

Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2025
6:00 PM Central Standard Time

Present: Donna Bullock, Steve Cozart, Brent Freeman, Nina Hendricks, Michael Hutto, Eric Seib, April Watson, Crystal Weatherington, Richard Bethea, Brynn Polk, Cade Diamond, Cindy Smith, Clara Tenney, Samuel Lee

Meeting Call to Order: Eric Seib

Prayer: Mike Hutto

Pledge: Brent Freeman

Approve Minutes: Councilwoman Hendricks made a motion to accept the previous regular meeting minutes as written. Seconded by Councilman Freeman. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

1. Town of Jay Report:

Engineering / Operations Report: Mr. Seib stated that David Tillar has resigned from Dewberry. He has been replaced by Colby Brown who is up to date on the Bray-Hendricks Park project and will oversee the project for the town. Mr. Seib stated that our current contract with Dewberry is up as of July 1, 2025. If we want to discontinue work with Dewberry, we must let them know within 30 days prior to July 1, 2025. If we choose to discontinue service with Dewberry, they will complete the Bray Hendricks Park project as contracted. Discussion followed. Mr. Seib then presented the operations report (attached). He stated that Triptek Contractors has agreed to the new value-engineered contract for the park. There will be a preconstruction meeting on March 27, 2025, to finalize and sign the contract. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on March 28, 2025, at 8:30 am at the park. Invitations will be sent out this week. Mr. Seib stated that Triptek felt that they would be able to start construction within 2-3 weeks after the groundbreaking ceremony. The new CDBG grant was awarded for the Booker Street Sidewalk project. The 2025 CDBG grant application is due on May 2, 2025. Mr. Seib is working on this application for phase 2 of the park project. Discussion followed.

2. Old Business:

EREC Franchise Agreement April 2025 (Ordinance 25-03-17): Ms. Bullock read Ordinance 25-03-17 for the second reading.

Ordinance 25-03-17: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF JAY, FLORIDA PURSUANT TO SECTION 166.041(3)(B), FLORIDA STATUTES, RENEWING THE RIGHT AND FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ESCAMBIA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., A CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE AN ELECTRIC PLANT AND AN ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN THE TOWN OF JAY, FLORIDA, AND TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, OPERATE AND EXTEND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES IN THE STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES OF THE TOWN, AND PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH GRANT, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Owens made a motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance 25-03-17. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

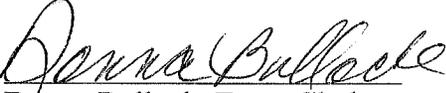
3. New Business:

Council Member Appointment Process: Mr. Seib stated that there were several people that had expressed interest in the vacant council seat. He asked those people to submit a resume to the Town before the next council meeting. He asked each interested person to speak briefly at the next council meeting as well as answer questions from the council if needed. The council would then vote on a person to fill the seat. Discussion followed.

Community Center Rates for School Events: Ms. Watson stated that a couple of school organizations were requesting use of the community center over the next few months. She asked the council for a decision on cost to rent for school organizations. She suggested that we only charge the cleaning fee of \$125.00 plus the refundable deposit of \$100. Discussion followed. Mayor Owens made a motion to allow school organizations to use the community center at the cost of \$125.00 for cleaning plus the refundable \$100 deposit. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

4. **Visitor Comments:** Mr. Richard Bethea asked about requirements for council seats. Mr. Cozart stated that per the Town of Jay Charter, a person only must be a qualified elector, and a resident of the town limits of the Town of Jay. Discussion followed.

Mayor Owens made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried


Donna Bullock, Town Clerk


Shon Owens, Mayor