

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL**  
**First Public Budget Hearing**  
**September 8, 2021            5:30 pm**

**Member(s) Present:**        Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Janice Hart, Jennifer Stone, and  
   Dwight Vickers

**Member(s) Absent:**        Decorkus Allen and Warkeen Jordan

The public hearing was called to order by Mayor Hart.

Invocation was led by Mr. Jerome Harris followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bradford Johnson, Town Manager, gave a brief overview of the budget. He advised the amendments that the council recommended at the budget workshop were made.

A change was made to Special funding as follows; the American Rescue Plan Act funding was amended from \$359,000 to \$427,299 which is half the proposed fee. The total funds were \$717,000 and projected to \$855,000.

The Street Department was amended; Both contractual services and other contractual service line items are funded at an adequate level for the potential cemetery contract.

Under other Uses/Grants; Havana Main Street is amended to \$9,000 and Carver Heights is \$4,000 from the recreation budget which is \$2,000 to the center and \$2,000 for utility services. Mr. Johnson advised any additional increases would come from decreased funding to groups within the other uses/grant category.

Mr. Johnson explained per the TRIM requirements, the council must make a decision at this meeting. There must be a balanced budget moving forward. After a discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone to approve all three categories. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson stated as a reminder the second public budget hearing will need to be changed to Monday, September 20, 2021 or Tuesday, September 21, 2021 in order to be consistent with advertising. After the council's discussion, the meeting will be changed to Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Hart requested the first reading of Ordinance No. 389, Ad Valorem Tax Rate, by title only. Town Clerk read the ordinance by title. After the reading, there was a recognition of visitors to address the council regarding the Ordinance. With there being no comments, a motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 389, Ad Valorem Tax Rate. Motion carried.

Mayor Hart requested the first reading of Ordinance No. 390, Proposed Budget 2021-2022, to be read by title only. Town Clerk read the Ordinance by title. Mayor Hart, recognized any visitor that would like to comment on the proposed budget. There were no comments regarding Ordinance No. 390. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 390, Proposed Budget 2021-2022, was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion carried.

Mayor Hart opened the floor to visitors. Mr. Jerome Harris, 131 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue E, Havana, FL inquired about the funding request presented by Havana SPAIN and stated their request was for \$10,000. It was stated the organization will receive \$5,000 which was projected and approved in the budget. Mr. Harris gave an overview about his organization and stated Colonel Barkley with Gadsden County Sheriffs' office made plans to attend the next council meeting to inform the council about the youth prevention programs. An email received from Colonel Robert Barkley was presented to the council for record.

Motion to adjourn.

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Janice L. Hart, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk