

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 26, 2017**

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 Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Mr. Jake Hatcher, Director of the Boys and Girls Club, addressed the council. Mr. Hatcher advised that the club is in desperate need of housing. At this time, they are being housed at New Jerusalem Church and there is limited space. They serve approximately fifty (50) children and are seeking assistance for a new location. Mayor Davis asked Mr. McKinnon to address the request. Mr. McKinnon advised that Mr. Hatcher has developed a great track record. He will schedule a meeting soon and bring a report back to the Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Davis stated he spoke with all candidates that submitted resumes for the vacant council seat. All the candidates were very impressive. He advised that his recommendation is Mrs. Karen Bass. Mayor Davis stated he feels his selection is best for the Town. Mrs. Bass is a business owner and served previously on the town council. Councilwoman Johnson stated if the council appoint Mrs. Bass, it will seem that the election would be null and void and also very disrespectful to Councilman Allen. Councilman Allen stated he ran against Mrs. Bass for a reason and feels Ms. Veronica Chandler would be a good candidate. She is a software engineer. Mayor Pro Tem Ross stated the council should have a voice with a vote. Councilman Norman stated Mrs.

Bass is an invaluable resource to the town. She is an engineer and will assist the town with water and sewer issues. Councilwoman Johnson stated the town pays for people to come in with their expertise and feels the majority has spoken. Councilman Allen suggested that the vote be made by roll call. Mayor Davis recommended the roll call vote. Motion made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilman Allen to vote on the Mayor's recommendation of Mrs. Karen Bass by roll call. Votes were as follows: Allen - No; Ross - No; Johnson - No; Norman - yes; McGill - No. Motion failed for the Mayor's recommendation of Mrs. Karen Bass.

Mayor Davis advised that he recommends Mrs. Phyllis Thomas for the vacant council seat. Councilman Norman stated he had some concerns. Her application stated she is a convicted felon. Mayor Davis stated he spoke with her and feels that she really cares about Havana. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross. Motion carried with one member opposing and one member abstaining. Mayor Davis stated that Ms. Phyllis Thomas will be sworn in at the next council meeting.

The Public Comment Policy is to set formal policies for people to address the council. It has been formalized and needs a motion. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the Public Comment Policy. Motion carried.

The next item is to approve the CH2M Hill cost proposal for the operation and maintenance of the Town's wastewater treatment facility for the period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Mr. McKinnon stated that CH2M Hill assumes liability for the operation of the plant and the proposed cost is budgeted. Motion made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilwoman McGill to approve the cost proposal for CH2M Hill. Motion carried.

The Downtown Improvement Committee would like to appoint Mrs. Nesta Cumbie to the committee. Mrs. Cumbie will replace Ms. Ingra Battles. Mr. McKinnon advised that he recommends the council approve the appointment. This committee was formed to spend the CRA monies in the downtown area. Motion made by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilman Norman to approve the appointment of Mrs. Nesta Cumbie to the Downtown Improvements Committee. Motion carried.

Mr. McKinnon stated he recommends exercising the option to extend James Moore and Company's engagement to perform the September 30, 2017 audit. For the 2018 audit, the town will issue an advertised RFP for auditing services after the first of the year. Motion made by Councilwoman McGill and seconded by Councilman Norman to approve Mr. McKinnon's recommendation to extend the audit service to James Moore and Company to perform the September 30, 2017 audit. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. McKinnon announced the Final Budget Hearing will be held October 2, 2017 at 6 pm.

The old elementary school property sale is moving forward. The closing for the property was extended until after October 6, 2017.

Mr. McKinnon reported on the town's effort during Hurricane Irma. He commended Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with the county. They held daily meetings, updates and briefings. The hurricane shelter for Havana was located at Havana Magnet School. On Sunday night the town crew reported in around 8 pm and the first electric outage was reported on Monday morning. Mr. McKinnon commended the electric, water, street and police departments. They all did a great job. There was one issue, a mechanical malfunction with the derrick truck.

Councilman Allen will host Florida Government Week, October 23rd through October 29th. He will contact the schools and invite them to attend.

Mr. McKinnon recognized Chief Smith. Chief Smith stated there were some concerns about recreation opportunities in Havana. Councilman Allen and Councilwoman Johnson will host a meeting on Monday at 6 pm. Chief Smith stated he will also host a meeting October 18th at 6:30 pm at the Hazel Baker Community Center.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Johnson stated she totally supports the cause of the Boys and Girls Club and presented a donation to Mr. Hatcher.

Mayor Pro Tem Ross mentioned he was very impressed with the attendance of the council meeting.


Councilman Allen stated Mr. Larry Simmons, the recreation director from Midway, was unable to attend the council meeting. He advised that Mr. Simmons wanted the council to know that his program did not develop. Councilman Allen inquired if the funds pledged to Mr. Simmons could possibly be donated to the Boys and Girls Club. Councilman Allen mentioned that Chief Smith spoke earlier on the recreation meeting. The meeting is to get input and have a vision to move forward. Councilman Allen also presented a check to the Boys and Girls Club.

Councilman Allen inquired about the town's ordinance on alcohol restrictions and stated he spoke with the owner of the liquor store. He advised he feels the town is losing money and asked if the hours could be extended. The ordinance is antiquated and needs to be revised. Mr. McKinnon mentioned, if the council wants a change, the town's attorney will have to draft an ordinance and it will take two (2) public hearings to notify the citizens of any changes. Mr. McKinnon indicated the Council needs to instruct staff when they are ready to move forward in amending the ordinance. The time indicated is the restriction. The ordinance states Sunday hours are 1pm to 6pm. Councilman Allen suggested the time should be extended to the same time as Saturday.

Councilman Allen commended public works and also the police department for their hard work during the hurricane. He advised that utilities in Havana were not off too long.


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