***HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL***

***REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING***

***September 29, 2020 6 pm***

***Member(s) Present:*** Decorkus Allen, Eddie Bass, Nick Bert, Janice Hart, Cathy Johnson, Warkeen Jordan, and Dwight Vickers

***Member(s) Absent:*** N/A

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Allen.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2020 Regular Council meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

***VISITORS:***

N/A

***OLD BUSINESS:***

N/A

***NEW BUSINESS:***

Mrs. Lillian Johnson, Director for Havana Learning Center, appeared before the council to request a donation for the children that attends Havana Learning Center. The donation will assist with the purchase of computers for virtual learning. Since COVID-19 many students are not able to return to the traditional learning environment and the purchase of computers will help make a difference via internet. During the discussion it was determined that the school is located outside the town limits. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to deny the donation request. Motion carried with no oppositions.

Mr. Bradford Johnson stated he is seeking approval for the police department to enter into an agreement with Enterprise Fleet Vehicle Lease and Service for new cruisers. Enterprise is a quality vendor for fleet vehicle needs and displayed the ability to provide the Town with the best options for acquiring fleet vehicles. Mayor Pro Tem Bert inquired about mileage penalties. Mr. Johnson advised the town was assured

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there will be no mileage penalty. This will be verified in writing to ensure the contract states there are no overage charges for mileage. Mr. Johnson advised other government entities, such as the Sheriff’s Department and City of Quincy, are also using this fleet program. Currently the town is spending money on vehicle repairs. Motion to approve the Enterprise Fleet Lease and Service Agreement was made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert. Motion carried.

The next agenda item is to approve the renewing of the Town’s general liability coverage agreement with Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT). The Town has received coverage from FMIT for over a decade. To ensure the viability of cost, the Town received a quote from Brown and Brown Preferred Governmental Insurance. Brown and Brown offered a competitive annual coverage rate for FY 20/21 and FMIT provided a reduced rate, down by $20,713.00. Motion to approve moving forward with FMIT was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilwoman Hart. Motion carried.

OMI, Inc. provides maintenance of the town’s wastewater treatment plant and lift stations. As a contractor, OMI ensures the town is in compliance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This request is to approve Amendment 11 of the service agreement. The increase is 2.3% more than the last fiscal year and is attributed to staff increases, vehicle maintenance and increased lab equipment cost. Motion made by Councilman Bass and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bert to approve OMI’s Amendment 11. Motion carried.

***Resolution No. 2020-07R*** is the proposed increase for utility rates. Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview. He advised the FY 20/21 budget was prepared with a proposed 3% increase to gas, water and sewer to support the town’s infrastructure maintenance and improvements. Solid waste services are franchised to Waste Pro and increased annually at a percentage rate consistent with the consumer price index (CPI). Motion to approve ***Resolution No. 2020-07R,*** Utility Rates, was made by Councilwoman Jordan and seconded by Councilman Bass. Motion carried.

***Resolution No. 2020-08R*** is to grant the Town Manager the authority to execute, deliver and administer all agreements to any State and/or Federal agencies. The resolution is essential and also required in order to do business with state and/or the federal government. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bert and seconded by Councilman Bass to approve ***Resolution No. 2020-08R*** authorizing the Town Manager to execute and administer grants to any State and/or Federal agencies. Motion carried.

***REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:***

Mr. Johnson announced the Final Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

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***COUNCIL COMMENTS:***

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the process for her replacement as a councilwoman. Mr. Johnson advised there is no application process. The Mayor will appoint the replacement and the council will approve the appointment.

Councilwoman Jordan stated she received several complaints. One compliant was their utility bill increased by $85.00. The other complaint was a concern about meter reading. Mr. Johnson stated his door is always open when there is a need to communicate with customers. Mayor Pro Tem Bert mentioned the council must encourage customers to visit with the Town Manager.

Councilwoman Hart mentioned the community cleanup day and advised people are taking action. The cleanup is work in progress and will also increase value in our community. She advised the Spring initiative must also be planned out. Councilwoman Hart also discussed technology. We operate in a different environment and very few people read the newspaper. The Town must develop a plan and find a way to communicate with customers to get information delivered.

Councilman Bass advised he spoke with Commissioner Eric Hinson regarding the ambulance service. The County is now purchasing land outside the town limits for EMS. Mayor Allen stated he commends the council for speaking up to keep EMS near Havana. Our voices were heard.

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

Motion to adjourn.

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***ATTEST:***

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Shelia A. Evans, Town Clerk