

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 23, 2018 6 pm**

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

Member(s) Absent: Nick Bert, Shirley McGill and David Norman

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2018 Final Public Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McKinnon advised that the flood ordinance has to be updated and the federal government administers the flood program. The town had assistance from the Department of Economic Opportunity and the proposed ordinance meets the guidelines. There were some minor changes and Mr. McKinnon stated he recommends approving the ordinance. After a brief discussion, motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to read Ordinance No. 378 one time by title only. Town Clerk Shelia Evans read the ordinance by title. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 378. Motion carried.

The county is requesting the town participate in a disaster debris removal agreement. There should be no issues in getting reimbursed by FEMA. It has been estimated the cost of the debris removal is \$60M. Governor Scott made an exception for the State to handle the debris removal. The State will administer and manage the efforts and request the money from FEMA. Mr. McKinnon explained the only drawback is being patient to get all the debris picked up. It is very appreciative that the State stepped up to handle this. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the agreement with Gadsden County for the debris removal. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon stated there is a request to change the sick leave policy for the town's employees. If an employee has worked less than fifteen (15) years and is off one day, a doctor's excuse is required. The request is to change the policy to the third day. Mr. McKinnon explained this puts the town at a competitive disadvantage when hiring. The hours accumulated will remain the same. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve changing the sick leave policy to read a doctor's excuse is required on the third day. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. McKinnon gave an extensive update on Hurricane Michael. This area took a pretty direct hit and the town crew had a tremendous task in front of them. FMEA was called for mutual aid assistance. Mr. McKinnon stated that 40 - 50% of the electric distribution system was damaged. Mr. Mike McCleary with FMPA also assisted and was a big help to make sure we were efficient. People really stepped up. There were crews from Jacksonville Beach and North Central Alabama. The first effort was to repair the electric line feeders and the town's main priority was to get all electric customers back on. By Sunday, 100% of the town's electric services were restored with the exception of approximately twelve (12) customers that had services ripped from the wall. Mr. McKinnon thanked all for their efforts.

Mr. McKinnon stated a request for ice was made. A truck arrived on Saturday and ice was distributed. People were very thankful.

Mr. McKinnon encouraged everyone to get the message out regarding debris pickup.

On November 2, 2018 there will be a community meal event hosted by the Lamb Family at the Eugene Lamb Park in Rich Bay. The event is from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. FEMA will be on site to assist residents.

Pumpkin Festival is rescheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2018.

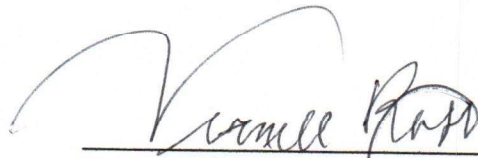
COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson gave thanks to Mrs. Elaine McKinnon for requesting the ice for the Havana community. It was really needed and appreciated. There are also plans to meet with the principal at the Magnet School and do something for the football players. They were very helpful and worked hard. Mr. McKinnon stated thank you letters will be prepared for the Mayor to sign. Councilwoman Johnson commended Gadsden County Emergency Management for doing a great job.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen stated he commends Mr. McKinnon and wife for a job well done. The entire community came together. He also stated he has two (2) generators for anyone in the county. Mayor Pro Tem Allen mentioned he partnered with the 1200 Church and the Hope Organization to assist in delivering donations. He also suggested the request of a generator for town hall and the need for reserve gas for the police department. Mr. McKinnon mentioned there are DEP requirements and environmental regulations if gas is reserved. Mr. McKinnon stated the town can get this worked out locally. The Shell Station and Marathon reserves gas for the Town. A FEMA fueling station was set up at the old airport the day after the storm.

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

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk