

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
March 6, 2018      6 pm**

**Member(s) Present:** Decorkus Allen, Cathy Johnson, David Norman, Vernell Ross and Phyllis Thomas

**Member(s) Absent:** Shirley McGill

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Motion was made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Councilman Allen recognized the Havana Magnet School and Mrs. Delshuana Jackson, Principal. The school was named "National Distinguished Title I School" and this is a very prestigious recognition. On behalf of the Town Council, Councilman Allen presented Mrs. Jackson with a plaque.

**VISITORS:**

Mrs. Delshuana Jackson, Principal of Havana Magnet School, mentioned on behalf of the school it is an honor to receive this recognition from the Council. The school is very grateful for being acknowledged. This accomplishment will be etched into the history of Gadsden County.

Mr. Fert Richardson, 25 Carver Avenue, Havana, Florida, mentioned he is very proud the council recognized the school but very upset that the Havana Main Street reported negative information in a newspaper article about Gadsden County school's performance. The article was written by someone that did not know the accomplishment of the Havana Magnet School.

Mr. Jerome Harris, owner of Showtime Auto Detail, stated he was before the council in August with some concerns. The main issue is adding a playground south of town in which a recommendation was made to name the playground "William Maxwell" park. Mr. McKinnon advised the council is in the process of trying to pursue a location for the playground. Another concern is the GED program. Mr. McKinnon stated he spoke Mrs. Beth Kirkland and the need for the program must be determined. Mayor Ross stated the recreation committee is in the process of getting underway and will come up with some plans and needs.

Mr. Leroy Curtis, 209 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE, Havana, Florida, stated he is before the council to get clarification on the sidewalks. Mr. McKinnon mentioned Chief Smith has been working on the sidewalks and the town received a grant to install sidewalks on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the School. The project will go out for bid and the construction will start in January. Abandoned buildings are also a major concern. Councilman Allen stated the council and staff members are a team and working diligently to resolve problems. This is a process and we encourage citizens to make a complaint. Once a complaint is received, it will be addressed.

Mr. Tony Lombardo, Executive Director of Havana Main Street, made a comment on the progress report that was published in the newspaper that mentioned the poor performance of the public schools. There were no intentions to cast negativity on the school.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Michael Murphy, Mott MacDonald, 1545 Raymond Diehl Road, Tallahassee, Florida, gave an overview of the Wastewater Treatment Plant consent order. The consent order was issued by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) because of wastewater spills. DEP was advised that the town is upgrading the plant. The fines were negotiated and the town agreed to allocate/budget the money. Funding was also applied for. The design will begin in April 2018 and phase I construction should start by November 2018. Mr. Murphy stated he is before the council for a motion to accept the consent order issued by DEP. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to accept the consent order. Motion carried.

Mr. Michael Murphy, Mott MacDonald, provided the scope of work to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant. The entire site was surveyed. The design will need to be submitted to DEP in June in order to make the August hearing. Mr. Murphy requested the council's approval. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas to approve the wastewater design proposal. Motion carried.

Mr. Tony Lombardo, Havana Main Street, gave an overview of accomplishments and tasks of the committee. He thanked the council for allowing him to share the committee's progress and upcoming events.

Mr. McKinnon stated a request was made to host car shows monthly in downtown. This is an annual event and Mr. McKinnon stated he recommends approval. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the monthly car shows. Motion carried.

The request to approve the baseball program was discussed. This position was advertised in the Havana Herald. Only one person responded to the request, Mrs. Cindy Mentry. Mr. McKinnon stated he recommend awarding this to Mrs. Mentry. She has been participating in the town's baseball program for approximately 10 years. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve awarding the baseball program to Mrs. Cindy Mentry. Motion carried.

Four additional members were appointed to the Recreation Committee. They are Shirley Aaron, Sheila Shellman, Emma Grice Owens, and Ron Tiller. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the additional appointment of the recreation committee members. Motion carried.

During a councilman's replacement process, the town ordinance states if the Mayor vacate his position, the Mayor Pro Tem will take the responsibility of Mayor.

The Mayor will also appoint a replacement for the vacant seat. Mayor Ross stated he will exercise replacing the council member at the March 27, 2018 meeting. Mayor Ross personally thanked Mayor Davis for his dedication and energy for over 35 plus years of service to the Havana community. Mr. McKinnon mentioned the town's charter is silent for selecting a Mayor Pro Tem. If the council wishes, someone can be designated for the position. Councilwoman Johnson stated the position must be filled and made a motion to appoint Councilman Allen to become Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thomas and motion carried.

#### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT:**

Mr. McKinnon stated the recreation committee is now appointed and there is a total of eight (8) members. A joint meeting with the council will be arranged.

Councilwoman McGill inquired about the speed limit downtown. Department of Transportation (DOT) was contacted and the town received a response. Per DOT, there are no recommended changes and the speed limit is in compliance.

Mr. McKinnon shared the news, the county approved purchasing a new fire truck for Havana. Havana has the oldest truck in inventory. The truck is much needed and the Town really appreciates the County approving the purchase.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

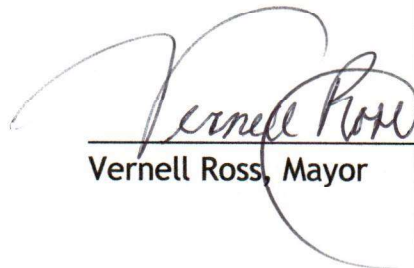
Councilwoman Johnson commended Principal Jackson and the staff of Havana Magnet School for their accomplishment. She also thanked Councilman Allen for recognizing the school.

Councilwoman Thomas commended the fire department. She made a call and reported kids set the grass on fire near her residence. The fire department responded very quickly.

Councilman Allen advised that Mr. McKinnon went to Washington, DC and is trying diligently to secure funding for sewer. Councilman Allen also mentioned state government is trying to take home rule away from local governments and he will continue to fight for home rule.

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

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

---

Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk