

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 30, 2017 6 pm**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, T. J. Davis, Cathy Johnson, Shirley McGill, David Norman and Vernell Ross

Member(s) Absent: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis.

Motion was made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2017 First Public Budget Hearing, the September 26, 2017 Regular Council Meeting and the October 2, 2017 Final Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. Jerome Harris, mentioned he addressed the council regarding a couple issues at the August meeting; playground location, GED Program and restroom facility for the park. He stated that he understands that Chief Smith and Councilman Allen are working on a recreational program. Mr. Harris asked if the council made a decision in regards to a playground. Mr. McKinnon advised the first priority is to find a location. He also stated he is working with Ms. Beth Kirkland on a GED program. Mr. Harris inquired about the town park. There are no public restrooms or pavilion. Mr. McKinnon stated the Town will apply for a FRDAP grant and come up with a list of improvements, Mr. Harris mentioned he need clarification regarding the three minutes to address the council. At the last meeting, the Mayor did not allow any conversation regarding the agenda items. Councilman Allen stated anyone can address the council but it is now limited to three (3) minutes. If anyone is interested in being placed on the agenda, contact the Town Clerk.

Mr. Leroy Curtis advised that he has lived in town over twenty-one (21) years and there are no sidewalks from 12th to 5th and knows that the town has right-of-way for sidewalks. The sidewalks can help deter crime and can also assist in getting the kids to the library which will keep them from walking in the streets. The council should take this into consideration. Mr. McKinnon advised he will be glad to discuss this with Mr. Curtis and Chief Smith after the meeting. He stated the Town will also address the Safe Routes to School Grant. The sidewalks will have to be drawn out on plans and the utilities will possibly need to be moved. Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Curtis for the input.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McKinnon recognized Mr. Donteris Andrews and presented a plaque to honor him as an outstanding law enforcer. Mr. Andrews was named the "2017 Officer of the Year" for Gadsden County. He was instrumental in a huge drug arrest and has great respect in the community. This recognition is well deserved and the Town is very proud of his accomplishment.

Mrs. Edna Hall, Havana Garden Club, thanked the council for allowing her to have this conversation. Mrs. Hall shared with the council the club's accomplishments and their mission statement. She also provided photos of the areas of town in which they are responsible. The membership has grown to sixty-two (62) hard working ladies and they provide two (2) major fundraisers. Mrs. Hall mentioned the purpose of the visit is to share with the council. They are the silent army for the community and feel they have not received cooperation from the Town. The membership wants to continue to grow but there is limited space and inadequate bathrooms and kitchen at the Hazel Baker Community center. Mrs. Hall asked the council to review and share a time line regarding the expansion of the community center. Mr. McKinnon stated the Town is very proud of the Garden Clubs' investment and accomplishments. There are issues with the expansion with trying to keep cost down and also a need to partner with the County because EMS has a building next door. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the plans. Councilman Allen thanked the Garden Club for the education and stated they are doing an immaculate job. Councilman Allen motioned for the Town to present the club with a plaque and there was no second. Motion failed. Mrs. Hall thanked the Town for the support and stated she appreciated the council listening.

Mr. Tony Lombardo, Executive Director of Havana Main Street, mentioned he is before the council to speak on behalf of the Garden Club. The Havana Garden club brings beauty to Havana. They are dedicated and work very hard. Mr. Lombardo stated from all the meetings he attends, a member of the Garden Club is always present. Thank you to the Havana Garden Club for truly being a community treasure.

Mrs. Karen Kent, Downtown Improvement Committee, stated the committee has been in existence since 2008. The committee purchased park benches, banners, umbrellas,

etc. in the past. Several years ago, the committee did a matching façade grant for the merchants. Mrs. Kent stated she is seeking the council's approval to allocate funds up to \$8,000 for a façade grant. If approved, the committee will advertise the grant in November and the deadline will be scheduled for January. The islands for the 7th Avenue project is up for bid and the bid due date is November 20, 2017 at 2 p.m. The façade grant is a 50/50 match. The merchants will be allowed to spend a maximum of \$4,000 and will be reimbursed \$2,000. Mr. McKinnon advised the funds are currently available and comes from the downtown taxing district. Motion made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the allocation of \$8,000 for the façade grant program. Motion carried.

Mrs. Kent stated she is also seeking approval to appoint Mr. Decorkus Allen to the Downtown Improvement committee. Mr. Allen will bring a lot of diversity to the board. Motion made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the appointment of Mr. Decorkus Allen to the Downtown Improvement Committee. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2017-04R is for Florida City Government Week. Mr. McKinnon stated Councilwoman Johnson and Councilman Allen were very active with implementing this. They invited the Havana Magnet School to participate. Florida City Government Week is sponsored by the Florida League of Cities. The event highlighted the services the Town provides. There were approximately fifty (50) children that participated. The children toured town hall, fire department, police department and the water works facility. Afterwards, they enjoyed lunch at town hall. Councilwoman Johnson mentioned the event was very educational for the community and next year there are plans to invite the Garden Club. Motion to approve **Resolution No. 2017-04R** was made by Councilwoman McGill and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross. Motion carried.

Chief Tracy Smith thanked the Garden Club for their service to the community. He stated the Police Department lawn looks amazing all the time because of their upkeep. Chief Smith stated he is before the council requesting a change or an amendment to the ordinance which states the Police Chief must live inside town limits. He advised that he owns property 3.5 miles outside town limits and would like to move in order to care for his ill mother and mother-in-law. Mr. McKinnon stated at this time, there is a need to get the council's consensus. Mayor Pro Tem Ross inquired if the ordinance is amended will it be permanent. He was advised yes. Councilman Allen mentioned citizens should have a voice. The charter states the Council, Manager and Police Chief are required to live inside town limits. He spoke with some constituents and some had a problem with it. Mr. McKinnon stated one option to consider is a sunset provision. Councilwoman Johnson stated this request should be tabled at this meeting and she feels this is a legal issue. There should be no decision

tonight. Mr. Jerome Harris stated Chief Smith is an outstanding officer. He also mentioned if the ordinance is changed will anyone outside town limits be able to apply. Mayor Davis stated Mr. McKinnon will talk to the town's attorney and bring back more information at the next meeting.

Mr. McKinnon advised the contract from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the Havana Main Street Visioning Grant was received and has been approved. The Town will sign the contract with DEO. The amount of the agreement is \$28,000. Motion to approve the Visioning Grant with DEO was made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross. Motion carried.

The next item is to approve the Visioning Agreement between Havana Main Street and the Town. Motion to approve the agreement was made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilman Norman. Motion carried.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Project Azalea must be approved. The property is next to Coastal Lumber Company and will bring approximately twenty-five (25) jobs to the area. Mr. McKinnon stated the Town will supply natural gas and water. This will certainly assist with the town's gas load distribution. The agreement is with the County, authorizing the Town to use their right of way. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Project Azalea with Councilman Norman abstaining. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. McKinnon reported that Councilman Allen hosted a recreational meeting. Another meeting will be held November 8, 2017 to get additional recreational input from the community. This meeting will be hosted by Chief Smith.

Mr. McKinnon stated he met with the Boys and Girls Club to find out their needs. He advised they had fundraisers and another meeting will be scheduled.


The elementary school property closed. The company is from India and will use the facility for training.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Ross stated he received correspondence from Representative Ramon Alexander. Mr. Alexander wants the town to inform him of any concerns or needs. Mayor Pro Tem Ross mentioned he will pass the correspondence on to Mr. McKinnon.

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

Motion to adjourn.



T. J. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk