

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 22, 2022
CITY HALL ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

The Council of the City of Destin met in regular session with the following members and staff present:

Destin City Council

Mayor Gary Jarvis

Councilmember Jim Bagby

Councilmember Bobby Wagner

Councilmember Johnny King

Councilmember Dewey Destin

Councilmember Rodney Braden

Councilmember Terésa Hebert

Destin City Staff

City Manager Lance Johnson

City Clerk Rey Bailey

Community Dev. Director Louis Zunguze

Parks & Recreation Director Lisa Firth

Grants/Project Manager Jeffrey Cozadd

Deputy Code Compliance Dir. Kris Mercurio

Public Works Director Michael Burgess

Land Use Attorney Kim Kopp (virtual)

Deputy City Manager Webb Warren

IT Manager Matthew Pace

Finance Director Krystal Strickland

Library Director Wen Livingston

Deputy Public Works Director JT Hart

Principal Planner Steve O'Connor

City Attorney Kyle Bauman

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gary Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm; Pastor Kevin Wendt of Grace Lutheran Church of Destin gave the invocation, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Jarvis made the following announcements:

Consent agenda item 3C – *Milling/Resurfacing/ Restriping of a Section of Scenic Hwy 98* has been pulled from the agenda.

Public Hearing agenda item 5C – *Indian Bayou West 1st Amendment*, will be rescheduled to April 4, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember King, to approve the agenda, as amended, past 6-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Schmidt was absent from the meeting).

1. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS / SPECIAL / PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. State of the City

Mayor Gary Jarvis delivered the annual State of the City Address.

STATE OF THE CITY - 2022

Mayor Jarvis recognized the following officials:

- Councilmember Rodney Braden
- Councilmember Dewey Destin
- Councilmember Jim Bagby
- Councilmember Bobby Wagner
- Councilmember Terésa Hebert
- Councilmember Johnny King
- Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

Mayor Jarvis Speech:

*"Through the strategic planning process, Council has established a **vision statement**, which is the **anchor point** of the City's **strategic plan**. This statement outlines what an organization would like to ultimately achieve and gives purpose to the mission of our city.*

Our Vision statement that our council members have established:

DESTIN IS A FAMILY- ORIENTED BEACH AND FISHING COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY AND WHERE VISITORS ARE WELCOMED TO RESPECTFULLY ENJOY OUR COMMUNITY AND ITS RESOURCES

This statement embodies the plan that is vital for our city because it ensures that the priorities set by the City Council are conveyed in the organization's goals and strategies and are clearly developed to meet those goals to ensure we are meeting our community's needs.

In addition to our vision statement, council prioritized our Key Customer Groups to provide guidance for city priorities. These customer groups are in priority order:

- 1.) Year-Round Residents*
- 2.) Destin-based businesses*
- 3.) Visitors*

Our strategic plan fuels the strategic management process, which is how we will achieve these strategic goals.

- *Financially sound city providing service excellence*
- *Enhanced quality of life and safety for families*
- *Economic development and revitalization*
- *Improve mobility and connectivity*
- *Effective, efficient, and aesthetically pleasing infrastructure*
- *A green and sustainable environment*

From these established goals, council established these objectives for the organization to focus on for 2021. These are in priority order:

To help accomplish the goal of a financially sound city providing service excellence, Council's top priority objective within the strategic plan is to offer livable wages and benefits to attract and maintain high caliber, qualified staff. Council and staff have worked through the budgeting process to ensure this top priority objective could be achieved so that Destin can recruit and retain our most important resources, our employees.

Thanks to the leadership of our city manager, deputy city manager and Council, a 5% COLA and up to a 2% merit increase was approved to help our staff meet the rising pressure of inflation. Council also approved a one-time longevity award for long-term eligible employees. The Human Resources staff was able to negotiate a new health insurance plan, providing increased benefits at more affordable rates. This was just one way the City Council and administration is following through in our commitment to our staff by reducing costs for our employees and expanding limited health care benefits to our part-time workers. We want to ensure that we can strategically attract, engage, and retain the talent within our city government. The compensation study is nearing completion and our consultant plans to bring it before council in March.

Another strategic goal is to improve mobility and connectivity in Destin. We are helping to meet that goal through the council objective of the two-lane crosstown connector. We all know what it is like to travel throughout our city, especially during the busy, tourist season. This project is designed to be an alternative road for our residents to access city amenities within Destin. Just last meeting, the City Council voted to proceed with property acquisitions and to continue to keep pressing forward in the design of this important project. The design, engineering, and right-of-way acquisition is slated for completion in FY2025.

Another effort to improve mobility and connectivity, as well as safety for our residents and visitors, is our council established an objective to design a pedestrian pathway underneath the Marler bridge. Council approved a conceptual plan for this project and staff is working with the Florida Department of Transportation on future options for safe pedestrian pathways in that area.

The city received over six million dollars in grant revenue in fiscal year 2021, those grant revenues represented over 26% of the City's total revenue. Our Projects, Grants and Contracts Manager has worked on a 5-year projection for grant revenue exceeding 27 million dollars. Projects like the Norriego Point Improvements and the Joes Bayou Recreation Area Improvements are funded through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and are not reflected in the before mentioned revenue numbers. The cost of both projects combined will total more than 30 million dollars leaving Destin's residents and visitors with two legacy parks and providing a substantial boost to our local economy. The city maintains an excellent relationship with local, state, and federal agencies which makes the grant awards at these levels possible. It is our goal to continue these strong relationships and to expand the grant funding as new opportunities become available.

Enhanced quality of life and safety for our families as well a green and sustainable environment is another strategic goal for the city. The city has established a very ambitious objective with a public beachfront acquisition initiative. This is now a reality thanks to the hard work and partnership between the city, Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council, and the Trust for Public Land. We started with \$2 million as a commitment to acquire beach front property and now have over 22 million committed, with most of the funding coming from tourist tax dollars. So far, we have bought back over 100 feet of beach for public use in the Crystal Beach area. The exciting news is this initiative is going to provide even more public beach front access that will remain in

our community forever. Our efforts to expand our beach access, open space and preserve our beachfront for Destin will continue well into the future.

Another strategic goal is to have effective, efficient, and aesthetically pleasing infrastructure. To accomplish this, our council and staff is in the process to underground utilities within the city. We have negotiated a new franchise agreement with Florida Power and Light that will allow us to move forward with undergrounding utilities along Highway 98 and throughout the city. By moving utility lines underground, this project will beautify the area and protect the lines from storm-caused power outages. Hardening our infrastructure to protect our homes and businesses and reduce the loss of power is a big win for us. This project is going to take 10 to 15 years and a substantial investment but is a worthwhile endeavor for our city to improve safety, better reliability, and create an unobstructed gateway throughout Destin. Staff and Council is working hard to find as many external funding and grant sources as possible to help fund this important project.

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At this time, I'd like to briefly review some highlights of our departments and how they are helping to accomplish the strategic goals and objectives council has established for our city government. This past year the Community Development Department was focused on improvements in three key metrics in the delivery of its services. These metrics are customer service, productivity, and quality of life projects. The Department has now fully implemented the new COMPASS software system. The early results of this implementation are already showing substantial improvement in customer service. The COMPASS portal enables residents, developers, contractors, and business owners to easily apply for their building permit, development, business tax receipts and engineering applications from their computer in the comfort of their home or office. They can submit necessary documents, track the progress, pay invoices, and receive final documentation via the COMPASS portal without calling or making a trip to City Hall Annex. Furthermore, the average turnaround time between application submittal and permit issuance for permits and business tax receipts has improved by 80%.

With respect to productivity, the volume of permit application submittals has risen from 1,679 prior to COMPASS to 2,095, that is a 25% increase since the implementation of COMPASS. In addition, the department processed 61 development orders, 771 building permits and completed over 5,169 inspections. This department continues to work on projects that have direct ties to accomplishing the City's strategic goals of connectivity and safety of our community like the preparation of the Mobility Plan and the redesign of the Cross-Town Connector; as well as the Stormwater Master Plan to address flood prone areas in the city.

Thanks to the leadership of our community development staff and land use attorney, the city is accomplishing the strategic goal of economic development and revitalization by aligning the City's Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map, which will guide Destin's future development and redevelopment. In addition, the completion of the Harbor Capacity Study will guide our council on ways to enhance the economic vitality and safety of the Destin Harbor. Staff has completed the preparation of the City's Wayfinding Master Plan, which will help our city define the Destin Brand. This initiative is more than just creating a logo or signage, it will produce results that will represent the City's heritage, soul, and character.

I personally want to thank the entire staff and leadership of the Community Development Department for their commitment to excellence in all areas of the department's goal of providing consistent, efficient, and high value customer service to the residents of Destin.

Our Code Compliance Department has been working diligently to create a culture of professionalism and individual commitment to improve the quality of life of Destin residents. Starting with a focused effort to gain voluntary compliance through the education of all city codes and ordinances. To provide for the safety, health, and welfare of our citizens and visitors alike, the department has increased staffing; and all officers will become dual certified Florida Code Compliance Officers and Parking Enforcement Specialists. In 2021, our Code Compliance Department addressed almost 10,000 Code Compliance case activities, which is down from almost 14,000 in 2020. This proves that compliance efforts and the education of our city codes is working.

Code's proactive and reactive efforts range from land use and harbor and waterways compliance issues to short-term rental/ long-term rentals, livery vessel, and beach vendor registrations. In addition, code compliance handles beach management and parking compliance activities and much more. Code has also established a designated Patrol Division, Beach, Harbor and Waterways Division, and Registration Division within the Code Compliance Department. The newly created Registration Division and the new Compass software has accelerated our city's registration process. Overall, Code Compliance is maintaining a 90% compliance rate and providing service excellence for our community. Keeping our citizens informed and communicating what the city is doing is the key role of our Public Information Manager. She has done an excellent job enhancing our community and media relations, increasing social media engagement on city platforms, strengthening relationships with our strategic partners and most importantly, is a reliable source of information for our residents, businesses, and visitors. In 2021, we had over 368,000 visits to our website and our social media exposure is growing. We also had a broader outreach through traditional media and had over 172 stories covered by local and regional media outlets. We will continue to stay at the forefront of our communication efforts in this digital age, adapt to new trends, be innovative, to ensure Destin is promoted and highlighted in a positive way as we move forward into the future.

The City Clerk's Office worked diligently with Municipal Code Corporation to streamline the ordinance codification process. Processing time for ordinances enacted by the city council was reduced from 6 weeks to less than 3 weeks on average. The volume and diversity of public records requests filed with the city continues to increase and technology has played a key part in allowing staff to be more transparent, while providing a quicker response in fulfilling record requests. In 2020, staff received 388 public records requests. In 2021, 502 requests were made, and staff was able to fulfill those requests within 3 days of receipt, 94% of the time.

The Finance Department is helping us to remain a financially sound city by re-financing several loans in 2021 which will result in \$400k less interest payments over the next seven years. With assistance from other departments, our finance department set up continuing service contract prices in MUNIS to speed up PO issuance and invoice reviews. Staff has worked diligently to re-organize the accounting system to improve transparency and timeliness of reporting, especially for restricted funds. With a fiscal budget totaling over \$34 million dollars, the City Council has continued to keep taxes low for Destin residents, while providing service excellence to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Public Works Department act as stewards of our beautiful city by helping to achieve the strategic goal of "an enhanced quality of life and safety for families," as well as "providing effective, efficient and aesthetically pleasing infrastructure" through the ongoing maintenance of, and improvements to, our critical infrastructure. This department provides services to our community and organization in five key functional areas: Pavement Management, Stormwater Management, Beautification, Facilities and Fleet Maintenance, and Emergency Management. Speaking of Emergency Management, our Public Works Department takes a leadership role in all four areas of the City's Emergency Management Program that include: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. It is the objective of these four mission areas to ensure that our community is ready before, during, and after a natural disaster.

A few of their many successes experienced during the past year include the completion of the Zerbe-Calhoun Pedestrian Improvements Project Phase I that came in \$90,000 dollars under budget. They completed 1,282 work orders from the five key functional areas. Staff inspected 889 storm sewer system components which contributes to proper operation of our drainage systems during severe weather events. Finally, to help keep a green and sustainable environment the Destin Harbor Pump, in operation since 1992, was completely rebuilt, an arduous process that took over six months. This represents a small sample of what this department does, and I would like to thank the men and women of our Public Works Department for their diligence and commitment to Team Destin and recognize how truly thankful we all are for their many contributions to our community.

In 2021, the IT Department continued to face many challenges, as well as achieving many accomplishments, to provide service excellence to our departments and for our city. With the assistance of our help desk technician and the use of our ticketing software, processes that flow across the city regarding service requests, such as onboarding, termination/separation, general service requests, phone system support, and other IT related functions, continue to be enhanced and streamlined. The City's help desk ticket system has become the department's best tool for monitoring and maintaining service levels. This year, IT handled over 1100 help desk tickets in 2021, which is a 34% increase over the previous year. This departmental tool is critical to providing excellent customer service and improved response time for service requests.

One of the key accomplishments in 2021, was COMPASS, which I spoke of a few moments ago. IT remains a vital role in this project, and they have worked hard to successfully implement COMPASS into the city's information technology ecosystem. In fact, they fielded 102 help desk tickets on COMPASS since its inception. IT remains instrumental in making mobile computing and telework a viable option for city employees. Maintaining access to city services and applications for employees while off-site continues to be a top priority by the department. This is still a critical part in the way the city can conduct business during uncertain times as well as in emergency situations.

The Destin Library continually updates and adjusts the library's collections, space, and programs to provide the best possible experience for patrons as a vital cornerstone of the Destin community. 2021 saw many new technology items added to include a self-service kiosk that makes checking out materials, paying for copies, and printouts more convenient, thus improving customer service and providing quick, accessible means for library patrons. The library has always had public access computers, but now they have added a tablet station with six Samsung tablets that library cardholders can use anywhere in the library and connect to the internet. Furthermore, the Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative has switched its member libraries to a new operating system software, public access catalog, and events calendar for an updated, easier to use website interface.

Even with the pandemic, the Destin community enjoys its Library services. For example, 32% of Destin's population has library cards. Additionally, the Library's physical and digital books circulation increased to 76,600 in FY2021, 10% higher than the previous year. Lastly, the Library wishes to acknowledge the support of the Friends Guild of the Destin Library, who generously provided the funds for the new furniture in the young adult area and are helping with funding for the remodel in the children's section to be completed in 2022.

Our Parks Department staff made significant improvements at the Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park with Destin Forward as a Co-Sponsor, to include sod, mulch, and two dog agility pieces. As noted earlier, we expanded beach access at the Shore at Crystal Beach, which staff maintains, and they rebuilt the handicap ramp to the Clement Taylor Park Pier. The Harbor Boardwalk replacement project is in progress with installation of new "Wear Deck" for the entire boardwalk and is scheduled for completion in 2022. The city hosted a ribbon cutting and official grand opening of Captain Leonard Destin Park and a ground-breaking ceremony took place at the Shore at Crystal Beach Park expansion. We also had the

grand opening of the city's very first high school. These are critical milestones that continue to lay a strong foundation for our growing community by enhancing the quality of life for our families.

After opening the city's newest park, Captain Leonard Destin, Hurricane Sally, left behind significant damage. Park and Public Works staff moved 240 cubic tons of sand (that is 16 dump trucks full) and repaired the beach erosion as well as the walking paths, seawall, and irrigation. Also, some of the docks at Joe's Bayou were impacted by Sally. Bids for repair were extremely high and staff made the decision to have the repair work initiated internally by our Public Works and Parks and Recreation staff. Despite weather and material shortages, staff completed the project in time for the busy season. This was great teamwork and innovation by our staff, and we commend them for their efforts!

If you visited one of our green spaces, participated in one of our many recreation programs or attended one of our events, you have seen the positive impacts our Recreation Department has here in Destin. Sports tourism continues to grow in our area through the strong partnerships with our renters to provide top-notch adult and youth tournaments. We hosted 12 tournaments in 2021, which brought over 100,000 visitors and participants to Morgan Sports Center. Staff replaced the 4 scoreboards at Morgan's and in partnership with Destin Water Users, reclaimed water was added to the Destin Sports Complex, which staff is working with Destin High School's Athletic Department for field space.

Flag Football, which started in 2019, has been a huge success. This program has doubled its participants with 224 players in 2021. Recreation staff worked year-round spearheading 261 programs throughout the year with nearly 30,000 participants. We love the engagement of our Destin Seniors who stay active at Buck Destin Park. We know Pickleball is very popular, and we are looking for alternatives to provide more pickleball courts in Destin. Staff always strives to improve upon existing programs and services that promote quality of health, connect the community, and impact the local economy in a prosperous way, but with that success also comes challenges. Our recreation amenities are at capacity, and we are looking at alternatives of what we can do for our future to give our community the recreational experience they deserve.

I would like to acknowledge all our hard-working staff who display the utmost professionalism and have built so many positive relationships in this community. You all are on the front lines every day as public servants, which is more than just a job, it's a calling. Every day we see the results of their commitment to Destin by providing service excellence for not only to our residents but to tourists as well. This City depends on YOU and we greatly appreciate everything you do.

The next group of folks I would like to recognize and thank are the men, women and leadership of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, these folks are true public servants. They work long hours to include nights, weekends, and holidays. These dedicated professionals spend a great deal of time away from their families and risk their lives to protect ours.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has implemented a Community Resource Deputy, specifically dedicated to Destin. This position will be a great asset to our community to further develop strong bonds and liaison with our local businesses and neighborhoods to address issues of concern and find solutions together. In 2021, the Sheriff's Office made 83 arrests for boating under the influence. For the third year in a row, Okaloosa County is ranked #1 in the State of Florida for boating under the influence arrests. Due to the efforts of our deputies, they saw a significant decrease from 25 boat crashes with injuries in 2020 to 14 in 2021. This was attributed to targeted media, partnering with the local liveries to spread information about the dangers and consequences of boating under the influence, participated in Operation Dry Water, which is a national effort to curb BUI's, and participated in the Designated Skipper Campaign which is a national program through the Sea Tow Foundation.

Another key component of our public safety is the Destin Fire Control District. The district just opened a new station off Calhoun Avenue in July, which will house their newly purchased Engine 19 once it arrives. They secured several grants, one being the Port Authority Grant, which will provide the fire department with a 42' fire boat with more enhanced capabilities to handle any of the vast fishing fleet or large condos on the water here in our area. They also added a type I Technical Rescue Team, where they can handle all types of advanced rescues from confined space emergencies to building collapse rescues. They are the only team of this level north of Orlando that has this type of certification and training. During the 2021 season the Beach Safety Division aided with over 157,000 preventative acts, rescued 403 people, and responded to 67 major medical incidents.

To our first responders, thank you for your devotion, bravery, service, and commitment to the safety of our city, our residents as well as our visitors – not just today, but every day.

Please join me in sharing your thanks and recognition to our outstanding city employees and first responders.

Destin's vision and strategic planning is a collaborative effort across our community. This is the opportunity for our businesses and our residents to work with city staff and our council members to shape the future of Destin. What's great about visioning and strategic planning is that it gives us an opportunity to understand what the community needs, and we get to work together to accomplish that.

To facilitate this planning the Community Development Department is beginning a major public engagement effort to involve our citizens and community partners that will allow us to usher in a unified community development vision. The list of projects currently being worked on includes the Land Development Code update, Harbor Capacity Study, Mobility Plan, Impact Fee program update, and Comprehensive Plan updates. The Council and I highly recommend that, our resident families and the development partners in the city, take time to be part of this effort and help shape the recommendations that will come for Council consideration tomorrow, February 23rd.

Destin is led by a committed and volunteer council who generously give of their time because they are passionate about Destin. They work hard. They work for FREE. They have been diligent in investing in Destin's future by focusing on common goals and at times, making difficult decisions on challenging issues. Our council seeks community input and gives our residents the opportunity to share how they want to see our city evolve in the years to come. It will take all of us to develop a great plan where future generations of Destin will continue to live, work, and play in the place that we love.

During my tenure, my goal was to maintain the integrity and heritage that Destin was built upon and to achieve the objectives set within our strategic plan. And, also have shorter meetings...which we achieved some of the time. In all seriousness, my main vision was to maintain the heritage of our city because if we ever lose our heritage, we're going to lose our identity. Despite our beautiful beaches, shopping, recreational activities, and the tremendous growth we are experiencing in this great community, the heritage of Destin needs to remain above all. How it was founded, the fishermen and their families that made it grow, the integrity and hard work they imparted on generation after generation is what separates us from every other community in the United States, and we need to hold on to that sentiment. We need to espouse and highlight these values as we move forward in everything we say and do. Our heritage is what defines a community, and it takes a community to achieve our vision.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the City of Destin.

- B. Joe's Bayou Recreational Area Improvement Project update from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Mr. Pierce Barrett of FDEP provided an update on the Joe's Bayou Recreational Area Improvement Project.

Project History

- 2016 – Project Selected as a RP – 1 Recreational Enhancement Project by FL Trustee Implementation Group (FL TIG)
- 2020 – FDEP Released Request for Solicitations for Professional Planning, Design, Permitting Services and Construction Administration
- 2021 – Executed Contract w/Taylor Engineering, Inc for the Planning, Design, Permitting and Construction Administration Services
- 2021 – Issued Notice to Proceed to Consulting Team and began the process of Planning and Designing the proposed project and developing a project website.
- 2022 – Release Project Website and Public Survey and continue with planning and design of project amenities

Project Description

- This project includes actions to increase recreational access at Joe's Bayou Recreation Area/Mattie Kelly Park and Nature Trail as follows:
- Improve access to the existing boat ramp area and access piers
- Replace the existing fishing pier
- Development of the former CEMEX site with new seawall, additional parking, walking trails and viewing areas
- Creation of a Living Shoreline w/Breakwaters
- Stormwater Pond Restoration
- Saltmarsh and Upland Restoration
- Enhancements and improvements to a kayak/paddle-craft launch
- Rehabilitation and expansion to existing parking areas

- Interpretive educational signage
- Lighting Improvements
- Landscaping/benches/trash receptacles
- Upgrading of Nature Walk
- Wetland enhancements
- Restrooms
- Inclusion of ADA accessibility to all improvements where possible

Funding

- Funding provided through the NRDA Final Restoration Plan RP-1
- Total Amount Allocated - \$12,202,891 (Administration, Engineering, Construction)

Project Team

- FDEP – Funding, Project Management
- Consultant Team
 - Taylor Engineering – Prime Consultant
 - Project Management
 - Coastal Engineering
 - DAG Architects – Project Architect
 - Halff Associates, Inc – Civil Engineering
- City of Destin Staff – Project Input

Plans Review

Permitting

Project Update

- Review of Background and Historical Data – Completed
- Initial Site Reviews – Completed
- Development of Project Website and Public Survey – Completed
- Surveys – Boundary, topographic, and Bathymetric, Natural Resources – Completed
- Geotechnical Investigations – Initial investigations - Completed
- Existing Structure Assessment – Completed
- Next Steps – Release of Website and Public Survey – March 1, 2022 (30 days)

Review and Assess results of public survey and present to City Council

Planning Assessments (traffic circulation, stormwater, parking, boat ramp, coastal conditions and waterfront structures) and Architectural Master Plan

Design – 30% (Public Presentation after completion of 30%), 60%, 90% and Final Plans and Specs

- Existing Structure Assessment – Completed
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- Permitting – FDEP/USACE Submerged Lands

FDEP Environmental Resource Permit

Local – Development Order

Building Permit

These activities are anticipated to be completed in early 2023.

- Release for Bids and start of Construction – 2023 – 2024.

Project Website and Public Input Survey

- Release – March 1, 2022
- Public Survey – 30 days
- Project Update – continuous throughout project duration
- Link: [https://kgreene562.wixsite .com/jbrai](https://kgreene562.wixsite.com/jbrai)

Councilmember Bagby recommends that a handout be produced and provided to everyone that launches a boat at Joe's Bayou reminding them to take the Joe's Bayou Recreation Area survey once the link to the survey becomes available on the City of Destin website. He also recommends placing a sign on the walking path at the park reminding people to take the survey.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Cyron Marler, a Destin resident and former council member, stated that before he left the council, he and the city's Public Works Director worked on a plan to have the intersection at Benning Drive, 4th Street, and 1st Street realigned to remedy a line-of-sight problem at that intersection. He asked the council to follow up with the Public Works Director and take the necessary steps to remedy the situation as this is a serious safety issue which could result in a tragedy.

Mr. Marler also noted that they placed a bigger speed hump on Beach Drive, a lot bigger than the one that was there before. He asked the council to consider lowering the speed hump slightly.

Finally, Mr. Marler mentioned that the Florida Power and Light (FPL) recently increased their rates, which is outrageous especially for families on a limited income. Several counties are now discussing the feasibility of forming their own electric utility. He urged the council to conduct the necessary due diligence to try to lower the rates or follow the lead of the other counties.

Mr. Mike Abadie, a Destin resident and livery operator, stated that his experience with the new livery vessel application program has been very good. Last year's application consisted of 67 pages, and it took him about 3 days to complete it. This time it only took him 15 to 20 minutes, and that he only had to upload 5 pages of documents. The overall process only took about 30 minutes, including having the documents notarized at city hall. He added that he was treated professionally by the Code Compliance staff, and that the entire experience was nothing short of excellent.

