

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022 - 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, February 8, 2022, 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.	Mark Brown	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Tom Weidenhamer		Michael Burgess PW Director
Sam Perman		JT Hart PW Deputy Director
John Stephens		
Marcie Bell		
John Green		

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 11, 2022

Committee member Weidenhamer moved to approve the January 11, 2022 minutes as written, with Committee member Stephens providing the second. A roll call vote of 6-0 was taken and the motion passed.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

• **Beach Safety Program – Joe D’Agostino**

Mr. D’Agostino spoke of how the program is going into its 19th season and described how was created because of the 25 drowning deaths that occurred in 2003 between Panama City and Pensacola. He explained their beach service is now the largest in the Panhandle because starting this year, they will now be providing lifeguard services to the Henderson Beach State Park for the first time. The program will start the on the first Saturday in March and run through the last Sunday in October. He provided the members with the shift plans and lifeguard beach coverage they will have during spring break, peak summer, and the end of the season.

Committee member Perman asked about the flag system and ~~how that works.~~ *the times they're raised & lowered.*

Mr. D’Agostino explained that the only park that has a flag system on the west side of Henderson State Park is June White Decker Park therefore, they use virtual flags to push the information out about the surf conditions to the public through Facebook because most of the beaches are private property. There was a brief discussion about the beach accesses at Norriego Point.

• **Lt. Jason Fulghum – OCSO**

Explained that Spring Break starts early this year on February 26th and runs through April 24th and spoke of how the Sheriff’s Office estimates this year will be just as busy if not busier than last year. He described the coverage they will have and how they will continue to write Notice to

Appear tickets instead of arresting and taking the individuals to jail, because of the ongoing Covid Pandemic. Adding unless they are more serious offenses than underage drinking.

Lt. Fulghum also spoke of how most of the problems they encounter are from High School aged teens and how the Sheriff's Office will obtain a blanket trespass warrants and issue trespassing to the teens that congregate on the beach behind private properties. Noting they seem to have the most problems behind the Back Porch Restaurant. He also discussed the marine units they have, where they patrol and how their jurisdiction goes 9-miles out into the Gulf.

Mr. Burgess spoke of the Aqua Alert that is being put together similar to the Amber Alerts but for water related emergencies, and how it came about from the missing kayaker who was never found.

5. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

➤ Variable Message Board Signs

Mr. Burgess explained that staff is asking for the Committee to consider using some of the surtax funds to purchase 4-units. He explained they're solar powered and can be used to provide power for emergency situations for power is loss and many other situations where they may be needed. He explained the funds for the purchase are in a revenue account would need to be transferred to a budgeted line item. And, to do so, a budget amendment adopted through an ordinance is necessary. Adding the Finance Director, Krystal Strickland will attend their meeting in March and will explain the process.

Motion by Committee member Bell, seconded by Committee member Weidenhamer to support the purchase of the three Variable Message Board Signs. The motion passed 6-0.

➤ Resurfacing, Milling and Restriping Scenic Hwy. 98 Matthew Blvd. to Cobia Street

Mr. Burgess described the condition of this roadway to the members and how after receiving a quote for the repair, the decision was made to resurface the area based on cost effectiveness.

Motion by Committee member Perman, seconded by Committee member Bell to support the resurfacing of Scenic Hwy. 98 from Matthew Blvd. to Cobia Street. The motion passed 6-0.

➤ Restriping of Azalea Street

Mr. Burgess explained this is a walk-on item stemmed from receiving a complaint from a citizen who said they almost got in a traffic accident because the lanes could not be differentiated. Additionally, he has not received a quote for the cost yet but just wanted to let them know of the situation and he will take this to City Council for their consideration, once the quote is received.

➤ Stormwater Concerns

The Chairman announced that there is not anyone in the public present to discuss this item.

➤ Public Works/Emergency Management Update

▪ **Draft Road Striping Policy** – Mr. Burgess explained that he is being more selective in this process than how it was handled in the past. Essentially, when a collector road is

milled and resurfaced, the entire area will get the full treatment, and anything not on the list will just get the basic striping treatments on a as needed basis.

▪ **Departmental Update:**

Currently, the Maintenance Technician/Mechanic is still open with no qualified applicants to date and the base salary is \$15.50/hr. And if the members know of anyone to please ask them to come apply.

▪ **Operational Update:**

- Median Maintenance Contract Renewal - ZIIC. Explained that last year this contract was only renewed for 6-months, and Council approved the remaining 6-months at their meeting last month.
- Lowering Speed Limits from 35 mph to 30 mph on Airport Road, Azalea and Palms Blvd Ordinance was approved at the 1st reading.
- Facilities Needs Assessment Bid explained the process of how the city buildings will get assessed for their condition and what will need to be done in the future.
- Harbor Pump is operational and is currently running on its winter schedule. There currently is an electrical issue and the contractor is scheduled to address the problem.
- Sidewalks repairs are underway.
- LED Streetlight Conversion – Phase I is underway.
- Legion Street Sinkhole is on schedule for repair.
- Debris Management Contracts have been renewed.
- Median Improvement Project on Hwy 98 from the Marler Bridge to Airport Road is scheduled to begin the second week of February with the first phase being the installation on new conduit for the irrigation pumps, then they'll start removing the existing ground cover bushes and replace them with Oaks, Ilex trees and other plantings.

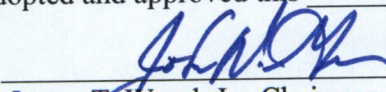
7. **MEMBER COMMENTS:**

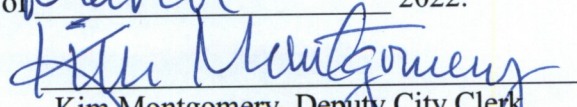
- **Chairman Wood** – Spoke of the importance being cognizant and the need to make eye contact with the drivers at the pedestrian crosswalks located at both Beach and Benning when crossing. Because of the drivers who may run the red light.
- **Committee member Bell** – Asked for conformation that the replacement of the lights on Gulf Shore Drive will not be the bright LED lights. According to Mr. Burgess, those will be replaced with turtle rated lights. She also spoke of the need to have the pedestrian crossings at Moreno and Norriego on Gulf Shore Drive with some sort of warning lighting installed to alert drivers at night that there are pedestrians present and wanting to cross because of blind spots or simply they blend in with the surroundings, when barely clothed.
- **Committee member Stephens** – Mentioned there is a pothole on Zerbe St./Sibert Ave. in need of repair.
- **Committee member Perman** – Reported that there a 3-way stop should be considered at Calhoun Ave. and Kelly Street because of the curve. She also asked if there is a law that people on paddleboards have to be tethered to their boards.

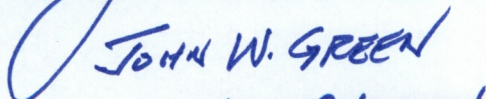
There was a brief discussion regarding speed humps, speed tables, the associated cost, and how they are installed and several locations in the city where they should be considered. As well as the process involved for approval.

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 8th day of March 2022.


James T. Wood, Jr., Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk


JOHN W. GREEN
Vice Chairman