

**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 3, 2025**  
**6:00 PM Central Standard Time**

**Present:** Donna Bullock, Steve Cozart, Scott Griffith, Nina Hendricks, Ryan Long, Gretchen McPherson, Corey O'Kelley, Shon Owens, Robin Phillips, Eric Seib, David Tillar, Crystal Weatherington

**Meeting Call to Order:** Eric Seib    **Prayer:** Mike Hutto    **Pledge:** Shon Owens

**Approve Minutes:** Mayor Owens made a motion to accept the previous regular meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 3 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**1. Town of Jay Report:**

**Operations / Engineering Report:** Mr. Tillar presented the engineering report. Dewberry has evaluated the bids received on January 30, 2025, for the Bray-Hendricks Park improvements. The bid consisted of a base bid for the Community Disaster Response facility and Additive Bid Options for the different amenities of the park improvements. Mr. Tillar reported that all bidders completed the bid forms, acknowledged the addenda, and provided a bid bond. Mayor Owens asked Mr. Tillar about the evaluations of the bids. Discussion followed. Mr. Seib reported to the council recommendations on reducing the Additive Bid Options. Discussion followed. Mayor Owens ask should we table to have time to evaluate our options that will fit our budget. Discussion followed. The council has decided to schedule a Special Meeting for Friday February 7, 2025, at 9 am. Eric will publish it in the Tri-City Ledger for the special meeting. Councilman Hutto made a motion to table awarding bids and call a Special Meeting Friday February 7, 2025, to evaluate the towns options. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 3 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**2. Old Business:**

**Bray- Hendricks Park Bids:** Mayor Owens asks the audience if anyone has any questions. Rayan Long with Panhandle Grading & Paving stated he had some concerns regarding the bid process and inconsistencies. Discussion followed. Mayor Owens stated that this will be addressed at the special meeting on Friday February 7, 2025.

**Booker Street Sidewalk:** Mr. Seib reported that the sidewalk grant had been awarded. Mr. Seib stated this will create a sidewalk from the Park East entrance to Spring Street. Robin will follow up with the sidewalk project and report back to the council.

**Covid Grant Town of Jay Electronic Sign:** Mr. Seib reported that we have a top that will go on sign and letters. Waiting for letters to come in and that will close out the project.

**3. New Business:**

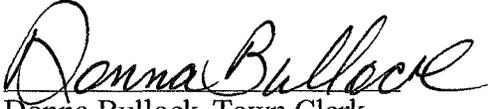
**Old Dollar General Business Interest:** Mr. Corey O'Kelley with SVN Southland Commercial approaches the council with a request for his client William with the Panhandle Driveline to bring his business to the old Dollar Store. Discussion follows. Mayor Owens expresses concerns about it being an automotive business and vehicles being left outside for months. Mayor Owens stated that he would like to have an understanding with the business owner that we have concerns about what the outside will look like. Discussion followed. The council will follow up at the next meeting.

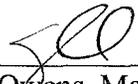
**EREC Franchise Agreement April 2025:** Mr. Seib reported that the EREC Franchise Agreement will expire April 6, 2025. Mr. Seib stated we have had the same agreement since 1954. (attached) Discussion followed. Mayor Owens asks Mr. Seib what his recommendation was. Mr. Seib stated as we move forward with the park this revenue would assist us. Mayor Owens made a motion to move the Franchise Fee Agreement with Escambia River Electric CO-OP from 3 percent to 4 1/2 percent. Seconded by Councilwomen Hendricks. 3 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried

**Resignation:** Mayor Owens reads letter of resignation to be effective Friday March 28, 2025. Town Clerk reads Josh Holloways letter of resignation effective Monday February 3, 2025.

4. **Visitor Comments:** None

Councilman Hutto made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 3 yeas, 0 nays.  
Motion carried

  
Donna Bullock, Town Clerk

  
Shon Owens, Mayor