

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2025

6:00 PM Central Standard Time

Present: Donna Bullock, Steve Cozart, Brent Freeman, Nina Hendricks, Michael Hutto, Gretchen McPherson, Robin Phillips, Eric Seib, April Watson, Crystal Weatherington, Trudie Blackmon, Brenda Godwin, Kurvin Qualls

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. 3 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

1. Town of Jay Report:

Operations Report: Mr. Seib presented the operations report (attached). Discussion followed.

2. Old Business:

Bray- Hendricks Park Contract: Mr. Seib presented the council with the value engineering changes from Triptek. The value engineering resulted in approximately \$1,100,000 in reductions. The town is approximately \$648,000 short. Mr. Seib stated that we could remove the east bathroom facility, the eastern sidewalk, and the amphitheater which would eliminate the current shortage in funds. However, the next CDBG grant cycle will be in May and the Town could apply for the funding to complete these items. This would mean that the park would be complete in two phases with the east bathroom, sidewalk, and amphitheater being in the second phase running concurrent with the first phase if possible. Discussion followed. Councilwoman Hendricks made a motion to accept the value engineered contract with Triptek. Seconded by Councilman Hutto. 3 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

3. New Business:

Emerald Coast Region Planning Council: Kurvin Qualls with the Emerald Coast Region Planning Council spoke regarding membership. He discussed that the council had decided to waive membership fees for members with a population less than 1,000 people, which would include the Town of Jay. Members would retain their voting rights. Mr. Qualls stated that the Town of Jay had already paid their membership dues so that these dues would be returned to the town.

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

Councilman Hutto made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 25-03-17. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 3 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

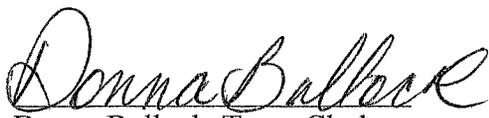
Flat Rate Water Usage: Mr. Seib stated that this would be tabled until the next meeting.

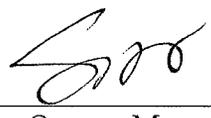
Audit Recommendation - Road Use Checking Account to General Fund: Mr. Seib stated that the auditors recommended that the Road Use Checking account with \$1300.00 be moved to the General Fund. Mr. Seib will discuss how that \$1300.00 will be utilized at a later date.

Nuisance Letter Process Update for New Council Members: Mr. Seib asked Mr. Cozart to discuss the nuisance letter process. Mr. Cozart stated that once all waiting periods are complete from the notice being sent, the Town can then put a lien on the property for the cost of said cleanup. If the property is then sold, the lien would have to be satisfied to the Town. If the property is not sold, the Town can then foreclose on the lien. Legal fees for this process would be built into the lien. If a lien is put on a property, the foreclosure process can start within approximately 30 days. Discussion followed.

4. **Visitor Comments:** Ms. Brenda Godwin spoke to council regarding stray animals and asked about a leash law. Mr. Seib stated that he would check into this for her. She also asked about businesses cleaning up their properties. She stated that there were several businesses within the city limits that needed to be cleaned up. Mr. Seib stated that we could send nuisance letters to these businesses and follow the same procedures as a residential cleanup. She also stated that there were several properties in her neighborhood as well as some throughout town that still needed to be addressed. Discussion followed.

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


Donna Bullock, Town Clerk


Shon Owens, Mayor