

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 28, 2020 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Janice Hart, Cathy Johnson, Warkeen Jordan, and Dwight Vickers

Member(s) Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Allen.

Invocation was led by Councilwoman Jordan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 30, 2020 Regular Council meeting was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Becotte, downtown business owners, stated they have concerns regarding the changes Havana Main Street is proposing for downtown. Mayor Allen mentioned this item will be discussed during new business.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Final Public Hearing: The request is to adopt the design and standards presented by Havana Main Street. Mr. Becotte mentioned some merchants were not invited to attend the workshop and meetings. A major concern is not being able to display items outside his store. Ms. Heide Daniels stated the changes proposed will limit merchants and hurt businesses. Both sides of US 27 must be able to attract people to the shops downtown. Mr. Bradford Johnson, Town Manager, stated Main Street grant process is near the end and the hearings were properly advertised. Some policies are consistent with the current Town ordinances, such as sidewalk permits and sign ordinances. Mr. Tony Lombardo, Executive Director of Main Street, and Mrs. Karen Bass mentioned this has been a long process and Main Street was created years ago. Approximately 300 newsletters were sent out and all merchants were advised of the workshop and hearings. Main Street is requesting the council move forward with approval. Councilman Bert stated Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC), the Town's consultants, had concerns regarding the overlay and suggested a legal review of the

proposed changes. The grant is to recommend policy for zoning of downtown. Mayor Allen presented an open panel to the Council for discussion. Councilwoman Jordan recommended hosting an additional workshop. Councilwoman Hart advised her concerns were with business owners and the need for caution. Councilwoman Johnson suggested all merchants meet and revisit the council. Mr. Lombardo stated the grant original end date was June 30th but an extension was granted for August 15th. If this is not approved, a letter must be submitted to give direction to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Councilman Bert motioned not to adopt the ordinance at this time, noting the Council supports the intent of the proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bass with no oppositions.

A request was made to subdivide property located at 207 5th Street SW. Based on the information submitted this request is consistent with the Town's current policies. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Hart to approve the subdivision of property located at 207 5th Street SW. Motion carried.

An additional application was received to subdivide property located at 110 4th Street SW. The applicant is requesting to construct homes on each lot. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert to approve the request. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson recommend the town approve a tentative millage rate of \$1.8500 for the proposed FY 2020/2021 budget. This rate is consistent with last year's rate and will be scheduled with the Department of Revenue (DOR). Motion was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the tentative millage rate of \$1.8500. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Florida League of Cities (FLC) Annual Conference is scheduled for the month of August. This conference will be held as a virtual business meeting online. FLC is requesting the Town nominate a voting delegate on behalf of the Town. The Council voted unanimously to approve Councilwoman Hart serve as the Town's voting delegate.

Gadsden County followed the Executive Order of the State for COVID-19. The County reverted back to Phase I, limiting gathering to the size ten and the use of masks in public.

The community center project is now complete. By request of the council, an opening was held with a great turn out.

Mr. Johnson stated the budget workshop was previously scheduled for August 25, 2020 at 5:30 pm. His request is to change the time to 5:00 pm.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson mentioned her participation in the COVID-19 testing that was held at the municipal building. Thanks to Chief Smith for the assistance during the Farm Share event.

Councilman Bass stated Councilman Vickers mentioned previously the Town purchase a message board to display events at City Hall. This will assist in getting messages out.

Councilman Bert stated the community center opening was very impressive. The facility looks great.

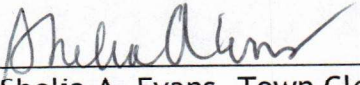
Councilwoman Hart mentioned taking daily walks each morning and the need to clean up around town. It is very important that the council work with Main Street and the Town Manager. There is also a need for a Town directory listing all vendors and a need to discuss marketing and signs.

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

Motion to adjourn.

Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk