

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 27, 2018 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Cathy Johnson, and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent: Shirley McGill and David Norman

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mrs. Karen Kent, 102 East 5th Avenue, Havana, Florida stated she represents the Downtown Improvements Committee. The committee is requesting the council approve an additional \$200 in funds to repair the train which is a Christmas display. Mr. Howard McKinnon stated before spending additional funds the town's electrical crew will look at the train. He also advised that in the future, when the committee is requesting funds, the item needs to be placed on the agenda.

Mrs. Kent stated the ditch on Short Street which runs from 4th to 5th Avenue is holding a lot of water with limbs and also a tree stump. Her biggest concern is the stump and if there is a heavy rain the ditch will possibly flood her yard. Mr. McKinnon advised he will have the crew check it out.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

A request to approve the budget amendment was made by Mr. McKinnon which is mainly shifting dollars because some departments were under. The amendment will assist in getting ready for the auditors. Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the request could be tabled until the next meeting and was advised the amendment had to be done in November. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the budget amendment request with Councilwoman Johnson opposing. Motion carried.

The next council meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesdays, December 11, 2018 and December 25, 2018. Mr. McKinnon advised the December 25th meeting is Christmas day. It is usually slow at the end of the month due to the holiday and Mr. McKinnon made a recommendation to meet one time on December 11th. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve meeting one time during the month of December. Motion carried.

As a token to the crew and staff for all the hard work during Hurricane Michael, Mr. McKinnon recommends the council consider rewarding the crew a day off on Christmas Eve. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert to extend Christmas Eve as a day off to staff. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. McKinnon updated the Council on the Alexander building which is located downtown. The notice was sent to the owners declaring it a dangerous building. It is the owner's responsibility to bring the building into compliance. The next step is to schedule a public hearing and send notice to the owners to appear before the council at the January 8, 2019 meeting. Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the owners have liability insurance on the property. Mr. McKinnon stated he was informed they do not have insurance and the Town is moving forward with the process.

The recreation committee met and came up with the criteria for a recreation director. Their plans are to appear before the council at the December 11, 2018 meeting for approval.

Mr. McKinnon mentioned the attorney is in contact with Mrs. Woods to finish the deed work for the property that is being donated for a park south of town.

The Town received notification from the Department of Revenue regarding the Trim compliance. The notification stated the Town is in complete compliance.

In conclusion, Mr. McKinnon advised the Town is moving forward with applying for funds for the community center. He also mentioned he will make an inquiry to see if the housing rehab funds can be used to assist people with roof repairs only.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:


Councilwoman Johnson elaborated on Mr. McKinnon's comments regarding the roof repairs. She mentioned she agrees and if roof repairs are allowed the Town will be able to assist people that are really in need.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen updated the council on his recent travel to Orlando where he attended the Florida League of Cities Legislative conference. He encouraged all to participate with the Florida League of Cities.

Councilman Bert mentioned he wanted the council to be aware of the genuine efforts of the Havana Main Street and Havana Community Development unification process to improve race relations in town. The goal is to have everybody in Havana feel welcome at all events around town. Mr. McKinnon suggested the committees meet with the Martin Luther King, Jr. committee members regarding their upcoming event in January.


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

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk