful in getting the funds.

Councilman Bert mentioned that he agrees the unity in the community participation was great. He also inquired about FEMA debris pickup final pass and asked if the town will inform customers by robo calls of the final date for pickup.

Councilman Bass stated a good time was had by all during the parade. He also stated that he wants the council to consider reverting back to once a month council meetings.

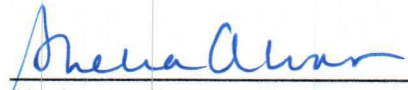
Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to pay bills. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk