

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
January 8, 2019 6 pm**

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

**Member(s) Absent:** David Norman

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 December 11, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**VISITORS:**

N/A

**OLD BUSINESS:**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The town's dangerous building ordinance was discussed. The ordinance states to notify the owner and hold a public hearing. This hearing is to allow the council to hear comments from the building owner and the Town's staff. The purpose is to find out the facts and base results on the evidence. All decisions must be documented for the record. Chief Smith stated following Hurricane Michael, the building located at 101 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue East was destroyed and sustained major roof damage. Following the hurricane, a nuisance notice was mailed to the building owner and the Gadsden County building official gave verbal confirmation that the building was declared dangerous. As of January, no demolition permit was pulled and the Town mailed notification for the owners to appear before the council.

Mr. Gary Alexander, 1217 Barineau Road, Havana Florida addressed the council and gave a brief overview of his family's history in Havana. Several days after the storm bids were received to demolish the building and the lowest bid amount was \$35,000. There will also be additional fees to test for asbestos. Due to the losses incurred and the expenses, Mr. Alexander inquired if the town could handle the demolition and place a lien on the property. The property will go up for sale and once sold, the lien



will be satisfied. Mr. Howard McKinnon stated it is possible FEMA will give money as long as the Town follows the ordinance process. The town's attorney will draft a letter and mail it certified to the owners. After the 30 day period, an ad will be published in the newspaper for sealed bids. After a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to order 101 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue East as a dangerous building, give the owner 30 days to repair or demolish and follow the town's ordinance procedures. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon advised the bid award for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade is tabled. Part of the CDBG process is to approve the environmental study before awarding the grant. This item will be back for approval at the January 22, 2019 meeting.

Resolution No. 2019-01R, Excessive Force Use by Law Enforcement, must be approved. This is a new requirement for CDBG grants. This policy is for the protection of individuals engaging in non-violent civil rights demonstrations. Law enforcement must be trained and knowledgeable of this process. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve Resolution No. 2019-01R, Excessive Force Use by Law Enforcement. Motion carried.

#### **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:**

Mr. McKinnon mentioned the interview process for a recreation director will begin soon.

Mr. McKinnon stated a notice of intent was sent to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) requesting to use the program income money for the community center and housing rehab. We were notified verbally that it will be approved and the renovation process will start once we receive written notification. Mr. McKinnon stated since the funding is coming from program income it will have to be rebid. Mayor Ross inquired about the limit amount per household. Official policies/criteria will have to be set.

The contract for the donated land for a park south of town will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. McKinnon informed the council, on Thursday afternoon, there is a meeting scheduled with the attorney and the merchants to discuss ordinances.

In conclusion, Mr. McKinnon stated in a previous meeting, Gadsden County proposed to hire a lobbyist and the proposed agreement was received on today. They are asking each municipality to contribute approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilwoman McGill stated she lives on Conyers Street and is very concerned about traffic and how fast people are driving. Chief Smith mentioned the police department received a box from Department of Transportation (DOT) to collect data. The device will be installed and the data will advise the best time to enforce the area.

Councilwoman McGill also mentioned there are many cars parked at a home on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue just off US 27. Chief Smith stated to please call HPD to report this and it will be enforced.

Councilman Bert reminded the council that all council members are to participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade on January 21, 2019. Councilman Bass suggested decorating a trailer and all riding together.

Councilman Bass mentioned the Alexander property will be a good investment if the town could apply for a grant to purchase the lot.

Mayor Ross wished all a prosperous New Year.

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

Motion to adjourn.



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Vernell Ross, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk