

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 26, 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 Allen.

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

The new council members Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Janice Hart and Warkeen Jordan were sworn by Town Clerk Shelia Evans.

Councilwoman Johnson nominated Nick Bert as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion carried with no oppositions.

Decorkus Allen was nominated as Mayor by Councilman Bert. With there being no oppositions, motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Robert Bruggner read a **Memorial Resolution** presented by Havana History and Heritage Society (HHHS) honoring the memory of Mrs. Nell Cunningham. Mrs. Cunningham served as a Treasurer, Executive Secretary and Founding Member of HHHS. She worked tirelessly to make Havana a better place, volunteering her time and talent to many worthwhile projects. Councilman Bert motioned the **Resolution** be placed in the town's official records. Motion carried.

During the March 17, 2020 special meeting regarding COVID-19, the town halted all special events and now with the economy opening there is a need for the town to regain implementing events. Chief Smith stated he was approached by several people that are interested in hosting events downtown. Councilman Bert mentioned he would like for the town to follow the County's protocol. Mr. Bradford Johnson, town manager, advised the county is working with all municipalities on how to reopen. Councilwoman Johnson motioned for the council to approve events on a case by case basis. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson stated subsequent to the decision made regarding special events, in January the council approved hosting an event to honor Mayor Vernell Ross. Also, in February the council approved renaming the police station in honor of Mr. Ross. Mr. Ross served this community dutifully for thirty-six (36) years and the discussion was to host a social distancing parade. Motion was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart authorizing the town manager to pursue with signage and begin organizing a social distancing parade to honor Mr. Ross. Motion carried.

Gadsden County Health Council is seeking to launch a community wide campaign in regards to COVID-19. This is a countywide initiative that will inform residents on how to remain healthy. The health council presented a proposal that list things they would like to see done, as well as radio advertisement. They are seeking \$5,000 from each municipality. There is a need to know how effective the impact will be and it was suggested the council look at this during the budget period. During the discussion, Councilwoman Hart advised the council ask for a contingency to earmark the funds. Councilwoman Jordan made a motion to donate half the funds (\$2,500). Councilman Bert seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Johnson stated the 1st Street resurfacing project is almost complete with the exception of striping. **Resolution No. 2020-05R** authorize the manager to execute and deliver the supplemental agreement to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-05R** was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Jordan. Motion carried. After the motion, there was a brief discussion inquiring about the installation of speed bumps on 1st Street because of speeders. Mr. Johnson advised before a decision can be made there is a need to know what the community wants and it will be up to the council to pursue. Chief Smith advised he will perform a traffic study to measure speeders.

Healthcare for the town employees is up for renewal. Currently there are approximately twenty-one (21) employees with healthcare. Mr. Johnson advised this year there was a five (5) percent increase for the plan. Motion to approve the employee healthcare was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Technical Grant (PO356) is administered by the Town and executed by Havana Main Street to recommend policies that address zoning and land development. The current agreement expires June 30, 2020 and this item seeks approval of amendment one to extend the expiration date to August 30, 2020. Motion to approve amendment one to the DEO agreement was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilman Bert. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson mentioned this item is a pre-event solicitation for debris removal services as well as disaster recovery professional services. In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, the town approved Rostan Solution, LLC to provide services for debris removal. Recently Rostan Solution resigned their services with the town. Currently the town is still working to receive reimbursement for Hurricane Michael. With the hurricane season approaching, it is imperative to acquire these services through competitive bid. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the pre-event solicitation for debris removal services. Motion carried.

There are two vacancies on the firemen pension board and it is the responsibility of the council to approve the two members. The current members are Patrick Coyne, Lester Beach and Don Harrison. Donna Dunn serve as a fire fighter and was selected by the fire department to represent one slot. The other member must be nominated by the council. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Jordan to appoint Decorkus Allen and approve Donna Dunn to the firemen pension board. Mr. Allen is currently serving as a fireman. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. Johnson reported on the community center project. The project is near completion. The appliances are ordered and once installed the building inspector will do an inspection. The contractor was Tip Top Construction and they did an outstanding job.

Mr. Johnson congratulated the council on the new organization.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Jordan recommended staff go to a four (4) day work week during the summer months. Mr. Johnson advised we have a very lean organization and the physical impact of this request will have to be reviewed.

Councilwoman Johnson reported she hosted a luncheon for essential workers at town hall and it was a great success. Councilwoman Johnson also congratulated Councilwoman Hart and Mayor Allen.

Councilman Vickers extended a warm welcome to Councilwoman Hart.

Councilwoman Hart thanked the citizens of Havana for electing her as a council member. She also mentioned she looks forward to working with everyone.

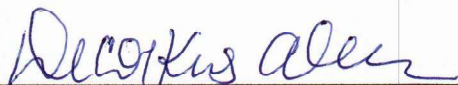
Councilman Bert welcomed Councilwoman Hart.

Councilman Bass extended a welcome to Councilwoman Hart.

Mayor Allen mentioned congratulations to Councilwoman Hart and stated it will be an honor to work with her.

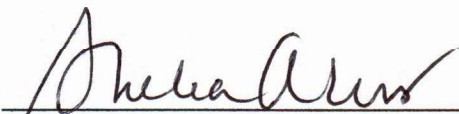
Motion to pay bills was made by Councilwoman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Bert. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.



Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk