

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 30, 2021 6 pm**

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

Member(s) Absent: None

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 February 23, 2021 Regular Council Meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 Special Meetings (Roof Replacement at the Police Department and the Discussion of the Waste Pro Solid Waste Agreement and Performance) was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

N/A

PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Johnson recommended moving the presentations to new business. Motion was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilwoman Hart to move the presentations to new business. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bradford Johnson, Town Manager, advised after reviewing the Waste Pro contract and based on the analysis, the fiscal impact of an increase will be approximately \$6.50 per customer. The current rate is \$19.07 which will take the fee to \$25.57 per customer. Mr. Johnson stated he also reviewed the contract signed by Midway and the County. The County is paying a franchise fee and the Town does not have one. The \$6.50 increase is high and the concern is the utility bill had a sewer increase due to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mayor Pro Tem Bert inquired about the cost and the current guidelines. Will the truck come 4 times per month and will the \$6.50 cover

the bulk pick up fee? Most customers pickups are heavier during the spring. Mr. Johnson mentioned the guidelines are on Waste Pro's website and staff will work to get this out to the citizens. Councilwoman Hart asked if the increase is approved, will customers have an option to choose two (2) times per month bulk pickup. She voiced her concerns about items sitting out for pickup for three weeks or longer. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Johnson stated he recommends tabling this item. Motion was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilman Bass to table the discussion of Waste Pro's Solid Waste Agreement and Performance. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Bill Piotrowski, Havana Museum, stated he appreciates the opportunity to present his request to the council. Mr. Piotrowski gave a brief overview of the Museums' accomplishments. He advised the Museum is here to pursue working with the Town and would like to proceed with the purchase of the Museum and the greenspace located in front. The greenspace can be used by other groups and organizations and will be a significant opportunity for the Town. At this time, the Museum have \$25,000 in reserves and \$25,000 promised on paper. The Museum is in need of \$200,000.00 and would like the opportunity to work with the representatives of the Council to bring educational and economic opportunities to Havana. Mr. Bob Bruggner advised the Museum has been working with Planter Exchange for the last three (3) years and there has been tremendous community response. This is an opportunity to secure the future of the Museum. Councilwoman Jordan asked how much of the \$200,000.00 is being requested. Mr. Piotrowski stated the lesser portion of that amount. Councilman Bass inquired about the appraisal and stated he thinks the greenspace will be good to use during events if the Town considers to purchase it. Mayor Allen recommends the Council gauge the public's interest before making a decision. Mayor Pro Tem Bert suggested the Town Manager and Councilwoman Hart represent the Town and meet with the Museum for discussion.

Mayor Allen advised he is a stickler for professionalism and stated he wanted to commend those who volunteer their time and service in the Havana community. The presentation is for the Havana Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Allen stated he is offering the department a badge showing a token of appreciation for their service and hard work.

Mr. Johnson mentioned at the previous meeting the Town entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kickorthrow. Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the agreement. The Town will purchase the baskets at approximately

\$300.00 each. There was also an option to remove the fencing and the removal of the fence will not have to take place. Mr. James Standley, Kickorthrow, stated he visited Gus Bert Ball Park for the trial run with baskets in place. He mentioned also visiting the greenspace at the Museum and advised the greenspace will work as well. Councilwoman Stone asked if the Town will purchase the discs. Mr. Johnson stated the discs will be available in one store downtown owned by Ms. Nancy Saunders. Mr. Johnson also confirmed the location for Kickorthrow will be the Gus Bert Ball Park. Motion to approve the Kickorthrow proposal was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Lighting Agreement is due for renewal. The agreement is for the traffic signal maintenance and authorizes the Mayor to execute all related documents. FDOT will compensate the Town \$3,577.00 per signal for a total of \$7,154.00 annually. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Hart to approve the FDOT Lighting Agreement. Motion carried.

The Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia Natural Gas Connection (NGC) Program Agreement is before the council for approval. If approved, the agreement will authorize the Mayor to execute all related documents. Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview to explain the program. It was created to address the growing reduction of residential customer disconnections with gas service and will create a one-stop shop for customers with gas appliance needs. The approximate cost for this program will be \$7,500.00 annually. Motion to approve the MGAG-NGC agreement was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 386, Alcohol Beverage revision, is before the council for the approval of the first reading of the ordinance. Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the ordinance and advised the respect of citizen property rights and abiding by the ordinances of the Town are vital when operating around churches and schools. The Town's ordinance mandates that a business selling alcohol must be at least 500 ft from an established church or school. The amendment adds to the mandate that *"unless such applicant shall present with his application, the written consent, verified before a notary public, of the majority of the governing authority of such school or church consenting to the location of the applicant's place of business."* **Ordinance No. 386** was read one time by title only by the Town Clerk. Motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance No. 386** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson stated the request to subdivide the property at 430 Lincoln Street is seeking final approval. This item was previously discussed and approved by the Council at the last meeting. Motion to approve the subdivision of property located at

430 Lincoln Street was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Havana Tobacco Museum presented a Special Events Permit to host Havana Cigar Day on April 10, 2021 at 10 am to celebrate the history of tobacco. Motion to approve Havana Cigar Day was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

A Special Events Permit application was submitted to the Town for approval by Havana Main Street to host Movie Night at the Havana Community Center. The event will be held on April 24, 2021, 5 pm to 9 pm and the public is invited to attend. Motion to approve Movie Night was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. Johnson gave an update of the town's current activities:

Congratulations to Councilwoman Jenny Stone, Councilman Dwight Vickers and Mayor Decorkus Allen on qualifying without opposition to serve on the Town Council for the 2021-2023 term.

The roof replacement at the police department commenced on March 24, 2021 with a projected completion date of March 26, 2021. Chief Tracy Smith advised the project was completed on today, March 30, 2021.

The annual compliance reports and surveys were completed. The Town completed its US Energy Information Administration (EIA) Electric Power Report as well as the Storm Harding, Net Metering, Consumer Confidence and Renewable Energy Reports. Also, the Town passed its 2021 Florida Public Service Commission survey with no violations. Mr. Johnson advised staff received praise from the state regulatory agency for precise recordkeeping and responsiveness to gas leaks and public safety risks.

The Town submitted an application with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Municipal Small County Outreach Program (MSCOP) for the resurfacing of 3rd Street SE. Mr. Johnson stated pictures were submitted with the application.

The Downtown Havana Design Standards workshop scheduled for March 23, 2021 was postponed due to a need for more staff time. The next public workshop will take place on April 1, 2021 at 6pm.

A ceremony will be conducted to designate the Havana Police Department in name and honor of Havana Mayor Emeritus Vernell Ross. The event will take place in front of the Havana Police Department on Saturday, April 20, 2021 at 10:30 am.

There were new policies passed and looked at for all communities for the Federal COVID Relief Funding for Florida Cities. According to the information provided by the Florida League of Cities, Havana is slated to receive approximately \$717,740.00 in funds.

The litigation with Planters Exchange is a risk management issue. A construction lien was filed against the Town and there is a need to seek council. Mr. Johnson advised the lien bears no legal affect but this filing will reflect on the Town. Planters Exchange filed the wrong form of lien but it can still pose detriment to the Town.

Notification letters were sent out town-wide regarding an income survey. The survey will begin April 12th for approximately two (2) weeks. The goal of the survey is to substantiate the economic status of Havana's population through data for state and federal funding opportunities. Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project will be conducting the survey. All information collected is confidential and volunteers are needed.

The Town was awarded \$75,000.00 from Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for conducting a feasibility study for downtown Havana. The study will address both the infrastructure and streetscape of downtown. The scope of work is being generated and an agreement will be brought before the council at a later date for approval.

The Town quarterly newsletter will go out on April 15, 2021. Please contact the Town Manager to add any town related business.

The Town has been in discussion with Ms. Ann Kozeliski, Executive Director for Havana Main Street, in regards to partnering with artist to erect a mural on the Town's waterwork building, as well as select utility poles and fire hydrants throughout the community. If permitted, all designs will be presented to the council for approval.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:


Mayor Pro Tem Bert wished all a "Happy Easter".

Councilwoman Jordan mentioned she recommends staff have Good Friday off. Mr. Johnson advised Good Friday is not on the town's current calendar as a scheduled holiday. Motion to approve Good Friday as a day off for staff was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Jordan inquired about cleaning the ditch on South Main Street. Constituents are calling her advising the water is not property draining and the ditch is also filled with trash.

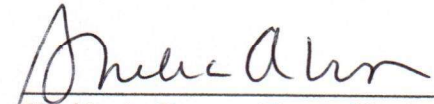
Motion to pay bills was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Jordan. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.



Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk