

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 17, 2020 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Nick Bert, Janice Hart, Warkeen Jordan, and Dwight Vickers

Member(s) Absent: Eddie Bass

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Allen.

Invocation was led by Mayor Allen followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2020 Regular Council Meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Ms. Stacey Henderson, 331 4th Street SE, appeared before the council to address her concerns about town hall being closed and having to make her utility payment online. She also voiced concerns about the town's utility extension procedures. Mr. Bradford Johnson, Town Manager, explained the office was closed due to the pandemic and gave a brief overview of the town's extension policy.

Mr. Jerome Harris, Showtime Auto Detail, also made comments regarding the town's extension procedures.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

On behalf of the Northwest Florida League of Cities Board of Directors and entire membership, Town Clerk Shelia Evans presented the 2020 Gene Wright Resilience Award to Mayor Decorkus Allen.

Mayor Allen named three (3) candidates chosen for the council's appointment vacancy for Group 1. The candidates are Donna Vickers, Donna Salters and Jenny Stone. Mayor Allen asked the council to give comments regarding three candidates chosen. Councilwoman Hart inquired if the candidates provided resumes. Town Manager Johnson stated no and expressed the appointment chosen will be at the Mayor's discretion. Mayor Pro Tem Bert raised his concern about having two family members representing the council. Councilman Vickers mentioned Ms. Stone was his choice and advised she has the energy to provide to the council. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Allen appointed Jenny Stone to fill Group 1 vacancy.

Mr. Johnson advised the Gadsden County Annual Investment agreement is due for approval. The item was budgeted and the agreement will allow the Town to be in partnership with the other municipalities. The cost for each municipality is \$3,500.00. Motion to approve the Gadsden County Annual Investment agreement was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

Chief Tracy Smith mentioned Havana Main Street submitted a Special Events Permit to host their annual WinterFest Parade, Saturday, December 12, 2020. Main Street plans are to host the Christmas parade only this year due to COVID19. There are no vendors or crafts participating and Main Street will provide masks. Town Manager Johnson stressed if approved social distancing is recommended. Mayor Pro Tem Bert inquired about the enforcement of keeping distance. Chief Smith stated Main Street advised they will have a representative talk to the crowd. Councilwoman Hart inquired about Main Street's logistics plans. She mentioned her concern is the Havana community becoming a super spreader of COVID19. Mrs. Terri Paul stated Main Street will host a parade only and a map/route will be published in the newspaper. She also mentioned other communities such as City of Quincy and DeFuniak Springs will host their annual holiday events. After discussing, motion was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilman Vickers to approve the WinterFest Parade. Motion carried.

Chief Smith stated Blessing of Hope Empowerment Outreach submitted two (2) Special Event Permits. The first event is a Thanksgiving food giveaway at town hall on November 21, 2020 at 11am. Motion to approve the food giveaway at town hall was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried. The second event will be a drive through food and toy giveaway at the Havana Community Center on December 5, 2020. Motion to approve the December 5, 2020 event was approved by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Due to the holiday season, Mr. Johnson inquired about rescheduling the December meeting to December 15, 2020. He advised the public will be properly noticed.

Mr. Johnson mentioned the town's audit is now underway and staff is working diligently.

Mr. Johnson advised email addresses for the council and town staff are ready for use.

There will be a future workshop with Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) to discuss rates. This will allow the Town to see where our rates are with other communities.

A newsletter was prepared and went out with the utility bills. Mr. Johnson stated plans are to prepare quarterly newsletters. He advised he is currently working on an E-newsletter.

Mr. Johnson mentioned during the last council meeting the bike trail and feasibility study was discussed. He stated he made contact with Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) and the feasibility study did not take place. We are in the process of getting studies through the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

Mr. Johnson discussed the Community Cleanup Day. A meeting was held last month and an additional meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020 at 6pm at the Community Center. There are plans to set a date for the actual clean up day. Councilwoman Hart mentioned the cleanup day will consist of trash and litter pick up.

Town will have their annual Holiday Luncheon on December 23, 2020 at the Community Center.

Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the park south of town. This item was passed by the Council and he reached out to Ms. Wood regarding the quick claim deed. There was some concern as to where the playground will be located due to slum and blight in the area.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Jordan mentioned her concern regarding shopping for the Christmas toy giveaway. Chief Smith mentioned a date will be set for shopping. Councilwoman Hart inquired about the toy giveaway approval process. Chief Smith advised the applicants must be a resident of Havana and also present proof of income.

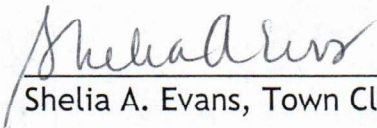
Councilwoman Hart presented the Proposed Framework for the Community Cleanup Plan for the town's official records.

Motion to pay bills was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.

Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk