

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, May 11, 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		Michael Burgess PW Director
Richard Hickey		JT Deputy PW Director
Sam Perman		
John Green		

4. CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Burgess informed the members that since Chairman Ramswell had to resign due to health, they would need to nominate a Chairman and possibly a Vice Chairman as well.

Motion by Committee member Perman to nominate Vice Chairman Wood as Chairman, with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Committee member Weidenhamer to nominate Committee member John Green as Vice Chairman with Committee member Hickey providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *March 9, 2021*

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting as written, was made by Committee member Green with Committee member Perman providing the second. A roll call vote of 5-0 was taken and the motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

• Safety Issues on Scenic Highway 98

Committee member Perman spoke of how the city needs to be more proactive on the potential safety issues as the numbers of tourist increase to come to Destin beaches. She spoke of how she witnesses people not crossing at the designated pedestrian crosswalks all the time and feels there needs to be more signage and the beach accesses need to be lit up, as well as the surf conditions flags system signage should be displayed at each entrance.

According to Mr. Burgess, before the 2020 Spring Break, staff had met with Steve Derenian, a citizen who lives in Crystal Beach about this concern. He had approached this committee previously and presented a pedestrian wayfinding program with signage and pavement

markings, which was approved by City Council. The signs were made and installed and consequently, almost all the signs that were installed were stolen during that spring break period. He spoke of how they could possibly have more made and collocate them on existing regulatory signs. Adding that he would bring this up to the City Engineer for his input.

Committee member Perman also spoke concern of the increased number of motorized bikes and skateboards on Scenic 98 and asked if there is an ordinance in place or something that they can do to facilitate one.

Mr. Burgess spoke of the LSV ordinance that did not get adopted by City Council and how staff and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department is following the State Statutes and the Golf Cart Policy.

- **Safety Issues at Calhoun/Kelly**

According to Committee member Perman, she feels that the speed limits are too high for Calhoun Avenue heading towards Kelly Street and feels that a traffic mirror is necessary to enhance the visibility at the intersection.

Mr. Burgess explained Mayor Pro Tem Destin has already obtained Council consensus to have the speed limit lowered to 25 mph between Zerbe and north of Clement Taylor Park. As well as speed tables are being installed. A digital informational sign warning the public of both and cones will be installed tomorrow.

- **Spring Break/Summer Preparations/ OCSO Lt. Jason Fulgham**

- Explained that this past Spring Break was busier than any in the recent past.
- 700 Beach related arrests with 516 of those in Destin
- Beach unit will be 7-days of week from 10AM-10PM in the summer season.
- 2-3 Marine Units on the local waters 7-days of week from 10AM-10PM.
- 19 Beach related arrests with 18 in Destin since the end of Spring Break
 - A busier than normal summer season is anticipated.
- Only one distressed swimmer in Destin since Spring Break was over.
 - With 17 Boating while Intoxicated Arrests in Destin since Spring Break in Okaloosa County
 - 19 Beach related arrests, one on Okaloosa Island the rest in Destin.

Chairman Wood asked if the people arrested are being taken to Shalimar. According to Lt. Fulghum, the people are only given a court date at this time because of Covid. And the County Jail is only taking in repeated offenders, serious felonies, or misdemeanors.

Committee member Perman asked if there is a plan for the monitoring of increased traffic on Scenic Hwy 98. According to Lt. Fulgham, they have traffic units scheduled in shifts as well as a traffic grant paid through Federal Funds from FDOT that target 98 during the summer season.

- **Surtax Funds**

Mr. Burgess explained the city is authorized to use the surtax funds on the following:

- Transportation
- Stormwater
- Public Safety

Adding that the city has used up all the funds for the acquisition of the beach parcels and is borrowing the necessary funds to pay replenish that account and once it replenished, this committee will have \$300k+/- to make recommendations to Council on what to spend it one. Reminding the members that he hasn't had the chance to purchase the trash pumps that they recommended and was approved by Council yet, since the funds have not been available.

- **Operational Updates**

Reported that the vacancy for Maintenance Tech Mechanic is still open and he is waiting for the right person and does not want to hire just anyone.

Recommendation is going to Council to have Main Street restriped from 98 to Kelly. With pavement markings included for a total cost of about \$50k.

