

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 27, 2020 6 pm**

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

Member(s) Absent: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Bert.

Invocation was led by Councilwoman Warkeen Jordan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2020 First Public Budget Hearing, September 29 Regular Council Meeting and September 30, 2020 Final Public Budget Hearing was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. John Dunn, 819 Shady Rest Road, Havana, FL, gave an overview of the proposed bike trail for the Havana area. The bike trail will increase foot traffic for the area which will assist in increasing revenue for merchants. He is before the council to seek support and recognition from the Havana community. Mr. Dunn stated a feasibility study was performed and Havana was included. Councilwoman Hart inquired about the feasibility study. Mr. Brad Johnson, Town Manager, mentioned prior to becoming manager, the Town passed a resolution in support of the trail and presented it to Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA). Mr. Eric Hinson, Gadsden County Commissioner, reported on the county's interest in a bike trail with plans to widen roads and stated politics got in the way. Mayor Pro Tem Bert advised he is in support of the bike trail and recommended the Manager follow up on this request.

Mr. Eric Hinson, 26 Cascade Falls Way, stated One Gadsden Foundation partnered with the Gadsden County School Board and also serves the homeless population. The request is to host a Trunk or Treat for the Havana Community. This will allow the children to have a safe Halloween. The Special Events and Hold Harmless applications were submitted for approval. The proposed event will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 4 - 6 pm at the Havana Community Park. All tents will be separated and the event will be drive-by with no walking traffic and masks will also be worn. Motion to approve with safety precautions was made by Councilwoman Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Hart mentioned a previous agenda item, the park south of town. Mr. Johnson stated at this point, this item is still in discussion with both parties, Mr. Jerome Harris and Ms. Stacy Henderson.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Downtown Improvements Committee is requesting approval to expend \$750.00 to the Havana Christmas Tree Farms. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert to approve the expenditure of \$750.00 to Havana Christmas Tree Farms. Motion carried.

A Special Events Form was received for the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2020. The event will be a flag retirement ceremony and will adhere to the COVID-19 measures. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the Veterans Day Ceremony. Motion carried.

Havana History and Heritage Museum is proposing a zoning request. Mr. Wayne Gregory and Mr. Bill Piotrowski are requesting approval to subdivide the Planters Exchange property. The zoning application was submitted and approved by Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC). If approved, both parties will move forward with the sell/purchase and the recordings with the Clerk of Courts. Motion to approve the zoning request was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) seeks approval for the Supplemental Agreement. MGAG is the Town's natural gas provider. Mr. Johnson mentioned in addition to the firm gas supplies, they provide a portfolio cash return to the Town each year. In the last five years, the supply portfolio provided a return of \$37,514 to the Town. Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Eric Groom, MGAG representative. Mr. Groom briefed the council and advised there are approximately eighty (80) cities participating. The program issue bonds, buy gas and give back to communities. Motion to approve the Supplement Agreement was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson explained the MGAG agreements are in three (3) parts. The next item for approval is the First Amendment to the agreement. All documents must be identified and approved by Council. Motion to approve the First Amendment was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2020-09R is also part of the MGAG agreement. All documents must be returned for approval. Motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-09R** was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Eric Groom for attending the meeting. Mr. Groom mentioned MGAG also have funds available for customers to purchase gas appliances. MGAG initiated this plan to allow for financing of gas appliances. The funds were increased from \$5,000 to \$6,500. Customers can finance appliances such as a gas tankless hot water heater, stove, etc. Mr. Johnson advised this information will be communicated to our customers.

FRDAP application for upgrades at the Havana Community Park was submitted. The amount is \$50,000.

The Holidays are coming and the crew is now installing the lights downtown.

Mr. Johnson stated he is happy to report Emergency Management approved the Hazard Litigation. This will cover the critical access point for the town generators.

Chief Smith applied for a FDLE grant for Coronavirus funds. The amount of the grant is \$37,000.

Lastly, Mr. Johnson reported the Town is working on communications for our citizens. A newsletter was sent out in the utility bills. Newsletters will go out quarterly and there is also a section for sponsorship for businesses to advertise.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson mentioned she is so grateful to have served on the council. This was such a rewarding experience. She thanked her colleagues and also gave thanks to the citizens of Havana for choosing her to be a part of the decision making.

Councilwoman Jordan stated she has enjoyed working with Councilwoman Johnson and wished her well.

Mayor Pro Tem Bert stated he would like for the manager to follow up on a resolution for the bike trail.

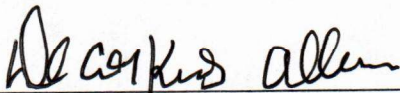
Councilwoman Hart wished Councilwoman Johnson the best. She advised her to continue to work hard and keep the children first.

Councilwoman Hart also mentioned the workshop that will be held in November to discuss economic development and the clean up around town. She advised the newsletter was a great start of communication and inquired about selling whole pages for sponsorship. Mr. Johnson stated the Town pays a rate to insert into the utility bills and each additional page will change the cost. He mentioned several businesses have already inquired about the sponsorship.

Mayor Allen stated he appreciates the newsletter. He thanked the Council, Chief of Police, Town Manager and Clerk for doing a great job.

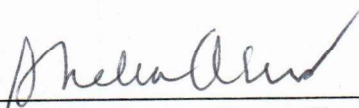
Motion to pay bills was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.



Decorkus Allen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk