

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. With the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>
James T. Wood, Jr.	Marcie Bell	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Tom Weidenhamer	Sam Perman	Michael Burgess PW Director
John Green		JT Hart PW Deputy Director
John Stephens		
Mark Brown		

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *May 11 & September 14, 2021*

Committee member Weidenhamer moved to approve the May 11 & September 14, 2021 minutes as written with Committee member Green providing the second. A roll call vote of 4-0 was taken and the motion passed.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Report on Traffic Crashes in Destin for 2021 – OCSO – Capt. Abbott

Capt. Abbott explained to the members they have a new program which was created by the University of Florida that tracks traffic crashes with several different fields that can be chosen to bring up the data and details for areas of the city, what type of vehicles are involved, type of accident, time of day, if alcohol is involved, if there are injuries and/or deaths, and if animals are involved.

Committee member Stephens asked what type of category electric golf carts would fall under. According to Capt. Abbott, it would depend on what type of vehicle the law enforcement officer labels it as at the time of the accident.

B) Project Update - Royal Melvin Heritage Park

Construction continues, the handicap ramp has been installed and currently the crew is working on the restrooms, with a completion date to be around Memorial Day.

C) Update on Destin Crosstown Connector

Mr. Zunguze would provide council with an update at the January 18, 2022 City Council meeting.

D) Utilities Protection Discussion

Council passed an ordinance with a provision for underground directional boring to outlaw the

use of a device called a pneumatic missile in city roadways. However, they can still be used for right-of-way permits, which the Engineering Assistant II Joe Bodi handles.

E) Update on FDOT PD&E, Marler Bridge to Airport Road City Involvement

This is just getting started to evaluate this section to see if there are opportunities for improvement for the service level of the road at the intersections to make commuting through the city safer for bicyclist, pedestrians, and drivers. As well as looking for opportunities to clean the stormwater before it reaches the harbor.

F) PW/PS Area Assignments, discussion

The Chairman spoke of how areas 3 and 4 that need to be reassigned to the new members, Committee member Stephens was assigned to Area 4 and Committee member Brown was assigned to Area 3. The Chairman briefly provided them with what they need to look for when reviewing their areas that they feel may be safety issues. Mr. Burgess informed them if they see anything that may need immediate attention, to contact him immediately to get resolved.

5. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- **Stormwater Concerns**

Mr. Burgess explained that the city has a Stormwater Discharge Permit that is issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. And as part of the 6-minimum measures, public involvement is one. Therefore, from this point forward, this will be on the agenda as a forum for anyone that has any stormwater concerns, they can come to these meetings and address their concerns.

- **Maintenance Technician**

According to Mr. Burgess, the position is still open.

- **Operational Update**

- Purchased a utility tractor and a loader backhoe for Public Services.
- An additional 18-Yard dump truck was approved and purchased to assist. Especially when the old one is down for maintenance.
- Repair work has begun for the cavity that is opening on Mountain Drive.
- Adoption of the Local Mitigation Strategy to be eligible of FEMA funding in the event of a disaster will go to Council on January 3, 2022 Council meeting
- American Rescue Plan Act Resolution has provided the city with \$790k for infrastructure improvements and includes stormwater repairs, which staff will ask Council to earmark those funds because it is needed in the city for Airport Road and other project areas.

- **Project Update**

- Facility Condition & Needs Assessment RFP will provide staff with a third party evaluation for all the city facilities in order to plan what needs to be updated,

repaired, or replaced on a 5-10 year basis. And also to base the usages of the buildings on the needs and if they are sufficient sq. footage wise.

- Harbor Pump Update: the pump is now installed and up and running. There are some adjustments that were identified and is being worked on. As well as there the variable frequency drive part is still needed but neither will keep it from running.
- Airport Road Curve project is complete.
- Crosswalk Improvements on Airport Road signage and pavement markers have been updated and staff is working towards getting with Gulf Power to add some streetlights to improve visibility of pedestrians.
- LED Conversion Process – This has been a wish for Council for years and back in August, new agreements were made with Gulf Power to have the high pressure sodium lights converted to LED lights. This will be a “work-in-progress” with about 10% to be done initially.
- Airport Road/Legion Drive sinkhole repairs should be starting in the next couple of weeks.
- Emergency work for Indian Bayou and Calhoun Avenue, across from Clement Taylor Park have been repaired.
- City received a \$96k grant from the State and two 6-inch trash pumps on trailers and a 4-inch have been purchased.
- November 30th was the end of hurricane season.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS:

- **Committee member Green** – Spoke of being able to attend meetings again and wants to go to the harbor pump station site to see it running
- **Committee member Perman** – was unable to attend the meeting but there was a brief discussion regarding the different types of vehicles, scooters, golf carts being driven by underage drivers. Capt Abbott spoke of how they try their best to keep up with this adding that in the peak tourist season, it’s hard to get to the location when they get a report of an underage driver because of the heavy traffic on the roadways, even with deputies strategically positioned. This will be discussed further at the next meeting
- **Committee member Brown** - spoke of his proposal and concerns for speeding on Dolphin Street, where he lives that has been ongoing for years. He spoke of the multiple speed studies have been done on the street. And how he does not allow his children to play out front as well as one of his neighbors and friends was in an accident in the area near Sovereign Isle neighborhood. He mentioned how now that the city has purchased public beach property he is concerned that traffic will only get worse. And proposed to have another stop sign installed at John Avenue and Luke to aid in slowing the traffic down.

Mr. Burgess briefly explained to committee member Brown the procedure to have the proposal sent to Council for their consideration.

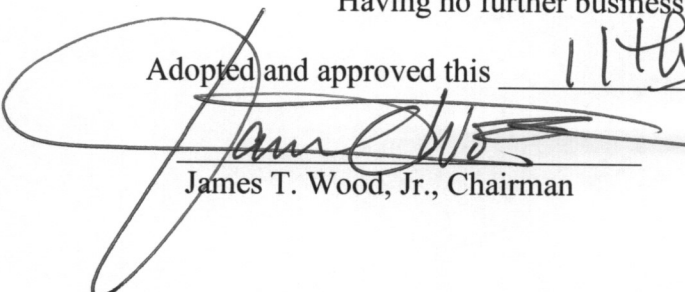
Motion by Chairman Wood to recommend City Council consider adding a 3-way

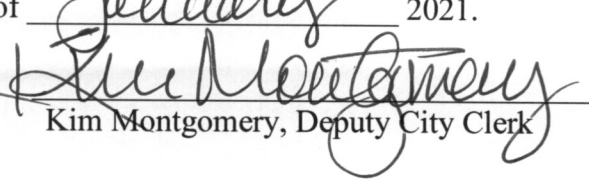
stop at John and Dolphin, with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The Chairman asked Capt. Abbott if they could provide additional assistance for traffic control in the immediate area for the time being. According to Capt. Abbott, he can request for an additional speed study to see when the peak time is to possibly have additional enforcement prior to and if approved, immediately after the installation of the stop signs.

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 11th day of January 2021.


James T. Wood, Jr., Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk