***HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL***

***SPECIAL MEETING – WASTE PRO***

***March 2, 2021 6 pm***

***Member(s) Present:*** Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Janice Hart, Warkeen Jordan and Jenny Stone

***Member(s) Absent:*** Dwight Vickers

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Allen.

Invocation was led by Mayor Allen followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

***VISITORS:***

Mr. Kemsley Helms, Community Cares, 3rd Street SW, made comments regarding his dumpster not being serviced consistently. Community Cares handles a lot of food and the dumpster fills up quickly. The contract with Waste Pro is scheduled for two (2) pickups per week. The pickups are always behind. After a brief discussion, Mr. Todd Mitchell with Waste Pro provided a business card to Mr. Helms to call him directly when missed.

Mr. Ken Gay, 104 NE 7th Street, mentioned the town’s contract dates back to 2007 and was renewed August 2013. The previous manager, Mr. McKinnon, accepted the contract with large trash piles being addressed on a case-by-case basis. The contract needs clarity. Councilwoman Hart mentioned her concern is Waste Pro not picking up items that are on the same street the truck is passing by. Waste Pro should take an initiative and be pro-active. The Town would like to see this added value. Councilwoman Jordan stated there must be consistently because a lot of debris is being left behind.

Mr. Karen Kent, 102 E 5th Ave, discussed in the past she was always told yard debris piles had to be no longer than four (4) feet for pickup and the piles were always serviced. Starting back in September, October and November the rules changed with debris having to be containerized.

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***PRESENTATION:***

Mr. Todd Mitchell, Head of Operations for Waste Pro, and Mr. Efford Major gave a brief overview of their contract. Yard waste, bulk or recycling are all considered to be special waste and is to be billed by Waste Pro. The claw truck is being provided from an additional route in order to provide like-kind services to Havana. Mr. Mitchell stated some people are extreme and put out very large piles. Waste Pro has not billed customer for any extra items and pays for the disposal of all additional tonnage. Mr. Mitchell stated Waste Pro is trying to keep providing the services that were agreed upon. Waste Pro wants to show that we are part of the Havana community and during the Havana festivals, items are donated by Waste Pro. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is part of the contract and the contract renews every three (3) years unless it is changed by either party. The Town has a choice to go out for bid. Mr. Mitchell mentioned due to COVID-19 black bags are not being picked up. Councilwoman Stone inquired about clarification. Will bags be picked up or not? Mr. Mitchell advised if leaves are visible the bags will be serviced. Waste Pro hopes to get back to normal soon to provide grab and throw pickups.

Mayor Pro Tem Bert asked how other communities are handling bulk pickup and if there is a separate charge. Other communities are being serviced once a month and trucks are borrowed from other communities to make it work. The driver will do a site survey to access the charges.

Councilwoman Hart stated the contract needs to be reworked. Havana needs a rear load truck once a month without having to call. Havana is my hometown and one major concern is the trash piles around town.

Mr. Johnson briefly discussed the contract and advised there must be reliability and consistency across the board. Ownership of our community and expectations must be met. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, a message was printed on the town’s utility bills and a newsletter was also generated to communicate with customers regarding the changes. Mr. Johnson stated the current contract piggybacks the County’s. Mr. Mitchell stated yes, the contracts are close but includes bulk. Mr. Johnson asked for a copy of the County’s contract for review. It was recommended not to revise the terms of the contract and approve the CPI increase. The town has the ability to adjust the contract by making an addendum. The contract will need to be further discussed if there are plans for changes. Motion to approve the CPI was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

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Motion to adjourn.

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***ATTEST:***

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Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk