

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 28, 2017**

Member(s) Present: Karen Bass, Shirley McGill, David Norman, R. L. Miller, Matt Thro and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent: T. J. Davis

In the absence of Mayor Davis, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ross.

Motion was made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilwoman Bass to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. Bill Piotrowski, 93 Sandy Creek Road, Havana, Florida, updated the council regarding the substantial progress that is being made by the Havana History and Heritage Society. The Society is very dedicated and is in the process of collecting items, such as tobacco heritage, sports memorabilia, etc. The goal is to have significant items collected that has shaped Havana as a community. Planters Exchange is a national historic site and donated approximately 2,000 square feet of space for the museum. There are lots of photos to present on display. The arts community will support our efforts as well, with artist such as Dean Mitchell, etc. The plans are to open in the fall and host an event at least once a month. Mr. Piotrowski advised the committee expects to attract approximately 4,000 visits by 2018. Museums bring in positive impacts into a community and it will be a significant asset for this area. Mr. Piotrowski mentioned that grants are a real opportunity and introduced the committee's grant writer Ms. Donna Warlick.

Ms. Donna Warlick, 252 Van Miller Road, Crawfordville, Florida mentioned that she grew up in Concord. She advised that she has applied for a fast track grant totaling \$3,750. The committee is also in the process of preparing an application for a small matching grant in the amount of \$50,000 which will not be funded until July 1, 2018. There are also plans to host an annual History and Heritage day in the fall. Mayor Pro Tem Ross thanked Mr. Piotrowski and Ms. Warlick for the update.

Old Business:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Eugene Kovacs, 501 East 8th Avenue, Havana, Florida mentioned Havana has serious storm water issues and advised that he prepared a presentation for the council to review. Mr. Kovacs stated this problem has been ongoing for years. There is so much water coming through his property and there has been an increase in the volume of water over the last 10 years. The water started eroding his front steps and they had to be removed. He advised that he removed the steps because he was afraid someone would get hurt. Councilman Miller inquired if Town Manager Howard McKinnon had any suggestions to assist in this matter. Mr. McKinnon advised that Mr. Justin Ford, Dewberry Preble Rish, can take a look at this matter and come up with some alternatives. Mr. Ford is in attendance today. The council can instruct Dewberry to do a formal evaluation and recommend alternatives. Mr. Kovacs mentioned he is working with an engineer and will present his study to the council. There are funding sources available for storm water projects. The Town has major maintenance issues and can possibly look at adding a storm water fee. Just seeking solutions and hoping to get a motion to prioritize grants for storm water improvements. Mr. Kovacs advised that he is not asking for 100% solution for just his property. Also would like for staff to look for improvements as well as just meeting the minimum requirements to do maintenance. The Town just need to be proactive. Mayor Pro Tem Ross asked Mr. Kovacs how much of an impact the project on 9th Avenue will affect his property. Really concerned that it will increase the flow of the water coming through. But was told by Mr. Ford that the flow will not increase. Mr. Ford advised that the elevation of the road will be exactly as it is today and will not change. The storm water improvements on 9th Avenue will have no adverse impact. Mr. Kovacs stated he would like a motion from the council to prioritize the storm water specifically trying to get the Cascade Falls subdivision matching funds. The town's storm water plan was approved before the Cascade Falls subdivision was built. Would like for the council to optimize the funds and work on the whole basin. Councilwoman Bass stated Mr. Ford can take a look at the basin and give his opinion. Motion made by Councilwoman Bass and seconded by Councilman Thro to have Dewberry Preble Rish evaluate the basin. Motion carried. Mr. McKinnon commented that this a good suggestion to look at Cascade Falls. Mayor Pro Tem Ross mentioned the Town has always done its best to assist our citizens whenever possible. Mr. Kovacs thanked the council and stated he is seeking a resolution.

Mr. Michael Murphy, Mott MacDonald, explained the Waste Water Facilities Plan proposal. The council was briefed at the last meeting and was advised of the failures at the treatment plant in terms of the treatment and process. A Request for inclusion was filed with DEP. \$50,000 for the facilities plan was approved. At this time, we have to apply and complete the application. It will take 30 - 45 days before we receive the agreement. DEP will have a hearing scheduled sometime in August. Mott MacDonald is now asking for permission in the form of a proposal to perform the work for \$50,000. Everything must be approved by June. Mott MacDonald will definitely look at alternatives. It will include keeping the treatment plant as is, buying and installing new equipment is an option or go to a different type treatment process. Mott MacDonald will work with the operator, CH2M Hill, to make sure all agrees with the option chosen. The Town will also be required to hold an advertised public meeting. Mr. Murphy stated he would like permission to start this process. Councilwoman Bass inquired if Mott MacDonald has gone through the timeline and asked if there was enough time to do the submittal? Mr. Murphy stated we can but it will require accelerated work. The official one required public meeting, will take place towards the end of the study in which everything is presented. What is really being presented at the meeting is the financial impact to the public. Councilwoman Bass asked in the analysis through the scope, will expandability of the facility be a criteria for consideration, not just maintenance for the facility. Want to make sure we are looking at a facility that can be expanded or have efficient capacity. Mr. Murphy stated there are two components in terms of capacity. There is the treatment plant and sprayfield. Mr. Murphy stated we can look at other alternatives for expandability. Motion made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilwoman Bass to approve the engineering services for the Waste Water Treatment Plant and approve submitting the loan application. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon advised he is recommending the council approve an electronic return check policy. The checks are being returned back to us as insufficient funds through the on-line payment company, Payment Services Network (PSN). Motion made by Councilwoman Bass and seconded by Councilman Norman to approve the electronic return check policy with Payment Services Network. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. McKinnon mentioned the Town had its annual Public Service Commission Natural Gas inspection and commended Andres Hernandez, Bronson Pinson and Rodney Stokes. The inspection went well. The PSC gas inspector advised us that he tells all small systems in the state, for a good example go to Havana. Mr. Hernandez is innovated and takes pictures to document his work.

Softball season has started at Gus Bert Ballfield for both the Middle School and East Gadsden High School. The Town's baseball program will start next month.

The well drillers are within thirty (30) feet of testing water.

The 9th Avenue resurfacing project started. Milling and resurfacing will start soon. Please remember when traveling there will be traffic delays.

English Rose Café will host a grand opening soon. They are located in the old Tomato Café location. English Rose installed the proper equipment to cook.

Also a new restaurant will open where Joanie's was located on the 8th Ave W. Very excited about a little more activity in town.

In conclusion, there is also really good energy for downtown with the works of the new Historic and Heritage Society and Main Street projects.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman McGill stated it was good to be back in attendance. She thanked the council for the beautiful flowers that were sent to Mr. McGill during his illness.

Councilman Norman inquired about the street lights downtown near Weezie's. He stated they are going off and on. Mr. McKinnon stated he will advise the electric dept.


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

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk