

Town Of Havana
FY26 First Budget Hearing
September 16, 2025 – 6:00pm
Meeting minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eddie Bass at 6:00pm. Invocation was led by Mayor Pro Tem Reed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call confirmed the presence of the following council members including Councilwoman Tabatha Nelson, Councilman Matt Wesolowski, Mayor Eddie Bass, Mayor Pro Tem Lawrence Reed, Councilman Howard McKinnon, and via phone, Councilwoman Penny Key ensuring a quorum for the meeting. Councilman Landon Seymour was not in attendance.

Set Agenda (by vote)

Councilman McKinnon made the motion to set the agenda as presented. Councilman Wesolowski seconded and motion carried.

Recognition of Visitors

None.

Consent Agenda Items

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Hearings

Ordinance 413 – Proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate (First Reading)

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager, seeks council approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 413 to adopt FY2025-2026 millage rate of 3.0000 mills. She requested the Town Clerk to read Ordinance 413 by Title Only. Ms. Alexander, Town Clerk, read the ordinance by Title Only. Ms. Wilkerson noted that the current year rollback rate is 2.9314 mills. The proposed 3.0000 mills per thousand is 2.34% over the roll back rate. She shared the reasons for the increase is additional revenue required to fund police department salaries, sustain operations, repair fleet and complete maintenance on town facilities. The proposed max millage voted on at the July meeting was 3.1500 mills. The proposed millage of 3.0000 mills is the same as the prior fiscal year. Ms. Wilkerson did remind council that they are required to allow for public comment on this matter.

Mayor Eddie Bass asked if there were any public comment. None was stated. No further council discussion.

Councilman McKinnon made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 413 setting the FY25-26 millage rate at 3.0000 mills. Councilwoman Nelson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 414 – Proposed Budget for FY2025-FY2026 (First Reading)

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager, seeks council approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 414 to adopt FY2025-2026 Town of Havana Budget. She requested the Town Clerk to read Ordinance 414 by Title Only. Ms. Alexander, Town Clerk, read the ordinance by Title Only. Ms. Wilkerson stated this budget reflects a tentative millage of 3.0000 mills. The Town

Manager shared that current FY26 operating expense is a decrease of 2% from prior year. That decrease is directly related to decreases in special revenue due to grant activity, grants applied for and grants already approved for and so that fluctuation is to be expected. Ms. Wilkerson also noted that on the admin side there is what appears to be a sizeable increase and that is largely made up of the revenue and expense that is separated out for the WastePro contract which was \$360K and then a cash carry forward of \$50K for the medical center facility and a cash carry forward of \$40K for the Public Safety Complex fundraiser. It ends up being about a \$50K increase and not a \$500K. This budget is also built on the rate increases of 1.25% electric, 2.5% water and 6.5 sewer previously discussed. Ms. Wilkerson opened up for questions from the council.

Councilman Wesolowski asked about rates from Capital City and the financial institution he mentioned in prior meeting. Ms. Wilkerson confirmed that his email and information assisted in getting 3.4% on all the Town's money at Capital City and was effective 9/1/2025.

Councilman Wesolowski asked for clarification of what the Community Redevelopment Trust is. Ms. Wilkerson shared that is the CRA for downtown district. Ms. Wilkerson shared that the Town receives a letter annually from the county stating the amount the Town is obligated to put into this trust. It was also stated that research is being done now to find out when it expires as it was set by Ordinance. She requested Councilman McKinnon's input since he is more familiar with this process. She did share that a lot of municipalities get into trouble with CRA money if it is not handled correctly. Councilman McKinnon shared that he feels the Town is safe. The rule of thumb in previous years was capital expenditure. The expenditures have to be done in the downtown area and capital expenditures in this are ok. The underground electricity in downtown was paid with CRA monies. Ms. Wilkerson shared that CRA district is essentially the Central Business District. Any projects that would go before the CRA board would be the council and the council would make the recommendation of the project when ready to move forward. The Town Manager thanked the council for their willingness to continue to look out for both sides and try to make this work. Ms. Wilkerson did remind council that they are required to allow for public comment on this matter.

Mayor Eddie Bass asked if there were any public comment. None was stated. No further council discussion.

Councilman McKinnon made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 414 to approve FY2025-2026 Town of Havana budget as presented. Councilwoman Nelson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Each Council Member

None.

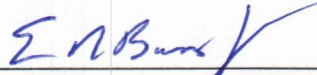
Motion to Adjourn

Councilwoman Nelson made motion to adjourn the September 16, 2025, First Budget Hearing meeting. Several seconds were spoken and motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Eddie Bass adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

ATTEST:


Shrylan R. Alexander, Town Clerk


EDWARD BASS JR, MAYOR

