

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 30, 2020 6 pm**

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

Member(s) Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bert.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 Regular Council meeting was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Tony Lombardo, Havana Main Street, explained the Technical Assistance Grant with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), PO356. The grant is aimed at policy and land use recommendations. As part of the grant requirements, a community workshop was held and the comments were presented to the council for recommendation and things to consider. The second public hearing is scheduled for July 28, 2020. Mrs. Karen Bass gave an overview of the proposed changes; the zoning district map, design standards, obstruction of pavement and sidewalks, non-conforming uses and signs.

Mr. Brad Johnson advised there is a need for the town to host a citywide beautification day. A conversation was had with Councilwoman Hart in regards to planning. Councilwoman Hart mentioned there is a lot of debris on the streets and we all need to take pride in our community. Mayor Allen recommended establishing a plan.

Chief Tracy Smith stated two special event applications were submitted for approval. Havana Main Street is requesting to host a series of music events and there is also a request to host the monthly car shows. The event goers will be encouraged to stay at least 6 feet apart to practice social distancing and masks will be provided. Motion to approve the events was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

The Town partnered with Havana Community Development Corporation (HCDC) for an exploratory grant with USDA for \$90,000. HCDC is proposing to produce compost at their facility. Mr. Johnson advised he will update the council on this project.

Gadsden County issued a county wide mask ordinance. Mr. Johnson stated it is important the public knows the resolution passed has enforcement value.

During the last council meeting the police chief was tasked with providing an analysis of speeders traveling on 1st Street. Chief Smith advised based on the data retrieved, approximately 699 vehicles traveled 1st Street with 650 being below the speed limit. Department of Transportation uses the 85% percentile to determine if speed bumps should be installed. Based on DOT's recommendation there is no need to install speed bumps. Chief Smith mentioned he will monitor 1st Street every six months.

Mr. Johnson stated the certificate of occupancy was received for the community center. The renovation project is complete and a soft opening of the center will be considered.

There was a discussion in the community that County EMS will move from Havana. There are so many citizens in Havana that rely on EMS services. Mr. Johnson reported town staff had an ongoing dialogue with the County and advised everyone must do what they can to keep EMS in Havana.

Wastewater Treatment Plant project is moving along. The completion date for the project is delayed until October.

Mr. Johnson reported the town finally received the 2018 Hurricane Michael funds.

Since COVID-19 town hall is mostly closed. Mr. Johnson stated his intensions were to talk about regaining entry to town hall but the uptick of the virus started.

Mr. Johnson reported the town is exploring smart phone meter reading. This technology will assist in providing accurate meter readings and great customer service to our customers.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Jordan stated she is still receiving complaints regarding annexation south of town. Mr. Johnson mentioned this subject matter resides in the hands of the citizens. There is a need for structure and alignment. The citizens requesting to be annexed should be identified. The council's duty is to provide all the appropriate information to our citizens regarding annexation which includes tax assessment along with various policies and fees. Councilwoman Jordan thanked the Garden Club for cleaning up around the welcome sign south of town.

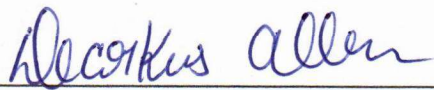
Councilwoman Hart thanked Havana Main Street for the presentation and inquired about receiving the citizen feed-back from the public workshop.

Mayor Pro Tem Bert inquired about the project on 7th Avenue near the police department. Chief Smith advised Verizon is installing fiber optic which will give better service to the community. Councilwoman Hart mentioned this will be the main distribution and there is a need to discuss technology infrastructure and piggy back.

Mayor Allen apologized for being tardy. He thanked Mrs. Karen Bass, Havana Main Street, for the presentation and also thanked the Havana Garden Club for Mrs. Ross' memorial.

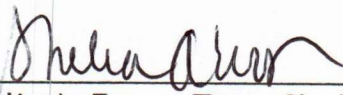
Motion to pay bills was made by Councilwoman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Bert. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.



Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk