

Town Of Havana

Mid-Month Council Meeting & Public Hearing

October 8, 2024 – 6:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Loughmiller at 6:00pm. Invocation was led by Councilman Reed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call confirmed the presence of the following council members including Matthew Wesolowski, Tabatha Nelson, Lawrence Reed, Penny Key, Mayor Loughmiller and Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Bass, ensuring a quorum for the meeting. Councilman Seymour was absent from the meeting.

Recognition of Visitors

None

Request to Approve Minutes

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dr. Newberry Retirement

Ms. Wilkerson shared that long-time physician in Havana, Dr. Newberry is retiring and closing his practice at the end of the year. She is requesting from the Council guidance on next steps and requests council consideration on future use of the facility. Does Council wish to continue to have a physician in Havana and also are there any preferences with licensing.

The Town Manager stated that in recent years, the Town has replaced the roof, at least two A/C units and funded extensive plumbing repairs in the building. Also, note that Dr. Newberry is the Town's medical review officer and conducts all substance abuse testing for a fee. Dr. Newberry is in attendance to answer any questions and offer guidance on next steps.

Dr. Mark Newberry shared how he came to be in Havana. He shared that five (5) years ago he and his wife started discussing retiring and stopped caring for pediatric patients. Three (3) years ago we decided to no longer accept new patients. Currently patient caseload is approximately 2000. The Town of Havana helped provide a Dexa Scan, Ultrasound and X-ray machine.

Dr. Newberry stated TMH nor Capital Regional have been interested in the practice. He possibly may have a Nurse Practitioner that might be interested. Residents graduate in August. Councilwoman Nelson inquired as to what a Nurse Practitioner can do vs a Physician Assistant. Per Dr. Newberry, a NP can work independently but a PA cannot work independently. However, some NPs cannot prescribe controlled medications and some aren't comfortable with complicated patients. 95% of his practice is geriatrics. Dr. Newberry shared that he does have two staff members (Medical Assistant & Receptionist) that are interested in staying if a doctor is found. They are good employees and know all the patients.

Council is in agreement that they want to keep it open for the citizens. Town Manager will work with Dr. Newberry on an advertising.

Dr. Newberry asked what the Town would like for him to do with the patient charts. He can transfer to a Medical Record Custodian. If he does, the new doctor would need to request records for patients and the custodian would more than likely not send the entire chart, only most recent. The records must be kept for five (5) years. The other option is to keep the records at the office locked and he will manage any medical records requests weekly.

Motion made by Councilman Bass for medical records to remain at office and Dr. Newberry will manage records request. Seconded by Councilman Wesolowski and motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Loughmiller called the Public Hearing to order at 6:36 pm.

Ordinance No. 404 (Final Reading) Simulated Gambling Devices & Internet Cafes

The Town Council has issued a moratorium on simulated gambling devices and internet cafes. Additionally, Town Council has requested an ordinance be introduced to permanently prohibit these devices and establishments from our Town limits.

Ms. Wilkerson is presenting Ordinance No.404 for Town Council review. She states all legal reporting requirements for this ordinance have been met and a business impact statement related to this issue was posted on the Town's website on 8/30/2024. With Council's approval she requests the Town Clerk to read the Ordinance by title only. Ms. Alexander, Town Clerk, read Ordinance No. 404 by Title Only – Final Reading.

Councilman Wesolowski made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 404 Final Reading – Simulated Gambling Devices & Internet Café. Councilman Bass seconded, and motion carried with a vote of 6 – 0.

Ordinance No. 405 (Final Reading) Police Chief Residency Requirement

The Town Manager, Ms. Wilkerson, presents Ordinance No. 405 providing for the Town Council to exercise discretion in regard to the residence of the Chief of Police. Previous ordinances required both the Town Manager and Chief of Police to live within the town limits. The Town Council has already passed an ordinance allowing discretion in regard to the residence of the Town Manager.

All legal reporting requirements for this ordinance have been met and a business impact statement related to this issue was posted on the Town's website on 8/30/2024. With the Council's approval, Ms. Wilkerson request the Town Clerk to read Ordinance 405 by Title Only. Ms. Alexander, Town Clerk, read Ordinance 405 by Title Only – Final Reading.

Councilman Bass made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 405 Final Reading – Police Chief Residency Requirement. Councilman Wesolowski seconded, and motion carried with a vote of 6 – 0.

Mayor Loughmiller closed the Public Hearing portion of meeting at 6:40 pm.

Recognition of Each Council Member

Mayor Tim Loughmiller shared he is stepping down from his role as Mayor. He is nominating Eddie Bass for Mayor. Councilwoman Nelson seconded and motion carries with 5-0 vote.

Mayor Eddie Bass made the motion for Lawrence Reed to be Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Nelson seconded and motion carries with 5-0 vote.

Mr. Loughmiller also stated he was stepping down from the council at the end of the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Councilman Wesolowski made motion to adjourn the October 8, 2024, mid-month council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Reed seconded, and motion carried.

Mayor Bass adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.

E N Bass

EDWARD N BASS, JR

ATTEST:

Shrylan R. Alexander

Shrylan R. Alexander, Town Clerk

