Town Council Meeting

July 15, 2019

6:00 PM

Present: Donna Bullock, Stephen Cozart, Wayne Godwin, Nina Hendricks, Joshua Holloway, Alicia Jernigan, Shon Owens, Eric Seib, Gretchen McPherson, Neil Expressit, Lori Elder.

Meeting Called to Order: Eric Seib

Welcome Visitors: Eric Seib

Invocation: Josh Holloway

Pledge: Shon Owens

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Mayor Shon Owens made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. 4 yeas. 0 nays. Motion carried.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Livestock Market - The roofing contractor will start work tomorrow. The electrical contractor will follow when the roofer is complete. Weeds have been removed and cleaned out. We expect the HVAC estimate this week. UF/IFAS provided a name of an informed farmer’s market manager. The advertisement for bids for the CDBG project was published in the Pensacola News Journal. The opening of bids will be held on August 8th. The USDA Rural Utility Services application has been submitted and a reminder of the Special Council Meeting will be held on July 25th at 6:00pm. The estimated completion of construction is summer of 2020. The Town of Jay will continue to discuss the Well #1 building project to additional electrical contractors to find interest. The FRDAP Grant program was not funded by the State of Florida Legislature this year. The DEO’s Technical Assistance Grant results should be announced next week. The Town has an application in for a Bray-Hendricks Park Master Plan. Representative Jayer Williamson offered to assist the Town of Jay in replacing fire hydrants within the Town. The Town needs to provide a needs statement. The Mayor asked for the Town to research the ability to bill our customers by the gallon vice thousands of gallons. That would provide a more consistent measurement over time.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The June 2019 Cash Report was briefed. The biggest outflows of cash last month were the quarterly insurance payment, fireworks payment, and auditor services. Water, sewer and gas all brought in revenues greater than expenses paid.

ENGINEER REPORT: Not present.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilman Godwin asked if we found a price for a vertical cutter. The Operations Manager has looked online, but not found a machine matching the Councilman’s specifications. The Mayor stated that the Town could use a manlift from Pittman’s to cut the branches above normal reach. The Town needs to create road trimming plan and execute the plan. Santa Rosa County Code Enforcement stated that the residents at 5133 Mildred Ave have satisfied their code requirements. If the Town wants to pursue additional cleanup of the concrete slab it will be at the Town’s cost. The Council asked that two letters be written from the Town thanking the code enforcement team and the landowners. There was no progress on the expansion of Town Limits.

NEW BUSINESS: The Operations Manager proposed an update to the third quarter budget numbers for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Mayor Owens made a motion to approve the changes, seconded by Councilman Holloway seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0. The Town discussed hiring the services of Daniel Houser to conduct our monthly accounting checks. The Mayor made a motion to create a contract to pay Daniel $500 a month starting in August to reconcile the monthly transactions. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holloway and passed with a vote of 4-0. The Operations Manager asked the council to approve the purchase of an Odorant Detection System and a Digital Leak Detector for the Town’s gas system. The two tools will cost the Town about $10,000. Councilwoman Hendricks made a motion to approve the purchase of an Odorant Detection System and Digital Leak Detector. The motion was seconded by Councilman Godwin and passed with a vote of 4-0. The Operations Manager stated that at the next meeting, the Council will need to decide on a millage rate and budget hearing date as part of the 2019-2020 Budget Process. The Santa Rosa County Early Learning Coalition reached out to the Town and offered to put Bray-Hendricks Park in for a Born Learning Trail Grant. This grant will provide signs and paint to create fun games for kids to play with their parents. Councilman Godwin asked if there was any progress made in the StRIVE Grants awarded from Santa Rosa County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Neil the Manager from Expressit Gas Station in Jay asked the Council if they would allow for alcohol sales within the Town on Sundays. He can show a difference in revenue of $3,000 less on Sundays vice the rest of the week. Century gas station owners see an increase in alcohol sales on Sunday. Councilman Holloway stated he would vote against the request from a moral and ethical reason. Discussion ensued over the character of the town versus financial reasoning behind the decision. A suggestion was made to place the decision on a ballot for the Town of Jay citizens to help guide the decision. The attorney stated he would research the current ordinance and look at what options the Town Council can take on this request. The council tabled the decision until the attorney can provide additional information. Additionally, Neil mentioned that his water bill has greatly increased during the summer. He stated that due to the price increase, he would like the sewer price to be reduced due to his high use of water to make ice that does not enter the sewer system. Mrs. Lori Elder requested to place a portable grill enclosure along side her business in Jay. The Council discussed the specifications of the portable building. A motion was made to approve the placement of the portable grill enclosure by the Mayor and seconded by Councilwoman Hendricks. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. Mrs. Elder also mentioned that she wanted to buy the warehouse next to her current business and place an indoor play area there. Additionally, she may create a drive through coffee shop.

Mr. Godwin made a motion to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Mayor Owens. 4 yeas, 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.

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Mayor Shon Owens Town Clerk Donna Bullock