- **Project Updates**

Mr. Burgess reported the following:

- NFWF Projects - All projects are complete.
- Continuing Services provider for Median Maintenance – ZIIC irrigation work is complete.
- Code Compliance and Analytical Services performed some water testing in the harbor, and everything came back with good results.
- Leonard Destin Park Restoration - the damage caused by Hurricane Sally has been repaired. Noting a joint effort from the Parks and Recreation department and Public Services brought in white sand from Wildcat Mountain and the beach has been restored, along with fencing, steps, and boardwalk repair. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for this Thursday May 13th at 10:00 o'clock.
- Zerbe St./Calhoun Ave Pedestrian - sidewalk and drainage improvements and will extend from the bottom of the hill at Sibert all the way to Clement Taylor Park.
- Harbor pump update – The motor is still having issues and it is back in the shop being repaired.
 - The pump will also be pulled and looked over to see if something is stuck inside, adding this has happened in the past. He noted that the 1,600 foot pipe that connects from the Gulf of Mexico into the harbor will still flush fresh water into the harbor when the tide is high. Which equals to be about 1.8 million gallons of water going into the harbor per day, without the pump. And there is a flap valve that does not allow the water to go back out from the harbor into the Gulf during low tide.
 - City Hall Fire Alarm and Monitoring System has been installed. There has never been any type of Fire Alarm System since the building was built.
 - Committee member Hickey asked if the buildings were sprinkled. According to Mr. Burgess he is only aware of the library and the Community Center being sprinkled. Committee member Hickey asked if that would impact the cost of insurance for the city

buildings. Mr. Burgess replied that he could certainly look into it and provide an update.

- The new generator for City Hall has been installed and the replaced generator has been taken to the Sheriff's Substation on Stahlman Ave., so they now have a working generator.
- Beach Drive resurfacing has been approved by council and the work should be starting the week of May 24th. It will be milled and resurfaced north of Kelly. And two weeks after the asphalt has cured, the striping will go down.
- Speed humps on Calhoun Ave as mentioned earlier, will be installed tomorrow.

- **Emergency Management Update**

Mr. Burgess reported the following:

- Hurricane season starts June 1st and the Colorado University's hurricane forecast for this year is projected for an above average hurricane season.
- The City's hurricane guide is finished and published to the website with a map.
- Governors Hurricane Conference has been canceled.
- Senior leaders and department heads are reviewing the operational instructions to ensure that everything is in order if there is a storm in the Gulf of Mexico. As well as the precautions/activation levels that need to be taken, depending on how far out one is from the city.
 - Stand down.
 - 800 miles out and we're in the cone of uncertainty and those steps taken, if any.
 - 500 miles out the shutters get dropped and the buildings get secured.
 - 200 miles out, additional best management practices are put in place.
 - Continuity of government services:
 - Okaloosa County EOC headquarters – Niceville at the College.
 - After the storm and its safe, staff will go out and inspect properties to see if they are safe to be habitable.
 - Special permits are issued so that people can secure their property for repairable homes and structures.
 - A protocol is in place for those that are deemed structurally non-habitable.
 - Other departments have their own operating instructions to follow.

7. DISCUSSION:

- **Committee member Green** – Requested staff consider striping the north side of Main Street at Kelly.
- **Committee member Perman** – Reported that no one seems to be paying any attention to the new signs that were installed at the new right turn onto Airport Road from 98 and suggests their color be changed to possibly be more visible. According to Mr. Burgess, since it is now a maintenance issue, the City Engineer and staff has contacted FDOT to see what can be done to make the merge more notable to the public. Adding that so far there has not been any accidents since it has been finished.
 - She also thanked staff for the installation of the stop sign at Sibert and Forest.
- **Committee member Hickey** – Reported that there is a lot of roadways in the city

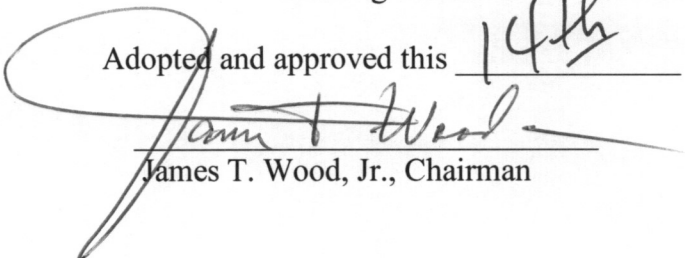
are in bad condition and need to be restriped. According to Mr. Burgess, its very expensive however, he will bring a back to them at their next meeting, a presentation with the conditions of the roadways and the costs for discussion.

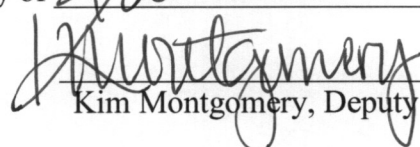
- **Committee member Weidenhamer** – Nothing to report.
- **Vice Chairman Wood** – Reported that he no longer serves on the TPO's Citizens Advisory Council since he is now serving on the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority. And there is no one from the city serving. He explained that it meets seven times a year and asked the members to get the word out because Destin needs a representative.
 - Asked if the flashing yellow light at Kelly has been replaced by the manufacturer yet. According to JT, it should be there now.
 - Status of the other water access right of ways and cleaning them up. According to Mr. Burgess, he will follow up with staff and report back to them at their next meeting.
 - Requested an update or presentation on the details for the FDOT PD&E study for from Marler Bridge to Airport Road.

- **Public Comment:**
None

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 14th day of December 2021.


James T. Wood, Jr., Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk