

Town Of Havana

Regular Council Meeting & Public Hearing

May 28, 2024 – 6:00pm

Meeting minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Loughmiller at 6:00pm. Invocation was led by Councilman Reed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call confirmed the presence of the following council members including Landon Seymour, Lawrence Reed, Matt Wesolowski, Tabatha Nelson, Mayor Loughmiller and Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Bass, ensuring a quorum for the meeting. Members absent were Penny Key.

Swearing in of Council Members & Appointment of Mayor

Council members, Landon Seymour (Seat 4), Lawrence Reed (Seat 5), Eddie Bass (Seat 6) and Tim Loughmiller, Jr. (Seat 7) were sworn in by Town Clerk, Ms. Alexander.

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager, requested the appointment of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Nelson nominated Councilman Bass for Mayor with no second. Councilman Bass nominated Councilman Loughmiller as Mayor with a second from Councilman Wesolowski. Motion carried.

Councilman Wesolowski nominated Councilman Bass as Mayor Pro Tem with a second from Councilman Reed. Motion carried.

Recognition of Visitors

No visitors.

Request to Approve Minutes

Motion Made by Councilwoman Nelson to approve council minutes for April 30, 2024 and May 14, 2024. Seconded by Councilman Bass and motion carried.

Old Business

Old Elementary School Resolution 2024-14R-4

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager, requests approval of Resolution 2024-14R-5 which updates the fines owed by the owners through May 28, 2024, to \$263,015.00. Ms. Wilkerson read the suggested motion regarding the conditions and requirements of the new owners that must be met for fines to be negotiated and reduced. Councilman Bass shared the realtor thinks the owners will pay the taxes. Councilman Reed expresses that it is the owner's responsibility to know what needs to be done and to complete it. Councilman Bass made motion to approve Resolution 2024-14R-5 and approve motion as read by Town Manager. Councilman Wesolowski seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Fire Department Contract

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners has submitted the attached fire contract for the Town's review and approval. The contract provides \$50,000 annually for expenses and \$5,000 annually for stipends. The term of the contract is through 9/30/2027.

Ms. Wilkerson shared how Town staff have tried to discuss contract concerns with BOCC members with no success. She reached out to Commissioner Hinson recently with no response. Chief Don Harrison has reached out multiple times to Commissioner Green with no success. There are several concerns with the contract that staff do not feel comfortable agreeing to.

Much discussion between the council, Jody Finklea, Town Attorney and Town Manager of the options. Mr. Butler (2028 Crimpton CT – on behalf of Havana Heights) asked if this issue would impact fire insurance rating classification. The contract will not affect ISO rating as the HVFD will be moving forward with the ISO after the outpouring of financial support from the citizens.

Motion made by Councilman Wesolowski to deny the fire contract. Seconded by Councilman Bass and motion carried.

Jacobs Contract Renewal (5 years)

Ms. Wilkerson reported that Jacobs, waste treatment plant operations vendor, has expressed a desire for early renewal of the next 5-year term. If the council does not wish to renew and wishes to put this out to bid, we must give 90 days written notice to Jacobs (before 6/1/2024) and immediately start bid process to get a new operator in place by 9/30/2024. Concessions including removing electricity from contract which gives an opportunity for cost savings annually as the Town does not pay sales tax/gross receipts, no longer pay the annual electric increase included in the contract, no base fee increase (up to 5%) for year 1 of renewal, and forgiveness of rebate-able account cost overruns from CY2021.

Councilman Bass made the motion for Town Manager to sign a contract renewal that includes the concessions outlined. Councilman Wesolowski seconded, and motion carried.

Lincoln Avenue – Waterline Replacement

Ms. Wilkerson reported that the Town has received the agreement for the grant funds that the Town Council voted to accept at the April meeting. She is requesting that the Council approve the agreement and authorize the manager to sign all associated documents on behalf of the Town. Once the agreement is executed, the Town Manager will submit a task order for engineering services for the council to review.

Councilman Wesolowski made the motion to approve Grant Agreement and authorize the Town Manager to sign all associated documents. Councilman Reed seconded, and motion carried.

FY2025 Budget Workshops

The Town will hold a budget workshop in July and August. The Manager proposes for the Council's consideration that we use the alternate 2nd Tuesday meeting date for the workshop.

Budget Workshop Dates: July 9, 2024 @ 6:00pm & August 13, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Councilman Bass made the motion to approve the proposed budget workshop dates. Councilman Wesolowski seconded, and motion carried.

Town Manager Report

Auditors onsite 5/20-5/24 finalizing FY22 audit. Police Chief Interviews on 5/28/2024. Shed issue at 900 Circle DR – notice sent to owner to remove shed. Town Hall will be closed 5/30/2024 from 12p-2p for staff training. RFP – Audit Services due 6/14/2024 @ noon. RFP – Insurance due 6/18/2024 @ noon.

Police Department – Healthy Havana – every Friday @ 7:30am in Community Park and Community Cleanup Day on 6/15/2024. Total Events 44, Total Citation Violations 28 and Total Citations 28.

Fire Department – Total Calls 19 (County 13 & Town 6)

The Town Manager requests the council approval for a final public hearing on 7/9/2024 @ 5:30 for a lot split. The council approves.

Kim Smith, 609 NE 1st ST – requested to speak on behalf of her son Logan Smith, owner of 900 Circle DR. She inquired as to why his shed was an issue since 90% of lots in the area have sheds. Ms. Wilkerson responded that sheds are dictated by Ordinance. Owners are to submit a zoning application and site plan before installing a shed. If other sheds were put in place prior to the Ordinance, then they would be grand-fathered in.

Councilman Reed expressed his concern of the overwhelming concern at Circle DR when there are sheds, nuisances, etc throughout the Town and has concerns that a family is being penalized because of the community. Ms. Wilkerson reiterated that the Ordinance is to treat everyone equally and to provide guidance to ensure equality.

Ms. Smith requested advisement on the variance process. Ms. Wilkerson shared they are specific to each property. However, variances are not intended for issues created. Typically, they are requested for hardships due to unknowns and the ordinance is very specific.

Recognition of Each Council Member

Each council member had the opportunity to contribute remarks or raise issues.

Motion to Pay the Bills

Councilman Bass made motion to pay the Town bills. Councilman Wesolowski seconded and motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn


Councilman Wesolowski made motion to adjourn the May 28, 2024, council meeting. Councilman Reed seconded, and motion carried.

Mayor Loughmiller adjourned the meeting at 7:21pm.



TIMOTHY LOUGHMILLER, JR, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Shrylan R. Alexander, Town Clerk

Mr. Smith requested adjournment on the various process. Mr. Westwood stated they are specific to each property. However, various are not intended for future creation. Typically, they are requested for handling due to various and the outcome is very specific.

Each council member had the opportunity to contribute remarks or take action.

Mr. Smith requested adjournment on the various process. Mr. Westwood stated they are specific to each property. However, various are not intended for future creation. Typically, they are requested for handling due to various and the outcome is very specific.

Councilman Westwood made motion to adjourn the May 28, 2024, council meeting. Councilman Westwood seconded and motion carried.

Mayor Laughton adjourned the meeting at 7:21pm.

TIMOTHY FOGTSHILLER, JR. MAYOR

ATTEST:

Sherry R. Alexander, Town Clerk