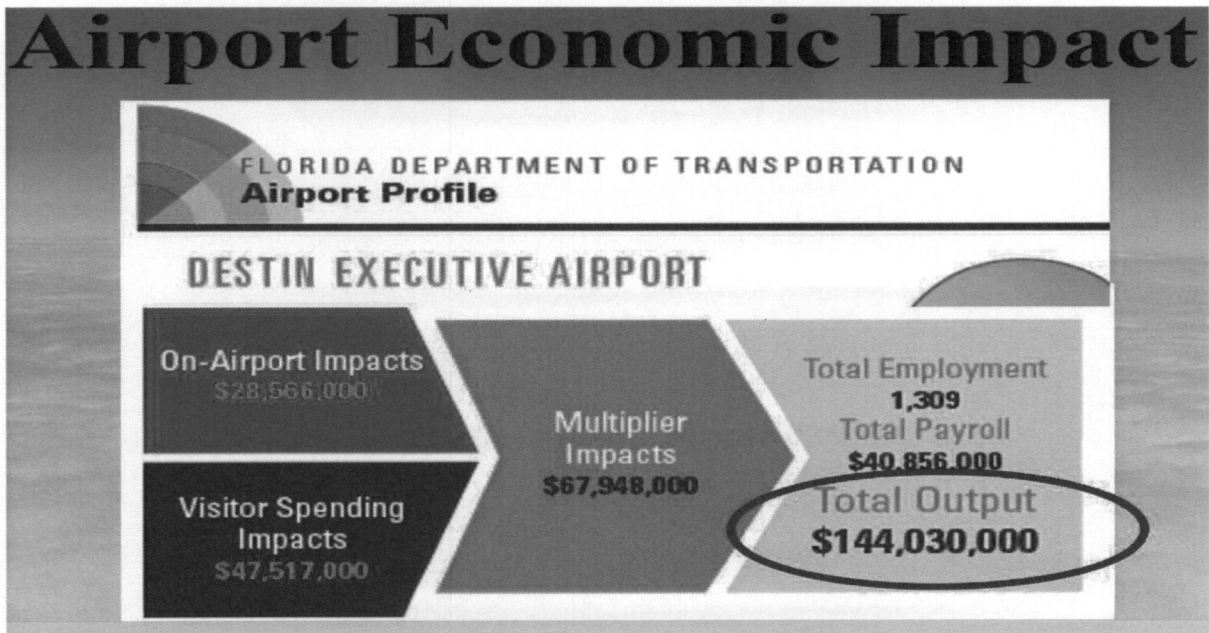
Ms. Lisa Rockwell, a Destin resident, provided the following slide presentation:

Encroachment: Treat to Airports / Treat to Quality of Life

New approved development near the airport boundary is clearly encroaching on the runway, clearly affecting the airport, and a threat to the quality of life of citizens who are going to live there.

Airports + Residential Homes

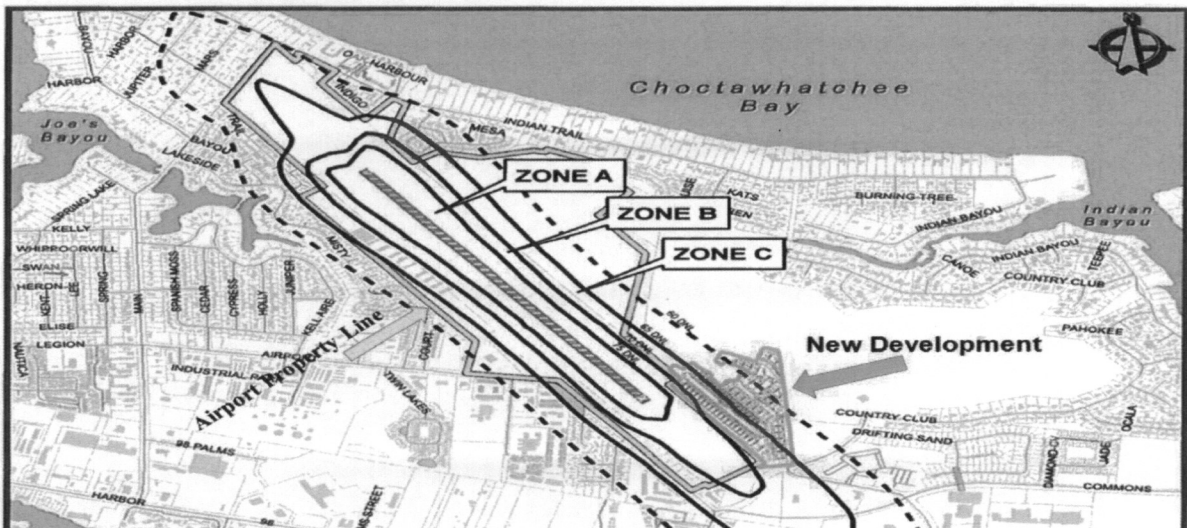
- Complaints from homeowners
- Political pressure
- Airport restrictions
- Airport closure
 - Santa Monica, California – East Hampton Long Island Airport scheduled for foreclosure in 6 days all due to noise complaints from those living in homes too close to the airport
 - It could happen in Destin. No airport with residential development around it is immune to this problem.



Economic impact of airport should not be taken for granted.

2013 Official Noise Exposure Map

Figure 7.15.08A



- The most current Noise Exposure map dated 2013.
- Noise zones clearly marked, and new development outlined. New development almost in the noise sensitive area. Almost one-third of the homes inside the incompatible noise zones.
- Noise zones based on scientific decibel levels.

Federal Land-Use Compatibility Chart

Exhibit 11-3. Land-Use Compatibility* with Yearly Day-Night Average Sound Levels

Land Use	Yearly DNL Sound Level (decibels)					
	<65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	>80
Residential						
Residential, other than mobile homes and transient lodgings	Y	N (1)	N (1)	N	N	N
Mobile home parks	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Transient lodgings	Y	N (1)	N (1)	N (1)	N	N
Public Use						
Schools	Y	N (1)	N (1)	N	N	N

Y = Land use and related structures compatible without restrictions

N = Land use and related structures are not compatible and should be prohibited

- Above chart shows uses of land that are and are not incompatible with airports, with "N" means not compatible with airports, and should be prohibited.
- 33 lots from the newly approved development violates the noise zones; 7 of which are within Zone B.
- Developer requested development of 11 more homes along the western portion of the airport in January 2022, all within the noise zones, but was denied by the city council.
- Need council's continued support on this issue.
- The development area was previously zoned Recreational until 2019, when it was rezoned back to Residential, which was against recommendations from Okaloosa County.
 - The county's Technical Response Memorandum states, "*As proposed, the requested rezoning does not appear to provide a transition of uses compatible with existing airport.*" They also recommended some further planning and collaboration.

Acceptable Encroachment can be achieved with Compatible Land Use

Non-Compatible

**Residential
Educational**

Compatible

**Commercial
Agricultural
Industrial
Recreational**

Federal Regulations governing development near airports

Part 77 - OBSTACLES

Structures

Building Heights

Antennas

Safe Manuevering of Aircraft

Part 150 - NOISE

Compatible Land Use

Noise Compatibility Planning

Noise Exposure Maps

Community Coexist w/ Airport

- Okaloosa County receives money from the federal government. They have accepted over \$4.9 million in federal funds since 2012 for two major projects.
 - To lengthen the airport runway
 - Construction of control tower
 - Both improvements are aimed to attract larger jets to come to Destin
 - Historically, the biggest complaints from residents that reside near the airport involved larger jets
 - Accepting federal funds and allowing construction of housing development create a conflict of interest
 - The county signed a contract with the federal government when they accepted the money agreeing to 39 specific conditions to protect the federal investment
 - One item on the list involves preventing incompatible land uses around the airport

- According to the Director of Airports, the reason they have not come before this council to oppose the residential development in the noise zones around the airport was during the process, they received approval back from FAA stating that the FAA has no objections to the development
- In contact with the FAA, it was determined that the FAA only provided approval for was the review that ensured all structures will not be in the way of airborne aircrafts
 - The FAA did not approve the residential development in the noise zones.
 - The FAA approved Part 77 review for safe maneuvering of aircrafts
 - The FAA did not approve Part 150 that ensures the community can co-exist with the airports.

Federal - FAA

Airport Safety and Operations, 1979
 FAR Part 150, Noise Compatibility Program
 Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982
 FAA Airport Compliance Policy
 Federal Grant Assurance 21, Compatible Land Use

State - FDOT

FL Statutes, Chapter 340
 Gov. Crist, House Bill 1021, 2010
 Airport Compatible Land Use Handbook (FDOT)
 State Grant Assurance for Compatible Land Use

County - Collier County Airport Authority

Airport Master Plan
 Technical Response No. 19

Mitigation Strategies

- 1. Sound Level Reduction (SLR)**
 - reduces noise, doesn't eliminate
 - windows/doors closed
 - no reduction outdoors
- 2. Airport Disclosure Statement**
- 3. HOA Covenants and Restrictions**

- Mitigation strategies will not fix the problem
 - Sound Level Reduction only reduces and not eliminate noise. There is no reduction outdoors
 - Sound Level Reduction is not recognized as noise mitigation strategy
 - Not being able to open windows and use the yard is a serious quality of life issues
- Sound Level Reduction is not recognized by the federal government as justification to allow homes to be built beside the established noise zones. It is only intended to mitigate pre-existing problems.
- According to the FAA, new incompatible development within the 65-decibel contour (Zone C in the zoning map), even with sound level attenuation is inconsistent with the FAA guidelines and is disapproved for purposes of Part 150.
- Airport Disclosure Form only includes a brief statement notifying the purchaser that the land lies within the noise zone area. The form is not required to be given to the purchaser until the day of closing.
- The HOA Covenants and Restrictions serves little people. It contains nothing more than a liability statement to keep the county from being sued in the future if residents had health issues from fumes, vibrations, sleep deprivations, or whatever they want to claim.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Capital Project Status
- B. Operations Financial Report
- C. Milling/Resurfacing/Restriping of a Section of Scenic 98 (Matthew Blvd to Cobia Street)
- D. Request for final plat approval for Harbor Place Townhomes DO-21-08
- E. Re-Striping of Azalea Drive, authorization to issue a Purchase Order
- F. Bert Harris Settlement Agreement for 71 Tarpon Street
- G. Bert Harris Settlement Agreement for 73 Tarpon Street
- H. Upgrade of Position: Human Resource Coordinator PT to FT Human Resource Specialist
- I. Destin Little League Parade Approval
- J. Approval of minutes of January 27, 2022 Council Strategic Visioning Session
- K. Boards & Committees Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Wagner, to approve Consent Agenda items 3A, 3B, and 3D thru 3K, as printed above, passed 6-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Schmidt was absent from the meeting).

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- A. Mobility Plan and Fee Schedule Update

According to the City Manager, this is in line with council's direction last year to replace existing transportation concurrency with a mobility fee-based plan. The purpose of the Mobility Plan is to establish long-term needs for the transportation network to facilitate the safe and effective movements of people to and around the City of Destin.

Mr. Alan Steinbeck, 3TP Ventures, Inc, presented the mobility plan and fee schedule update.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Mobility Plan is to establish long-term needs for the transportation network to facilitate the safe and effective movement of people to and around the City of Destin.

Vision:

Destin will be a well-designed community where the transportation system supports and enhances the living, working and visitation experience.

Topic Areas:

- Roadway level of service
- Multimodal facilities network
- Safety
- Future of transit
- Placemaking and quality of life

Roadway Level of Service:

- Covered under Mobility Fee structure
- Plateau of volumes followed by growth
- Planned network needs to be completed
- Intersection and other improvements can impact operations

US 98 Segments – Volume to Capacity	2021	2016	2011
US Hwy 98 between Marler Bridge and Stahlman Avenue	1.03	0.92	0.91
US Hwy 98 between Stahlman Avenue and Benning Drive	0.97	0.88	1.00
US Hwy 98 between Benning Drive and Beach Drive	1.00	0.93	1.05
US Hwy 98 between Beach Drive and Main Street	1.01	0.95	1.03
US Hwy 98 between Main Street and Gulf Shore Drive	1.01	1.13	1.00
US Hwy 98 between Gulf Shore Drive and Airport Road	1.12	1.00	1.09
US Hwy 98 between Airport Road and Scenic Highway 98	1.28	0.96	1.15
US Hwy 98 between Scenic Highway 98 and Henderson Beach Road	1.39	1.05	1.08
US Hwy 98 between Henderson Beach Road and Triumph Drive	0.91	0.99	1.08
US Hwy 98 between Triumph Drive and Matthew Blvd.	0.89	0.73	0.80
US Hwy 98 between Matthew Blvd. and Danny Wuerffel Way	0.93	0.76	0.80
US Hwy 98 between Danny Wuerffel Way and Crystal Beach Drive	0.96	0.74	0.80
US Hwy 98 between Crystal Beach Drive and Regatta Bay Blvd	0.84	1.21	1.19
US Hwy 98 between Regatta Bay Blvd and Tequesta Drive	0.87	1.11	1.19
US Hwy 98 between Tequesta Drive and Walton County Line	0.78	1.06	1.22

