

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 8, 2018 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Cathy Johnson, Shirley McGill, David Norman and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent: N/A

New Members: Eddie Bass and Nick Bert

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

The new council members, Mr. Eddie Bass and Mr. Nick Bert, were sworn by Town Clerk Shelia Evans.

A motion was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to nominate Mr. Vernell Ross as Mayor. With no oppositions, motion carried.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Allen motioned to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2018 Regular Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. Jerome Harris, owner of Showtime Detail, thanked the council for organizing the "Fun Day" at Gus Bert Ballfield and stated he attended. The major concern about the event was the overall attendance. Mr. Harris suggested the Council continue hosting this event for the community.

Mr. Fert Richardson, 25 Carver Avenue, Havana, Florida, gave a brief update regarding Havana Community Development. The organization was approved for a \$50,000 grant to repair the roof on the gymnasium. At this time, they are also working on bids for the cafeteria and would like to conclude by July. He advised that the aqua phonics has expanded and invited the Council to visit.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Lu Crews, Havana Main Street, thanked the council for the opportunity to address them. Havana Main Street is seeking a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the Department of State for Historical Resources. There is a very short time to apply, the grant is due May 30, 2018. The money received will be used to survey and designate which buildings are identified as historical. An architect will perform the survey. If approved, some structures could possibly go on the historical register. Mrs. Crews stated she is seeking permission to file the application with the Florida Department of State. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve the filing. Motion carried. Mr. Fert Richardson informed the council that Havana Community Development were presently applying to be designated as a historical site.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. McKinnon updated the council on the annexation for south of town. Letters will be sent out to gauge the interest. Land owners and also renters will be notified. Councilman Bert inquired about the annexation process and asked if the letters can be delayed and the council host another workshop and possibly do a feasibility study. Councilman Bass stated he is interested in knowing the pros and cons for the Town. The form does not include the tax information. The town already provides utilities to the area. Mayor Pro Tem Allen mentioned the pros and cons are listed on the letter and the Town will also be applying for grants. This area is paying utilities and they are in need of representation. Councilwoman Johnson suggested revising the letter. The annexation needs to move forward and the new council members must prepare themselves and get up to date. Councilman Bert stated he is not against the letter. Councilman Norman asked has any property owners petitioned to be annexed. Mr. McKinnon stated no one to his knowledge has requested the annexation. Mayor Pro Tem Allen stated the council's job is to prepare and provide citizens with information. Mr. McKinnon mentioned there are two options for the council to consider; 1) agree to workshop, or 2) revise the letter to send out to the citizens in the designated area. Mr. Ron Tiller, 302 Live Oak Lane, Havana, Florida stated the annexation will cost the town additional money and wanted to make the council aware there is no sewer in the Country Club area. The Country Club has been trying to get sewer installed for years and pays more in taxes than any other area in town. Mr. Fert Richardson stated he understands the money and concern. For years, the Town has been profiting off these areas and now it is time to pay back. Mayor Ross stated the council will take all comments into consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Allen mentioned

the need to build bridges together and mend the gaps. Councilman Bert suggested Mayor Pro Tem Allen and the manager meet to revise the letter.

Mr. Freeman, Ygrene - PACE, has agreed to conduct a workshop regarding their program. At this point, Mr. McKinnon stated he is seeking directions from the Council. After a brief discussion, a workshop will be held on May 22, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

The improvements to the Community Center/Fire Station was bid out. Mr. McKinnon advised he will have a discussion with the County regarding this project.

Cascade Falls Stormwater repair project was also bided.

The gas/water main extension to the new company north of town near Coastal Plywood will bid in the near future.

Mr. McKinnon updated the council regarding the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The first reading of the ordinance will be May 22, 2018. The State indicated an expedited approval.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson provided pictures to the council of an area of concern on South Main. Barriers are needed because children play on the street and it is very dangerous. She invited all council members to go out and look at the area. Councilwoman Johnson stated she is still planning a retreat for the Council. She congratulated the new council members, Councilman Bass and Councilman Bert.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen shared that he was elected to the Northwest Florida League of Cities Board and stated Havana had very good representation attending the conference.

Councilman Bert stated it is an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Havana.

Councilman Bass inquired about the property that is to be donated for a park south of town. Mr. McKinnon stated he will make contact with the property owner. The Town will have to get legal and deed work done. Councilman Bass stated he is proud to be a part of the council and will work to serve all citizens. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert to pay bills.
Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.

Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk