

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
Special Council Meeting
October 10, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Loughmiller at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation was led by Councilman Reed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Member(s) Present: Tim Loughmiller (Mayor), Tabatha Nelson, Lawrence Reed, Matthew Wesolowski, Penny Key, Nick Bert, and Kendrah Wilkerson (Town Manager)

Member(s) Absent: Eddie Bass

VISITORS: N/A

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Wesolowski to approve minutes from the September 12, 2023 Special Council Meeting and the September 26, 2023 Final Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dewberry – Downtown Streetscape Presentation

Mrs. Wilkerson, Town Manager, introduced Justin Ford, Dewberry Engineer, to present the presentation and answer questions. Mr. Ford presented the Preliminary Engineering Report (Reference No. 5152503, DEO Agreement No. D0189, June 2023). Discussion from the council in regards to making Hwy 27 a 2-lane highway. Suggestion for center lane to be used for evacuation and emergency vehicles, longevity and maintenance of pavers, friendliness of pavers with regards to strollers, walking and wheelchairs. Discussion from council for barricade options for safety on Hwy 27 and access to businesses during construction. The public suggested to complete the Hwy-27 access first to allow for access to downtown businesses during remaining construction.

Mr. Ford reiterated that this is a Preliminary Proposal and ideas will be considered once funding is finalized and prior to beginning construction. Mr. Ford will share the ideas that were mentioned and the Town will be able to have input into details such as paver style, colors and how the Downtown will look. Mr. Ford reiterated that this will be an invasive project to businesses downtown and patience will be required for such a project as this.

2. Violation of Ordinance 387 – Paul and Roxine Becotte (Unauthorized Structure)

Mrs. Wilkerson shared that Mr. and Mrs. Becotte have requested a 60-day grace period to remove/sell the shed that has been moved onto their property on 7th Avenue East that is in violation of Ordinance 387. Mr. and Mrs. Becotte are familiar with Ordinance 387 from two previous certificate of appropriateness that were submitted two different times this year.

Mrs. Wilkerson requests guidance from the council as to the 60-day grace period request as well as waiving the \$100/day fine which began 9/25/2023. However, the decision needs to be one that the Council and the Town will be consistent with in the future.

Council discussion included working with businesses to promote business growth, requiring shed to be moved ASAP due to blatant disregard for the Ordinance and granting a 60-day grace period.

Motion was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Reed to grant the 60-day grace period and if the shed is removed within the grace period all fines will be forgiven. However, on day 61 if the shed has not been removed the fines will be assessed at \$100/day beginning 9/25/2023 until it is removed. Motion carried.

3. Grant Agreement for Paving: \$214,410


Mrs. Wilkerson shared that in March 2021 the Town Council applied for grant funding to repave 3rd Street SE from Jefferson Avenue to 10th Avenue. The Town was just awarded the funding in the amount of \$214,410. FDOT has requested a new resolution in support of the mayor accepting this grant award and signing the grant agreement due to length of time between application and award. Councilman Bert motioned to approve the Resolution and Councilman Reed seconded. Motion carried.

Report of the Town Manager:

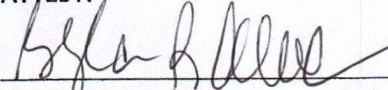
The Town Manager reported publicly that Town Hall will be closed Wednesday, October 18, 2023 from 3-5 p.m. to perform a smoke test to determine the leak in the restroom. Decision was made to close during a work day as a cost saving to prevent any after hour fees. A staff member is required to be with the plumber on-site.

Recognition of Council: No comments

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Bert and Seconded by Councilman Wesolowski. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.


TIMOTHY LOUGHMILLER, JR, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Shrylan R. Alexander, Town Clerk