Collector Segments	Pk Hr LOS (2021)
Commons Drive between Airport Road and Indian Bayou Trail	D
Commons Drive between Indian Bayou Trail and Diamond Cove	D
Commons Drive between Diamond Cove and Henderson Beach Road	D
Commons Drive between Henderson Beach Road and Triumph Drive	D
Commons Drive between Triumph Drive and Kelly Plantation Drive	D
Commons Drive between Kelly Plantation Drive and Matthew Boulevard	D
Legion Drive between Beach Drive and Main Street	D
Main Street between Airport Road and Kelly Street	D
Scenic Hwy 98 between Dolphin St and Walton County Line	D

US 98 Segments	Pk Hr LOS (2021)
US Hwy 98 between Marler Bridge and Stahlman Avenue	E
US Hwy 98 between Stahlman Avenue and Benning Drive	D
US Hwy 98 between Benning Drive and Beach Drive	E
US Hwy 98 between Beach Drive and Main Street	E
US Hwy 98 between Main Street and Gulf Shore Drive	E
US Hwy 98 between Gulf Shore Drive and Airport Road	F
US Hwy 98 between Airport Road and Scenic Highway 98	D
US Hwy 98 between Scenic Highway 98 and Henderson Beach Road	D
US Hwy 98 between Henderson Beach Road and Triumph Drive	D
US Hwy 98 between Triumph Drive and Matthew Blvd.	D
US Hwy 98 between Matthew Blvd. and Danny Wuerffel Way	D
US Hwy 98 between Danny Wuerffel Way and Crystal Beach Drive	D
US Hwy 98 between Crystal Beach Drive and Regatta Bay Blvd	D
US Hwy 98 between Regatta Bay Blvd and Tequesta Drive	D
US Hwy 98 between Tequesta Drive and Walton County Line	D

Multimodal Facilities Network

- Goals of the comprehensive plan met
- Network not complete
- Pathways plan needs updating
- Neighborhoods need focus

Roadway	Sidewalk Gap	Side	Length
US Highway 98	Matthew Boulevard to Regions Way	South	3,400
US Highway 98	Matthew Boulevard to Hutchinson Street	North	1,200
Calhoun Avenue	US Highway 98 north 660'; Clement Taylor Park to Kelly Street	West	3,900
Sibert Avenue	Calhoun Avenue to Zerbe Street and Forest Street to Kelly Street	East	2,500
Stahlman Avenue	Pine Street to Kelly Street	Both	2,000
Mountain Drive	Stahlman Avenue to Benning Drive	North	4,250
Azalea Drive	Stahlman Avenue to 400' west of Benning Drive	South	3,300
Azalea Drive	400' west of Benning Drive	North	400
Kelly Street	360' east of Calhoun Avenue to Benning Drive	North	2,750
Benning Drive	Mountain Drive to Kelly Street	West	3,000
Main Street	Airport Road to Kelly Street	East	1,800
Gulf Shore Drive	US Highway 98 to Sandpiper Cover Drive	West	1,850
Indian Bayou Trail	Country Club Drive to Commons Drive	East	2,600
Commons Drive	900' east of Indian Bayou Trail to 400' west of Henderson Beach Road	South	2,100
Commons Drive	750' east of Henderson Beach Road to Triumph Road	North	1,000
Commons Drive	200' east of Triumph Road to Matthew Boulevard	South	3,700
Henderson Beach Road	US Highway 98 to Commons Boulevard	Both	2,000
Regatta Bay Boulevard	US Highway 98 south 530'	West	530
Dolphin Street	250' north of Scenic Highway 98 to 850' south of US Highway 98	East	1,650

Safety

- US Hwy 98 issues related to conflicts
- Neighborhood issues related to speed, design and availability of facilities
- Data driven assessment is needed to identify and prioritize interventions
- Set goals, track and actively implement

Future of Transit

- Goals of the comprehensive plan not met
- Existing transit system has not expanded and is underperforming
- New types of service and technology call for new solutions and investment
- Mode shift and capacity maintenance

Placemaking and Quality of Life

- Moving from suburban model of development to infill and retrofitting places
- Shifting modes and reducing trip lengths
- Satisfying parking demand more involved
- Meeting transportation needs of residents and visitors

GROWTH FORECAST – CHANGE UP TO 2050									
Planning Area	SF Pop	MF Pop	Housing Units	Hotel /Motel Units	Seasonal Pop	Serv Emp	Comm Emp	Ind Emp	Tot Emp
Airport	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Crystal Beach	104	236	163	80	340	59	45	18	111
Gulf Resort	11	63	36	84	59	51	45	0	106
Harbor	59	284	165	125	280	301	138	21	473
Henderson Beach	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
Holiday Isle	38	262	144	30	225	64	23	8	95
Town Center Commons	90	472	270	228	449	211	165	43	407
Village	173	331	242	0	531	22	16	3	41
Grand Total	475	1,648	1,020	547	1,884	713	433	93	1,239

Step 1

- Trends and Conditions
 - Evaluate trends in traffic and network utilization
 - Assess level and quality of service
 - Inventory current and planned projects

Step 2

- Draft Projects
 - Identify potential capacity projects and network improvements
 - Assess needs for different parts of city

B. Facilities and Needs Assessment RFP 21-11-PS

The City Manager explained that the purpose of the Facilities Condition and Needs Assessment is to provide comprehensive documentation and analysis of the city's existing built facilities. This analysis will be utilized for prioritizing capital improvements and maintenance requirements as well as assisting decision-makers with allocating operating budgets and long-term facility needs for various municipal facilities. Four bids were received for this RFP. All submissions were deemed responsive. Matrix Design Group, Inc. received the most points and Tetra Tech, Inc. came in second. He asked for council's authorization to negotiate with Matrix Design Group, Inc. In the event that negotiations are unsuccessful, staff to enter negotiations with Tetra Tech, Inc.

Councilmember Bagby moved to authorize the City Manager to enter negotiations with Matrix Design Group, Inc. and report back to the council with a contract to consider. In the event that negotiations are unsuccessful, staff should enter negotiations with the second highest ranked vendor and bring back to the council a contract to consider. Councilmember Hebert provided a second to the motion, which passes 6-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Schmidt was absent from the meeting).

C. Announcements

The City Manager made the following announcements:

- Community Engagement workshop in the Annex Chambers on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 5:30 PM. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- Urging everyone to take the Joe's Bayou Recreation Area Survey online on March 1st.
- Median Beautification Project on US Hwy 98, from Airport Road to the Marler Bridge, scheduled to begin Wednesday, February 23rd.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Second reading of Ordinance 22-04-CN - Reduction of Speed Limit on Airport Road, 98 Palms Blvd, and Azalea Drive

The City Attorney read Ordinance 22-04-CN by title, and then presented it to the city council on second reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE ENTIRETY OF AIRPORT ROAD FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH US HIGHWAY 98 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH MAIN STREET, A DISTANCE OF 8500+/- FEET; PROVIDING FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE ENTIRETY OF 98 PALMS BOULEVARD FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH MAIN STREET TO ITS TERMINATION AT A PRIVATE ROAD SERVICING A SHOPPING COMPLEX, A DISTANCE OF 1200+/- FEET; PROVIDING FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE ENTIRETY OF AZALEA DRIVE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH STAHLMAN AVENUE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH BENNING DRIVE, A DISTANCE OF 3700+/- FEET; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Cyron Marler commented that lowering the speed limit on Airport Road will not help improve safety unless they improve enforcement action on that road to reduced speed of vehicles. The average speed right now is about 45 mph. He is still very hesitant to drive his Low-Speed Vehicle on that road even with the reduced speed limit.

Having no further comments from the public, the mayor closed the public hearing portion of this item and turned the matter over to the city council for their discussion and consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve Ordinance 22-04-CN on second reading passed 5-1 Council members King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Wagner voted “yes”; Councilmember Braden voted “no”; Councilmember Schmidt was absent from the meeting).

B. Proposed Annotations for Land Development Code Articles I and II

Community Development Director Louis Zunguze noted that over the past 3 years, the city has diligently and judiciously undertaken the task of updating and aligning the city’s Comprehensive Plan with the Future Land Use Map and the Zoning Map. That task is now complete. The city now needs to update and align its Land Development Code with the recent changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The framework and methodology for the Land Development Code updates are detailed in the staff report. This report provides both the Local Planning Agency and Harbor and Waterways Board recommendations to the city council.

The mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the matter on the floor. Having none, the mayor closed the public hearing portion of this item and turned the matter over to the city council for their discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff and the City Land Use Attorney to prepare an ordinance codifying the referenced updates to LDC Articles 1 & 2, with such codification to include recommendations from the LPA and Harbor & Waterways Board; seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Schmidt was absent from the meeting).

- C. Indian Bayou West 1st Amendment – Curtis Gwin of Indian Bayou West, LLC, on behalf of Indian Bayou Properties, is requesting approval for a Major Deviation to a Major Development Order. The project is located at 1 Country Club Dr. E. (Parcel ID: 00-2S-22-0000-0046-0000), with the property totaling approximately 69.16 acres. The applicant is proposing an addition of 9 lots to the previously approved 86 single-family, long-term residential lots (approved under DO 21-12), for a total of 95 lots, utilizing the same project area. This project was previously reviewed by the City Council on January 3, 2022, but the request has been modified since that time. The proposed deviation is an amendment to the previous submittal.

Item rescheduled to Monday, April 4, 2022 regular city council meeting beginning at 6:00 PM.

6. COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL, LAND USE ATTORNEY AND CITY ATTORNEY

- A. Councilmember Braden
- B. Councilmember Wagner

C. Councilmember Destin

Councilmember Destin requests Cross Town Connector item be placed on the March 7, 2022 council meeting agenda and invite Atkins Engineering back to discuss the architectural rendering council requested at the last meeting.

Councilmember Destin also requested that the Compensation Study be placed on the March 7, 2022 council meeting agenda for discussion.

D. Councilmember Bagby

Councilmember Bagby requests staff provides council a copy of the Joe's Bayou and Destin Airport presentations as copies were not included in their agenda packet.

- E. Councilmember Hebert
- F. Councilmember King
- G. Councilmember Schmidt
- H. Mayor Gary Jarvis
- I. Land Use Attorney
- J. City Attorney

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Shane Moody, President and CEO of Destin Chambers, noted that something needs to be done to the speed limit and traffic on the east portion of US Hwy 98. Motorists are driving on a high rate of speed, passing each other, and blowing their horns at one another.

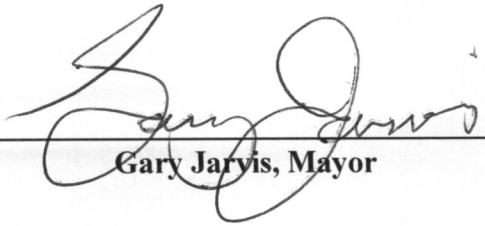
Mr. John Stephens, Destin resident and livery operator, announced that the Watersports Coalition will be filming the second boat safety video in March and that it will be available soon.

A Destin resident asked the council to consider placing a crosswalk or speed bump at the corner of Destin Point at Gulf Shore Drive. He stated that traffic is out of control in that area and that he almost got hit by a car while trying to cross the street. He also asked the council to consider creating its own police force.

The mayor stated that the City of Destin is a small town with big city problems and a small budget. The city has explored the idea of creating and operating its own police force in the past. It is very expensive, and they would need to increase taxes tremendously in order to afford it. He continued that the level of service they receive from the Sheriff's Department for the money they spend has been exceptional. They try their very best with the resources they have to enforce the law. He also stated that this issue is not being ignored, and that council is taking steps to calm traffic down including lowering the speed limits around town. He recommends contacting the City Manager with regards to the process involved with placement of speed humps.

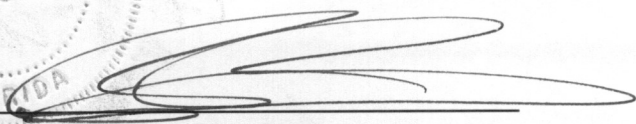
Councilmember Bagby recommends the citizen attends the Destin Public Works and Safety Committee meeting as this is the committee that makes recommendations to council with regards to speed humps, crosswalks, and signage.

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.



Gary Jarvis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rey Bailey, City Clerk