

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 28, 2019 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Eddie Bass, Nick Bert and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent: Shirley McGill

New Members: Decorkus Allen, Cathy Johnson and Dwight Vickers

The meeting was called to order.

The newly elected council members, Mr. Decorkus Allen, Mrs. Cathy Johnson and Mr. Dwight Vickers were sworn in by Town Clerk Shelia Evans.

Motion was made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass to nominate Mr. Vernell Ross as Mayor. With no opposition, motion carried.

Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to elect Mr. Decorkus Allen as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2019 Regular Council meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. James Burnette, Westwood Mini Storage, 925 N. Main Street, Havana, FL addressed the council regarding his concerns with Waste Pro not collecting garbage in a timely manner. Mr. McKinnon advised cameras were installed to assist in resolving this matter. Mr. Burnette stated other problems are the police not patrolling the area and security lights out. Mr. McKinnon advised that the town utility crew is checking the lights on a regular basis. The camera installed will also assist in documenting Waste Pro and the police.

Mr. James Brennan, American Legion Post 84, mentioned there will be an open meeting on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 9 am the Hazel Baker Community Center. The meeting will give an update of their plans to house vets in the Havana area which will be a huge impact for the local community. Everyone is invited to attend. Mr. Brennan also mentioned the Post will start monitoring the Veterans Memorial to assist with the flags and cleaning.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McKinnon introduced Mr. Scott Seagle. Mr. Seagle works with Coppins Monroe, P.A. and he is the town's legal counsel with the Florida League of Cities. He is the attorney engaged to assist with the enforcement of the town's nuisance ordinance. Mr. Seagle explained his research and mentioned this is a process and he wants to make sure the council is thoroughly aware and understands the procedures. A preliminary draft of the ordinance was presented. After a brief discussion, Mr. Seagle inquired if there were any questions. The draft is a starting point and the council should offer guidance. Councilwoman Johnson recommended hosting a workshop to go through the pros and cons. A workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 6pm. Mr. Bruce Ballister stated a year ago the Town did a comprehensive plan change. There are still certain things to accomplish with specific language. He mentioned placing an ad in the paper to notify the public of the workshop. Mr. McKinnon stated staff will do a robo call to notify the public of the workshop.

Capital Health Plan insurance for employees is due for renewal. This year the plan increased three (3) percent and Mr. McKinnon stated he recommends approving the renewal. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve the CHP renewal. Motion carried.

Department of Transportation (DOT) entered into an agreement with the Town to provide roadside maintenance for US 27, SR 12, and CR 12. Mr. McKinnon advised the fee was reduced to \$13,062.48 per year and recommended approval. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve the roadside maintenance agreement with DOT. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2019-08R must be submitted to DOT with the roadside maintenance agreement. The resolution authorizes the Town Manager to execute the agreement. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve adopting **Resolution No. 2019-08R**. Motion carried.

Chief Tracy Smith stated he received two (2) special events requests for approval. World Youth Ministries holds a Youth Summit each year. This year they are requesting to host the event at the town park. Their special events form was submitted. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the event. Motion carried.

The next event is for a local church, Chosen for Worship. They are requesting to host a Fun Day on June 8, 2019 for the community. Their request is to close a portion of 6th Avenue for a bounce house which will not impede any driveways. Chief Smith

stated as of today their special events permit has not been submitted but recommends approving the event upon submittal of the permit. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the event upon submittal of the special events permit. Motion carried.

There were four (4) bids received for the Alexander building demolition project. Pyramid Excavation was the lowest bidder. Mr. McKinnon mentioned the asbestos abatement is now complete and the contractor will be able to start the process after acquiring the appropriate permits from DOT. Mr. McKinnon recommends awarding the project to the lowest bidder. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to award the project to Pyramid Excavation. Motion carried.

The Havana Garden Club purchased tables and benches. The council's approval is needed to install them at the town park. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve the request. Motion carried.

Mrs. Edna Hall-Whitehead, past-president of the Havana Garden Club, thanked the council and gave a brief update. The new president is Heather Cooksey. Councilman Bert mentioned the Town and Garden Club have a very good partnership.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

At the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) annual meeting the Town received the Top Project Award. The award was presented because of the town's gas load. Coastal Lumber and Hoover Woods Products are now year-round gas customers. MGAG serves over eighty (80) cities and Havana won the top award.

The baseball program is now complete. Many thanks to Mr. Ronny Butler and Mr. Vic Vickers. The basketball program is now being organized.

Regarding the community park south of town, the Town is waiting on the signed documents from Ms. Woods.

Mr. McKinnon announced his December 31, 2019 retirement date. At the next meeting the council needs to think about the hiring process for the new manager. Mr. McKinnon stated Havana has been a great community to serve.

A company will be here to make the traffic light repair at the corner of 7th Ave and US 27. This is major work and DOT had to approve the repair.

The summer youth positions will be advertised. There are four positions available for age groups 16 - 18. They will work twenty (20) hours per week at \$11 per hour.

Mr. McKinnon gave a brief update on the community center. We are still waiting on the environmental review completion.

The council was updated on the landscaping project for Hwy 27. Mr. McKinnon advised only one bidder responded and the Town will need to rebid.

In conclusion, the housing rehab program to assist with roofs was advertised in the local newspaper. The deadline to be placed on the list is June 7, 2019. The program will assist low to moderate income residents.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson thanked the community for allowing her to serve. She stated she is very thankful and grateful. She also mentioned her concerns regarding the agenda being revised.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen stated he is grateful to serve on the council and thankful to be elected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. He mentioned the council is moving in the right direction and must unite and stand together. Mayor Pro Tem Allen recognized the Gadsden County Commissioners, Dr. Anthony Viegbesie and Mrs. Brenda Holt along with Circuit Judge Angela Dempsey for attending the meeting.

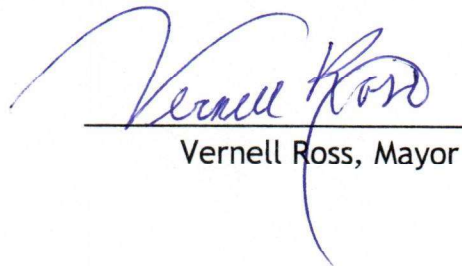
Councilman Bert thanked all for attending the council meeting.

Councilman Bass welcomed Councilman Vickers aboard and stated it is nice to have someone his age interested in serving the community.

Mayor Ross thanked everyone for the faith and trust in electing him as Mayor once again.

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

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk