

HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting &
2nd Public Hearing – Short ST Lot Split
January 30, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Loughmiller at 6:00 p.m. Invocation was led by Councilman Reed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Member(s) Present: Tim Loughmiller (Mayor), Eddie Bass (Mayor Pro Tem), Tabatha Nelson, Lawrence Reed, Matthew Wesolowski, Penny Key, Nick Bert, and Kendrah Wilkerson (Town Manager)

Member(s) Absent: N/A

VISITORS:

Markey L Rivers - 838 Collins RD
Interested in starting up unisex t-ball season to teach basic skills along with life lessons. Renovation of ballpark (painting, etc.). All cities in the county are invited to participate. Plans to include baseball next year. Town Manager, Kendrah Wilkerson, requested to contact her to complete a special events permit.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve minutes from the January 9, 2024, Council Meeting. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

01-OB Old Elementary School

Mrs. Wilkerson, Town Manager, presented that the Town has updated the liens through 01/09/2024 for ordinance violations in the amount of \$185K. The Council was presented by Finklea Law, Jody Finklea, a few options on directions that the Town may proceed or take no action at this time.

Councilman Bass stated that due to costs he feels the county needs to foreclose and the Town would still have lien satisfied. Councilman Reed inquired if current owners were liable if anything happens on property as citizens are concerned about safety for children in the area. Jody Finklea, Finklea Law, did confirm that the current owners would have responsibility. Councilman Bert suggested we continue as is at this time. Mayor Loughmiller inquired about the costs and time required for foreclosure. Mr. Finklea stated normally not a long process, but it would depend on the town charter. Much discussion was shared of the costs, liabilities, concerns for citizens, and options.

David Wesolowski - 306 N Main ST

Mr. Wesolowski stated that the Town and the owners of the property are on notice. Investment partners of the property are feuding, and the county will eventually foreclose. However, there is another option to foreclose, which takes 30-60 days for notice to respond and if no response, the Town would own it and have the opportunity to resell.

The Town Manager, Mrs. Wilkerson will bring back before council at the next meeting with quotes to fence and also research litigation. Councilman Bert made the motion to continue as if with the fines until the next meeting. Councilman Wesolowski seconded, and motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Amended Procurement Policy

Mrs. Wilkerson, Town Manager, requests approval of the updated Procurement Policy which includes language regarding Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act and Procurement through Another Governmental Entity (Piggybacking). Mrs. Wilkerson provided the new language along with the existing policy for review.

Councilwoman Nelson made the motion to approve the updated policy with new language. Councilman Bert seconded, and motion carried.

3. Presentation by Garden Club

Mrs. Edna Hall-Whitehead, President, presented a history of the Garden Club (copy presented to council) and all the accomplishments and generous gifts to the Town. Upon approval from the council, the Garden Club would like to fund and coordinate the installation of custom cabinets along the southern wall of Hazel Baker Community Center. The Garden Club will utilize two of the four cabinets allowing the other two to be used by groups preapproved to use the Hazel Baker Community Center. Mrs. Hall-Whitehead also presented that she and Mrs. Wilkerson, Town Manager, will be working together to create "Rules for use of Hazel Baker Community Center". Mrs. Wilkerson stated they hope to have the checklist completed by March to present it for approval to the council.

Councilman Bass made motion to approve the Garden Club funding and installation of the cabinets at Hazel Baker Community Center. Councilman Bert seconded and motion carried.

4. Gadsden United Municipal Association Presentation - Sheila Knowles

Sheila Knowles, consultant hired by the City of Quincy to help establish the Gadsden United Municipal Association. Ms. Knowles presented the bylaws draft and shared that the association is being established to create a collaborative and united front for legislative appropriations and other information sharing.

Councilman Reed stated it was a good idea but inquired as to a possible conflict of interest due to Ms. Knowles being related to Gadsden County Attorney and also

Gretna City Attorney. Much discussion from Councilman Bert, Councilwoman Nelson, Mayor Loughmiller and Councilman Bass with concerns of why Havana is just finding out about this, equality and fair opportunities.

Mrs. Wilkerson, Town Manager, stated that this topic was informational only and would be brought for council to have open discussion and vote at the next council meeting on February 27, 2024.

5. Contract Renewal - City Services

Mrs. Wilkerson requests approval of both contract amendments and renewals for City Services. City Services has two active contracts with the Town of Havana currently and requests an increase for both. These increases were planned for in the current FY24 budget. The Town has a good relationship with CSI, and they are beneficial to our compliance with gas regulations.

Councilman Bert recommended approval of contract amendments and renewals. Councilman Bass seconded and motion carried.

2nd Public Hearing - Short ST Lot Split

Mayor Loughmiller requested Town Clerk to read the agenda item by title only. Agenda item read by title only by Ms. Alexander, Town Clerk. Mrs. Wilkerson, Town Manager, upon request by the mayor explained the procedures for the hearing.

Mayor Loughmiller called the Public Hearing to order. The Town Clerk upon request confirmed compliance with advertising and notice requirements. Mrs. Wilkerson explained ex-parte communications and requested each council member to disclose any communications they have had since the January 9, 2024, Public Hearing. No communications had by any members of the council.

Mayor Loughmiller requested Mrs. Wilkerson to review the evidence presented at the first hearing. Mrs. Wilkerson reviewed the presented evidence at the last public hearing. Mrs. Wilkerson reminded the council that their decision must be made on the basis of competent substantial evidence.

Mayor Loughmiller asked for any deliberations. None made by council. Councilman Bass made the motion to approve the requested Lot Split - Short ST. Councilman Reed seconded, and motion carried. Mayor Loughmiller closed the Public Hearing at 7:25pm.

Report of the Town Manager:

PSC Inspection 1/8/2024 - no findings and City Services plays a big role in this.

FY22 Audit ongoing and working remotely.

Walking Park Grant Update. Playground equipment delivered, plumbing completed and concrete in progress.

New Town employees - Corinna Mosby (Finance), Eric Grant (Streets)

Website Redevelopment

Police Department - December/January calls - 246

Fire Department Update - December - 22 (21 county/1 city / No structure)

No fire contract signed at this time and gave update as to the status of the contracts in the county.

Recognition of Council:

Councilwoman Nelson gave update on the Spring Event in the Park. Dates being looked at are April 6 & April 27 of which the 27th from 11p-2p seems to be most accommodating. The event will be carnival theme and free to the public.

Councilman Wesolowski spoke on pedestrian safety with specific concerns at corner of 1st ST and 6th ST where two high curves and no ramps. Mrs. Wilkerson, Town Manager, stated that upon looking into this with the Don Harrison, Street Supervisor, there are more of these that she was unaware of. They will be working on cataloging these and prioritizing as funding allows to resolve these hazards. This address will be the first one to work on as a testing to see how this project works out. Our new website will allow citizens to log issues/complaints which will assist in being aware of these as well as prioritizing them. Councilman Reed will be organizing with the southeast community for volunteers to clean up their community to help make the entire Town of Havana look good.

Motion to Pay Bills:

Councilman Bert made a motion to pay the Town Bills. Councilwoman Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm by Mayor Loughmiller.



TIMOTHY LOUGHMILLER, JR, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Shrylan R. Alexander, Town Clerk