

**HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

Member(s) Present: Decorkus Allen, Jenny Stone, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Bert, Mayor Janice Hart, and Warkeen Jordan

Member(s) Absent: Eddie Bass and Dwight Vickers

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hart at 6:00 p.m.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone.

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2022 Town Manager Selection Meeting minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone.

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2022 Town Manager Selection/FLC Special Meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone.

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 25th Regular Council Meeting minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone.

VISITORS:

Ms. Rosa Hall, of 208 1st Street SE, approached the Council about the concern of her electric meter not being checked correctly. She stated she is taking pictures of her electric meter daily and it does not match what the Town of Havana is reported reading. The Town Manager stated the Town would have the meter checked to ensure accuracy and the Town of Havana would be taking pictures of the electric meter to ensure accuracy.

Mr. Jerome Harris thanked the Council for funding the SPAIN project.

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

- ***Request To Approve Zoning Application for Land Use Change for Havana Community Development***

The Town Manager presents with a Request to Approve the Zoning Application for Land Use Change of the Havana Community Development. He states that our Ben Chandler from Apalachee Regional Planning Council is here to answer any questions concerning this request. The Town Manager states that currently the Havana Community Development of the old High School is currently public land which is a designation that was given to it by Gadsden County because it used to be zoned in Gadsden County. He stated that now it is in the City, and in order to be in line with our ordinances and our Development District Zoning we are requesting approval for the land use change. Apalachee Regional Planning has submitted a letter stating it does meet the criteria to be zoned as such. The Town Manager has placed two signs on the property for the last two weeks and each of the residents in the area have been contacted to ensure no one had any problems with this change. No one has responded back with conflict. He also stated there will have to be two meetings and he recommends they approve. Motion was made for approval by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Stone. A question was raised by Mayor Pro Tem Bert if the property included the Football Field. The Town Manager said it does not.

- ***Request To Approve Parking Lot Lease Agreement from 102 9th Avenue West, LLC***

The Second Agenda item was to request Approval of the Parking Lot Lease Agreement for 102 9th Avenue West LLC. The Town Manager describes the Parking Lot is currently located behind the old Shell Station now known as the ARCO station. He states that there was a prior agreement by the Owner Mr. Wilson Hinson dated in the year of 2008. Mr. Wilson has now approached the Town with a new agreement and he is requesting that a fence be put up on the south border of the property, a map was enclosed to show property and fence location. He is also requesting extra lighting in the area. In addition, he also would like the dumpsters lined up on the fence therefore allowing him to put a mural on the back of the Shell station. The Town Manager stated that he recommends that Mr. Hinson put the fence up and if the Town sees fit to reimburse him, the Council would do so. Mayor Pro Tem Bert agreed with this recommendation and asked if the Town Manager has talked to Mr. Kellum? The Town Manager said he had not talked to Mr. Kellum. He did state it would change some things like where Mr. Kellum parks his truck when he has big furniture deliveries brought in.

- ***Request To Approve Parking Lot Lease Agreement from 102 9th Avenue West, LLC (Continued from Page 3)***

It would also impact the small tax building because the fence would be relatively close but ultimately it is Mr. Hinson's property and that is why I am recommending him to do the work instead of the Town. Mayor Hart suggested to meet with Mr. Kellum, the Town Manager agreed he would handle speaking with him. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert to approve and seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion carried.

- ***Waste Pro downtown dumpsters and recycling discussion***

The Town Manager states that Mr. Todd Mitchell from Waste Pro is in attendance to discuss issues concerning recycling and the dumpster issues downtown. He states we are here tonight to discuss issues that have resurfaced several times but there has never been a resolution made one would be recycling costs that are skyrocketing for Waste Pro. There is roughly 160-260 recycling customers in the town. Waste Pro is asking to increase the recycling by \$2.00 a month. The price for disposing has went from \$26 to \$126 per ton. The other issue is we currently have three Downtown Community Dumpsters, there were more but Waste Pro has picked up the contracts of several of them. The Downtown Community Shared Dumpsters are shared by the Downtown merchants. There was an agreement years ago to help with the Shared Dumpsters downtown and to keep the street from being lined with green garbage barrels and no place to store them. There are four merchants paying for the shared dumpsters. They are The Wanderings, Vieth Development, Oscars, and the Antique Center. Each of them are paying \$49.15 per month. After speaking with Todd today, the cost of the three dumpsters not being paid for is \$648.86 a month. The Town Manager asks the Council to not make a decision on the dumpsters as he has reached out to Terri Paul with Main Street. She has agreed to get in touch with some of the merchants in the downtown area to see if anyone is interested in joining this group of four. However, the recycling needs to be decided tonight. Mayor Hart asked what the other option would be if the merchants decide not to participate? The Town Manager stated he would bring the item before the Council next month concerning the outcome of the merchants agreement with downtown shared dumpsters. Mayor Pro Tem Bert agreed we can wait until month to decide on the dumpsters. Todd Mitchell stated that Marpan has went up on their rates causing Waste Pro to increase our rate. Todd stated that the Town's recycling house count did not match Waste Pro's. The Town Manager stated that Todd and him would get together to clarify the house count would be corrected. Councilwoman Stone asked do all small towns have recycling. Todd stated that usually do. Motion was made to a \$2.00 increase in recycling rate by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion carries to increase the recycling rate.

