

TOWN OF HAVANA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2022

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

Member(s) Absent: N/A

Roll Call: Mayor Janice Hart, Councilman Dwight Vickers, Councilman Tim Loughmiller, Mayor Pro-Tem Nick Bert, Councilman Decorkus Allen, Councilwoman Jenny Stone, Councilman Eddie Bass and Town Manager Kendrah Wilkerson

The Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Bert.

Invocation was led by Chief Tracy Smith with Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Jim Brennan of the American Legion Post 84.

**Recognition of Visitors**

Visitor #1, Mr. Loyd Childree of Waste Pro introduces himself as the Director of Governmental Affairs/Municipal Marketing for Waste Pro. He states there have been some management changes at Waste Pro and he is part of them. He asks the Council if there are any questions they have for him and he also leaves a card for them in case anything comes up that they need addressed. The Council had no questions for Mr. Childree and thanks him for introducing himself.

**Request to Approve Minutes**

The Mayor Pro Tem requests a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Deorkus Allen so moved with Councilwoman Jenny Stone seconded. The September 26, 2022 Final Budget Hearing Minutes and the September 27, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes were together both approved accordingly.

**Old Business**

N/A

## **New Business**

### **Item #1 Request for Lot Split located at 310 North Main Street**

The Town Manager stated that the Town received a request for approval of a Lot Split located at 310 North Main Street also known as the old Magnolia Café space. The owner is requesting one lot be split into three lots. The application process has been reviewed and approved with Apalachee Regional Planning Council and it is in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance for the Central Business District. This request has to be approved by the Council after two hearings on this matter this hearing will be the first. Mayor Pro Tem Bert asked if anyone is here to speak about the lot? Mayor Pro Tem Bert asked the Council if there were any questions about the lot split. Councilman Tim Loughmiller inquired about the reason behind the lot being split three different ways. Mr. David Wesolowski comes forward to speak, he states he has ownership interest in the trust. Mr. Wesolowski states that the lot is almost half an acre. He states it has been difficult to find a good tenant for the building. Councilwoman Stone states she knows that parking has been an issue in the past when an event takes place the parking lot is usually taken over. She asked if the lot split will fix this situation. Mr. Wesolowski said it should. The Mayor Pro Tem asked about the parking lot being roped off currently and Mr. Wesolowski stated that the asphalt sealer had been delayed. A motion was made by Councilman Allen seconded by Councilman Loughmiller to approve the lot split at 310 North Main Street.

### **Item #2 Resolution 2022-14R for Nuisance Violation Lien of the Old Elementary School**

The Town Manager states that this has been a topic at several past council meetings. She states that the Town has worked with the attorney to file a lien on the property. The Council has passed a resolution to file a lien on the Old Elementary School property because the fines have reached \$12,000 plus a \$15.00 administration fee. This resolution is in support of filing a lien on that property. Councilman Bass moved to pass the resolution seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion carried to file the lien on the Old Elementary School property.

### **Item #3 Request to paint mural - Havana Main Street**

This request Havana Main Street is working with the local aspiring artist Paige Brown who has submitted a design she has sketched. They are requesting to have the old wood stocking by Gocki's that covers up the transformer which is just a wooden fence they are wanting to paint the design attached to make it look like a photo ops base. So it will be a large scale sign that people can stand in front of to take photos and the Town Manager states this is the same type of intent that is found in other towns. She states they are requesting permission to paint the stockade fencing as a photo with the Town of Havana and Havana Main Street logos on it. Motion was made by Councilman Eddie Bass to approve the mural painting by Paige Brown and motion was seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion carried to paint the mural.

**Item #4 Resolution 2022-15R for Fee – Certificate of Appropriateness Application**

The Town Manager requests approval for a fee to be applied for the Certificate of Appropriateness Application which is referenced in our Town Ordinance. The Town Ordinance says there will be a fee for each application. The language is there will be a fee for the Certificate of Appropriateness will be accompanied by the required fee and established by the Town Council by resolution. To date that has never been established so the Town Manager is requesting to go ahead and establish that now, she is recommending a \$150.00 which is the same as our Zoning Application fee. She states she has researched to see if anyone else is using this fee for consistency but she could not find anything. She states it is totally up to the Council to see if the fee is appropriate or not or if the Town should proceed. Mayor Pro Tem Bert asked if there was any discussion from the Council and Councilman Allen moved to approve the fee with Councilman Bass seconded it. Motion carried.

**Item #5 Resolution 2022-16R in Support of Reconfiguration of Highway 27**

The Town Manager shares at the workshop that the Town had on October 18<sup>th</sup> there was an ongoing discussion of reconfiguring U. S. Highway 27 down to three lanes two northbound lanes and one southbound lane. In the past Department of Transportation has not been interested in three lanes but now they are willing to discuss it if there is support from the council via resolution. There was a study done by CRTPA and it noted that traffic would not be negatively impacted even going down to two lanes. They did ultimately recommend an alternative approach which is what we are recommending here with two northbound and one southbound and that was approved via their council board meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Bert states he is concerned about taking it down to three lanes he says he is not opposed to it. He states he worries about the safety of people heading south trying to turn left. There is a turn lane at night on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> and you will have traffic trying to turn left across a two lane on a single lane, it will back people up. It could definitely bottle neck. Once we do this it will be hard to undo. He states he really thinks we need to think it out. Councilman Bass states he thinks it would really look good but his concern is the amount of trucks coming through and if they start complaining, then FDOT could put a bypass in like they did in Thomasville which would destroy people coming downtown. The Town Manager stated that FDOT has requested a resolution to move forward as an official notice of support. Councilwoman Stone stated she is not confident in the assessment of it not slowing down traffic. Councilwoman Stone asked who will be paying for this is this covered under a grant? She also said that it is probably not a good year to start this project. The Town Manager stated it would be grant funded. Motion was made by Councilman Bass to approve the resolution pending further discussion before approving what will happen. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Stone as long as there will be more information before proceeding. Motion carried.

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**Item #6 Special Events Permit – Book and Bear Giveaway on 12/10/22**

The Chief presented with a Special Event Permit from Mary Griffin for a Books and Bears Giveaway to be done at the Park. Motion was made by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Councilman Allen. Motion carried.

**Item #7 Special Events Permit – Church Voting Event on 11/6/22**

This Special Event Permit the Chief presents will take place at the New Jerusalem MB Church. Motion was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Councilwoman Stone. Motion carried.

**Item #8 Special Events Permit – Flag Retirement Ceremony on 11/11/22**

This Special Event Permit presented by the Chief is for retirement of flags. The event will take place at the Veterans Memorial at the Park. Motion made by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

**Item #9 Special Events Permit – Annual Tree Lighting on 11/11/22**

This Special Event Permit presented by the Chief is for the Annual Tree Lighting to take place on 11/11/22. Motion was made to approve by Councilman Allen and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

**Item #10 Special Events Permit – Breast Cancer Walk 10/28/22**

Applicant Tiffany Buckhalt of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office is requesting use of the Walking Park for a Breast Cancer Walk. Motion was made by Councilman Bass to approve permit and seconded by Councilman Allen. Motion carried.

**Item #11 Special Events Permit – Havana High School Plaque Dedication on 12/3/22**

Applicant Wayne Poppell of the Havana High School Grand Reunion Committee is requesting use of the Walking Park for a Plaque Dedication of the newly built HHS Brick Monument. Motion was made by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Councilman Allen. Motion carried.

**Report of the Town Manager**

**Update on 2019-2020 Audit (extension approved to 09/30/22)**

The Town Manager reports that the auditors were on site all last week finalizing this week. Our financials will go out on Wednesday and we will get everything back on Friday. The financial statements will be issued on the following Monday. Everything will be done by October 31, 2022. That is the audit update.

**Playground – Closed for Repair**

We are still waiting on the playground equipment to come in for repairs. The Town has posted signs that the park playground equipment is not to be used.

**Special Acknowledgement – HNHS Class of 1978**

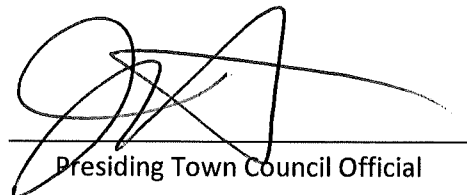
Councilman Bass and Mayor Pro Tem Bert will be in attendance and will be glad to speak on behalf of the Town of Havana.

**Recognition of Each Council Member**

Councilman Tim Loughmiller had no comments.  
Councilman Dwight Vickers had no comments.  
Mayor Pro Tem Bert had no comments.  
Councilman Decorkus Allen had no comments.  
Councilwoman Jenny Stone had no comments.  
Councilman Eddie Bass had no comments.  
Mayor Janice Hart had no comments.

Motion to pay the Bills was made by Councilwoman Stone and seconded by Councilman Bass.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 by Mayor Pro Tem Bert.



Presiding Town Council Official

ATTEST:



Kimberly J. McMillan, Town Clerk