

Town Of Havana
Regular Council Meeting
September 30, 2025 – 6:00pm
Meeting minutes

1 - Call to Order

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

2 - Roll Call

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

3 - Set Agenda (by vote)

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

4 - Recognition of Visitors

Ed Shumaker – 805 NE 1st ST

Mr. Shumaker shared that he hoped there would be no increases to the utility rates. He moved here thirteen (13) months ago to get away from high power bills. He stated to council that since he has been here a transformer blew that should have been replaced years ago, tree trimming is past due, and grass grown over the street gutters which create a drainage issue. He did share that all Town staff have always been very personable and kind.

5 - Consent Agenda Items

Councilman McKinnon made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Councilman Wesolowski seconded and motion carried.

6 - Old Business

None.

7 - New Business

7a - Coastal Lease Agreement – Spray Fields

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager, seeks council approval of the attached lease agreement for continued use of the spray fields. The agreement has been reviewed and approved by Town Staff and also Coastal.

Councilman McKinnon made the motion to approve the Coastal Lease Agreement for continued use of the spray fields. Councilman Wesolowski seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7b – Resolution for Rate Increase – 2025-03R-2

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager, seeks council approval of Resolution 2025-03R-2 to increase electric, water and sewer rates as well as the electric patient access charge. The proposed increases were discussed in the prior budget workshops and meetings. The increases will

be electric 1.25% (Base + KWH), water 2.5% and sewer 6.5%. There is a sample of what it looks like on a utility bill included in the council packet. These increases are necessary to ensure continuity of utility operations at Town of Havana and to satisfy debt obligation requirements.

Councilman McKinnon thanked Mr. Shumaker for his statement to the council and his concerns. He did share that the sewer plant debt requires a minimal increase. He does agree that improvements are needed.

Councilman McKinnon made the motion to approve the Rate Resolution 2025-03R-2 with the increases stated. Councilman Wesolowski shared that he also understands the citizens' concerns as he also feels the rate increase but he will second the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7c – 605 E 9th AVE

The Town Manager requests approval of the attached Resolution for fines, which notes the fines owed by the property owner of the real property located at 605 E 9th Avenue through today. The request is for approval to file the lien against the property and authorization for the Town Clerk to record a certified copy of the resolution in the public records of Gadsden County, Florida. Resolution 2025-13R-09 and fines to date are \$6,215.00.

Ms. Wilkerson shared that after multiple failed attempts to reach the property owner by Code enforcement as well as herself, have resulted in the filing of this resolution with fines. All procedures provided for in the Town's Nuisance Code (chapter 23 of the Havana Code), including sections 13-42 and 13-43, have been followed by the Town. Fines have been imposed on the property pursuant to section 13-45(5). The property owner has not accepted or signed for any notifications including certified mail. This will be the first recording and a copy will be mailed to the owner.

Councilman Wesolowski shared that ongoing issues such as this are not appreciated by neighbors. He also inquired if anyone had spoken to the owner. Ms. Wilkerson shared that Code Enforcement has tried with no success. Councilman McKinnon also reiterated that Code Enforcement Nuisances affect others. Ms. Wilkerson stated that due to the condition of the property can create more nuisance issues such as rodents, etc.

Councilwoman Nelson made the motion to approve the Resolution 2025-13R-09 with fines. Councilman McKinnon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Visitor

Kathy Tilton – 103 Azalea DR

Ms. Tilton shared she has lived in Havana since 2008. She questioned why an increase when according to the newspaper the Town of Havana has a surplus of \$660K. She also stated that she had sent 2 emails to Ms. Wilkerson in regards to garbage cans at the park by the library with no response. She shared that people dog walking or walking in general toward the library on the north side has no where to put the trash.

Mayor Pro Tem Reed, thanked Ms. Tilton for her statement.

7d – Resolution for FRDAP Grant Improvements – 2025-07R

The Town Manager shared that the Town of Havana has the opportunity to apply for FRDAP grants for continued park improvements. Applications will be made to make improvements to both Gus Bert Sports Park and Havana Community Park. Since our comp plan doesn't mention these park improvements specifically, the grant application calls for a resolution approved by the Town Council in favor of the improvements and agreeing to a comp plan amendment to include park improvements going forward. The grants would be \$50K for each park.

Councilman Wesolowski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07R – FRDAP Grant Improvements. Councilman Seymour seconded and motion carried.

8 – Public Hearings

None.

9 – Information Items

9a – Report of the Town Manager

Annual Ethics Training reminder

Public Safety Complex update – ahead of schedule and working with resident next door for utility easement.

Street Department – vacancy and also upcoming vacancy at end of year due to retiree

Storage Tank Lining project - complete

Park Playground Fence – delayed until October

Downtown Striping – scheduled for early October

Grant applications – CDBG Small Cities: S Main Drains Project, SRF Special Appropriations: WWTP + Lift Stations, CDBG-R: S Main Drains, RIF: Lift Station & WWTP, Appropriations: Lift Stations (not funded), FRDAP – Gus Bert & Walking Park

Sewer Update – SRF meeting: overwhelming response, Helen special funding discussion postponed.

Police Department – stats available

Fire Department – waiting on ISO and stats are in council packet

Medical Facility – Corry Cabinets donating all new cabinets and countertops (\$50K) & Michelle Embry has overstock items that she is allowing PSC & Medical Facility to get if desired.

9b - Recognition of Each Council Member

Councilwoman Nelson commended the community on their gracious giving.

Councilman McKinnon shared that Corry and Prime were businesses that benefitted years ago from a grant and have been long standing supporters in the community.

Motion to Adjourn

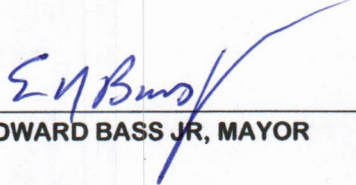
Councilman Wesolowski made the motion to adjourn the September 30, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. Councilwoman Nelson seconded and motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Reed adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.

ATTEST:



Shrylan R. Alexander, Town Clerk


EDWARD BASS JR, MAYOR