- ***Request to Approve Special Use Permit for Fire Department Pilau Dinner***

Police Chief Lewis presents with a Request to Approve Special Use Permit for the Havana Fire Department Pilau Dinner. He stated that part of 6th Avenue will be temporarily blocked off to accommodate the event that will be drive up only. Motion was made to approve by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Special Use Permit Approved.

- ***Request to Approve Special Use Permit for Havana Main Street Havana Hills Spring Classic***

Police Chief Lewis presents with a Request to Approve Special Use Permit for Havana Main Street Havana Hills Bicycle Spring Classic. He stated that in front of Wanderings the area would be blocked off. Motion was made to approve by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Special Use Permit Approved.

- ***First Reading (by title only) of Zoning Application Amended Ordinance reducing existing location fee.***

Mayor Pro Tem Bert motioned to approve. Mayor Hart asked for a seconded vote. Councilwoman Stone stated she did not agree with the reduction of fee for current existing merchants. She did not see how the reduction in money would help the Town. Councilman Allen agreed. Mayor Hart stated for lack of support by the Council the Zoning Application Amendment to reduce the cost for existing location fee would die at this point. Motion to carry did not get approved by the Council.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

- ***Photo of past Town Manager Brad Johnson***

The Town Manager commented as he looks at the back wall in the Council Chambers of all the previous Town Managers going all the way back to 1906, the Town has had some great managers. Our prior Town Manager is with us tonight and I would like to comment that he along with Mr. Howard McKinnon was one of the best bosses I have had. I would like to present his picture to the Council Chambers wall tonight. He stated he really appreciated the contribution he gave to the Town while he was here for two years. We wish him the best of luck in the future.

- ***Southside Community Park Update***

The Town Manager states that one of our customers, Mr. Jerome Harris, is here tonight who has expressed interest in a Southside Community Park. He is requesting an update on the Park. The Town Manager stated he has with Mr. Harris and we have discussed a couple of potential sites for the park. We have located two possible sites and we have sent letters to them and we have asked them to let us know if they would be interested in a long-term lease donating the property. He states he did hear from one of the property owners and it was the property of the old Rainbow Club located off of Jefferson Avenue. It would require substantial updating and financial support. He did reach out to Mr. Strong about leasing the property for \$1000.00 a month. The Town Manager stated he just wanted to let the Council and Mr. Harris know where we currently stood on the update. He will keep us aware of any progress.

- ***Central Business District (CBD) residential exemption amended ordinance***

The Town Manager stated that Ben from the Apalachee Planning Council is here tonight is here and he has been a huge help in helping us get this done. In doing an ordinance amendment to allow the residential areas within that district to be able to obtain their residential rights. Some of the residents under the current ordinance would not be allowed to build a new residence in the Central Business District area, instead it would have to be a business. At the boards discretion we have got with Apalachee Regional Planning Council, and we wanted to make sure we got with the residents to make sure everyone knew about the amendment. We had a meeting with the residents, we got ideas and got what they would like to see changed in the amended ordinance. There will be another roundtable discussion with the residents and hopefully next month at the Council meeting we will be able to discuss the ordinance. This ordinance would require two meetings as well. The proposal would be presented at the March meeting.

- ***Police Department Update***

The Town Manager states right before he walked into this council meeting he received the bid packets from our architect Joel Sampson. We will go over those and possibly have those available for the March meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Stone had no comments.

Councilman Allen had no comments.


Councilwoman Jordan had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Bert had no comments.

Mayor Hart: The Mayor stated the EMS unit has totally moved and been relocated. The Town Manager stated that before Mr. McKinnon left the County Administrator spoke with him briefly about the EMS unit coming into the new building with them once it was constructed. Mayor Hart asked who would be responsible for the old building? The Town Manager informed her it was the County's building located on the Town's property and the County would be responsible for moving it.

Motion to pay bills was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m.



Janice L. Hart, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kimberly J. McMillan, Town Clerk