

TOWN OF HAVANA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 24, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Member(s) Present: Mayor Pro Tem Nick Bert, Mayor Janice Hart, Councilman Dwight Vickers, Councilwoman Jenny Stone, Councilman Tim Loughmiller, and Councilman Eddie Bass

Member(s) Absent: Councilman Decorkus Allen

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

Invocation was given by Mr. Jim Brennan

The Town Clerk swore in New Council Member Tim Loughmiller and also swore in unopposed and re-elected Council Members Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, and Janice Hart.

The Council proceeded to elect a new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Eddie Bass motioned for Councilwoman Janice Hart to continue as Mayor and the motion was seconded by Councilman Dwight Vickers. Councilman Eddie Bass also recommended that Mayor Pro Tem Nick Bert be reinstated with a second motion made by Councilman Dwight Vickers. Motion carried. Both Council members were reinstated.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Visitors:

Visitor #1: Tabatha Nelson of 216 Country Club Drive and the downtown owner of Lallybroch Hair Salon approaches the Council with a request to repaint the parking spaces in the downtown area. Also, she requests that the mirror where the one-way arrows are pointing is peeling and she asked if that could be replaced. It was recommended by the Town Manager that the \$75,000 grant for the downtown area could be used for the cost of these items.

Visitor #2: Jim Brennan approaches the Council with a suggestion of the nine million dollar grant that is being distributed among the 65 counties in Florida. He suggests that the Council and Manager check the grant information out for the Town to have a portion of it.

Visitor #3: Ron Butler of 600 Twin Ponds Drive inquired about the status of the infrastructure monies for natural gas and sewer for the Twin Ponds Subdivision. He also inquired about a Town Grant Specialist. The Town Manager briefed the Council about the status of the Twin Ponds Subdivision getting the natural gas infrastructure for this area and that it was in the process of being handled. Discussion to follow in the Town Managers report.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

I. SECOND REQUEST APPROVAL FOR LOT SPLIT AT 308 WEST 10th AVENUE

Motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem for the Zoning Application submitted by SOGANOFLLA, LLC for the lot split at 308 West 10th Avenue. This is a Second Request Approval. Motion carried.

II. REQUEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-03R TO INCREASE RATES

A request to approve Resolution Number 2022-03R to increase the water and sewer rates for the current fiscal year was made by the Town Manager. The Manager states that every year the Town increases their water by 5% and the sewer rates by 7.5%. He is recommending a 5% increase for both water and sewer rates. Motion was made by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Councilman Bass to increase the water and sewer rates by 5%. Motion carried and will be effective in the next billing cycle.

III. REQUEST TO APPROVE MONUMENT PLACEMENT AT THE HAVANA PARK

A request was made by the Town Manager for approval of a Memorial Monument dedicated to the Havana High School Faculty and Staff by the HHS Alumni and Friends. This monument will be located at the original site of the Havana High School Circa 1910-1971. The monument will be built from the salvaged brick from the Havana High School. Motion to approve the monument placement was made by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

IV. REQUEST TO APPROVE TWO WORKSHOPS FOR LIFT STATIONS UPGRADE GRANT

The Town Manager requested approval of two workshops for the Lift Station Upgrades Grant. The First Public Hearing would be on June 16, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. and the Second Public Hearing would be on June 28, 2022 at 5:45 p.m.. If approved this grant will help with Lift Station upgrades. Mayor Pro Tem Bert motioned to approve the workshop and the motion was seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried to go forth with the workshop meetings.

V. REQUEST TO APPROVE SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT FOR BLESSINGS OF HOPE FOOD GIVEAWAY

The Police Chief presents with a Special Events Permit from Blessings of Hope Empowerment Outreach to host a Food Giveaway on June 11, 2022 at Town Hall. Motion was made by Councilwoman Stone to approve the Special Events Permit and motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried and Special Events Permit was approved.

VI. REQUEST TO APPROVE SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT FOR JUNE TEENTH CELEBRATION

The Police Chief presents with a Special Events Permit from Terrance Roberts to host a June Teenth Festival on June 18, 2022 at Town Hall. Motion was made to approve permit by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried and Special Events was approved.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

The Town Manager reports that Kellum's in the Downtown Area will be hosting a Food Truck Event every fourth Friday of the month. Since it is taking place on private property there is nothing for the Council to approve.

The Manager gives an update on the Police Department Financing stating that Capital City Bank has now got a contract drawn to proceed with HPD financing. The Town Manager proceeds to inform the Council that the FY 2019-2020 Final Audit will take place on June 21, 2022. The Manager proceeds to tell of the Lift Station Upgrades stating that the aforementioned first and second public hearings will take place in June. The Havana Park bathroom installations and playground upgrades will take place under a grant which will feature both a male and female bathroom with skylights. The Havana Garden Club is going to donate a \$2500 donation towards a swing set. The final update was a natural gas line to Faith Funeral Home and the Twin Ponds Subdivision. The Town Manager states that every year the Town receives a refund check from the Towns gas supplier Municipal Gas Authority and that will be used for the infrastructure that supplies our Gas service. With that money the Town will reinvest in the Natural Gas Line to be used for these areas.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilman Bass thanks the Town Manager Tracy Smith for filling in as Town Manager.

Councilwoman Stone commented that during the interview process for the Town Manager position information that was reported by the Havana Herald was done in very poor taste. The Havana Herald was represented during the entire Town Manager Selection Process including all the Town Manager Interviews and what was reported was incorrect including one of the candidates' names being published incorrectly. She states there were several misquotes and the media should use better judgement.

Councilman Vickers thanks the Town Manager Tracy Smith for helping the Town as Town Manager until one was hired.

Councilman Loughmiller thanks the Town Manager Tracy Smith for helping the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Bert thanks the Town Manager Tracy Smith and thanks the Interim Police Chief.

Mayor Hart thanks the Town Manager Tracy Smith for helping the Town.

Councilman Loughmiller inquires about the Town moving forward with the old Havana Elementary School request to fine the owners for property not being maintained and kept up. The Town Manager stated the next step in handling this situation is to issue daily fines which is in the process of being handled.

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

Motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Janice Hart, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly McMillan, Town Clerk

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