

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 25, 2017**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, T. J. Davis, Cathy Johnson, Shirley McGill, David Norman, R. L. Miller and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilman Miller to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Ms. Stacy Henderson, 331 4th Street SE, Havana, Florida addressed the council. Ms. Henderson had several concerns regarding the clarification of the downtown area, changing the council meetings from 9am to 6pm, Waste Pro and the upkeep of the south part of town. All of her concerns were discussed in detail and the council approved changing the meetings to 6pm by a majority vote of 4 to 2. After a lengthy discussion, it was acknowledged by an attendee that Councilman Miller made a derogatory racial remark and a ten minute recess was called. After the meeting resumed, Councilman Miller was not in attendance.

Mr. Jerome Harris, addressed the council and stated that Councilman Miller must be censored and he must stop deteriorating the meetings. Mayor Davis advised that he understands and the issue will be addressed. Mr. Harris mentioned he mentors a youth group and stated there are no organized activities for the youths. There need to be activities and programs for the youth, adult education and intervention from crime. Mayor Pro Tem Ross suggested Mr. Harris form a committee and address the council with their concerns. The installation of sidewalks is also a concern because some people are walking in the streets. Chief Smith advised the Town applied for a Safe Routes to School Grant with the Department of Transportation (DOT). The grant requires 100% participation and most people did not want to give up any right of way for sidewalks. Chief Smith mentioned there was also a group formed to contact residents and they still declined. Phase II of the grant was applied for and this program is still trying to get funded.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Bob Powell, James Moore and Company, approved the Town's 2015 - 2016 Financial Audit and reported a clean modified opinion which was presented in accordance with standards. Mr. Powell gave a brief overview of the Enterprise Fund, the Town's Reserves and the General Fund and stated it is critical that management don't lose sight. He mentioned internal controls were tested and there were no material weaknesses. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the 2015 - 2016 Financial Audit. Motion carried.

Mr. Jim McShane, Chairman of the Gadsden County Development Council introduced the Executive Director, Ms. Beth Kirkland. Ms. Kirkland mentioned the council is seeking Havana's support and gave a presentation explaining the council's mission and accomplishments. The goal is to bring businesses and jobs into Gadsden County. After the presentation, Mayor Davis inquired if there were any comments or concerns. Mr. Jerome Harris inquired about bringing a truck stop to Havana. Ms. Kirkland stated a truck stop would be beneficial and she would start compiling statistics on this matter. Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Kirkland for the presentation.

Chief Tracy Smith gave a brief update regarding the drainage ditch on US 27. He advised that he met with the Town Manager and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Chief Smith apologized for not being in attendance at the last council meeting when security was discussed. Chief Smith assured the council that two (2) officers will always be in attendance during council meetings. He mentioned he also looked at other methods of security such as detector wans, a walk through detector and Kevlar which can be purchased in a cloth roll for the dais. He advised the police department is here to protect and serve. Chief Smith also discussed terrorism and hurricane preparedness.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Howard McKinnon, Town Manager, stated the Town has a robo call system to announce information to customers such as shelter locations during a severe storm, etc.

The tentative millage rate must be set. Mr. McKinnon recommended setting the rate at \$1.8777 which will bring in approximately \$100,000. He advised if this rate is set, it cannot be increased only decreased. Motion made by Councilman Norman and

seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the tentative millage rate of \$1.8777.
Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon updated the council on new businesses that are coming soon to Havana. El Jalisco Mexican Restaurant will open in the restaurant building next to Harvey's. Also, a Technical Training Institute is planning to locate to Havana. The School Board accepted their offer but the Institute asked for sixty (60) days to research the property.

Mr. McKinnon stated he was proud to announce the 13 - 15 year old Dixie Youth baseball team were the State Champions. They traveled to Louisiana to participate in the World Series.


COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Norman advised there was a company seeking to locate to the Havana area with plans to hire approximately 20 - 30 people. He advised that Ms. Beth Kirkland and Town Manager Howard McKinnon attended the meeting.

Councilman Allen mentioned Town Manager Howard McKinnon and Town Clerk Shelia Evans attended the Havana Main Street presentation that was held at the Department of Historical Preservation in Tallahassee. The presentation went well and was a very nice opportunity for Havana. Councilman Allen also inquired about the installation of a PA system for the council chambers. Mr. McKinnon advised the system is being finalized.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilman Norman to pay bills.

Motion to adjourn.



T. J. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk