

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 29, 2019 6 pm**

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

Member(s) Absent: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ross.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were lead by the American Legion Post 84.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2019 Regular Council meeting was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. Ronny Butler, 600 Twin Ponds Drive, inquired if the council would consider building a recreation center. After discussing, it was determined there is a lack of interest in sports participation in the community because of modern technology. Mr. McKinnon stated there should be an interest in order to justify building a center. Mayor Ross suggested making a presentation to the Boys and Girls Club.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Jody Finklea, General Counsel for FMPA and FMEA, addressed the council regarding the ARP Solar II Project and stated the Town has an opportunity to explore solar. A participation agreement must be executed. The developer is a Belgium Company, Origis and have a proven track record. FMPA will have a 20-year agreement with Origis. On December 12, 2019, FMPA will have an executive board meeting to execute the project documents. Motion made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the FMPA Phase II Solar Project. Motion carried.

The Havana Planning Technical Assistant Grant was discussed. The grant is from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and is being administered by Havana Main Street. The request is to approve the Mayor signing the agreement. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bert. Motion carried.

As part of the Planning Technical Assistance Grant, there must be someone designated to facilitate the meetings. A request for proposal ad was published seeking a Historian which will be paid through the grant funds. There was one proposal received from Ms. Laura Corbett. Motion to accept the proposal from Laura Corbett was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2019-09R, Road Closures for Winter Festival must be approved. As per Department of Transportation (DOT) the resolution is a requirement and must be submitted with the permit. Motion to approve **Resolution No. 2019-09R** was made by Councilman Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon advised he is the town's representative for Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) and Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG). The request is for the council to consider allowing him to be the town's appointee to both agencies after retirement. Mr. McKinnon stated electricity and natural gas are important to the town's revenues and advised long term relationships were establish with both agencies. The new manager can become active in the agencies and learn how each group works and also be able to get a good understanding of the electric and natural gas industries. Motion to approve the request was made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

The hiring of the new town manager was discussed. Applications and resumes were received from fifteen (15) applicants. After the discussion, it was determined to rank the applicants and select the top three. The rankings will be determined by a point system; 5 for highest, 3 or 1. The top three applicants ranked the highest will be interviewed at a special meeting on November 8, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. This will be a public meeting and the meeting will be advertised. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the scoring system 5, 3, 1 to select the top three applicants for interviews. Motion carried with Councilwoman Johnson opposing. Town Clerk Shelia Evans tallied the applicant's scores and the results were as follows; Lee Garner (21), Bradford Johnson (15) and Tracy Smith (11).

Mr. Ronny Butler thanked the council on behalf of the Havana Community Development Corporation (HCDC) for the donation received.

Mr. McKinnon mentioned Gadsden County purchased a new fire truck for the Town. Approximately 85% to 90% of fire calls are in the county. The town is appreciative and very proud to receive the first-class truck.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

Havana Main Street will host a branding meeting on November 12, 2019 and November 14, 2019 at the Cecil G. Trippe Municipal Building. This will be a public meeting and will be advertised.

The Town received the approval letter from Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the community center. Mr. McKinnon mentioned the asbestos results will be included in the scope of work.

Chief Tracy Smith stated it is difficult to get good applicants for his department. To assist in acquiring applicants, the police department implemented a vehicle take home program as an incentive to attract more officers. Also, Casselberry, Florida police department was very gracious enough to donate two (2) vehicles to Havana. The cars will need to have radios installed and also striped.

Chief Smith mentioned he received the land survey for the police department. The survey will assist in moving forward on the renovations for the department.


COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson stated citizens are calling in regards to the roofing program. Mr. McKinnon mentioned the applicants awarded were interviewed and incomes verified.

Councilwoman Jordan inquired about the Trunk or Treat event in the park.

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

Motion to adjourn.



Vernell Ross, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk