

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chairman Green called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

James T. Wood, Jr.
Tom Weidenhamer
Sam Perman
John Stephens
Marcie Bell
John Green

Members Absent

Staff

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Michael Burgess PW Director
JT Hart PW Deputy Director
Joe Bodi, Engineering Asst. II.
Krystal Strickland, Finance Director

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 8, 2022

Committee member Perman pointed out that there is a motion made but not who made it. The decision was made to discuss this at end of the meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) – Dan Fuller**

Mr. Fuller explained the MBBA was created in 1989, how and why the tolls were created and why tolls are still collected if the bridges are paid. Explaining how they are used for the continual maintenance and repairs necessary to keep them safe. He spoke of the consequences of the aftermath of past storms and the pandemic had on their budget while tolls are suspended by the Governor and how long it takes to regain those lost funds.

Committee member Bell asked why they don't use the Toll-by-Plate program instead of stopping traffic when someone needs to pay with cash.

Mr. Fuller explained they lose money with that program based on the fees they have to pay and by attempting to identify plates. Adding that they only use for those that try to evade paying the tolls. He spoke of how they recommend everyone to use a Sun Pass and how other state devices work together and is the recommended process for paying tolls.

➤ **Destin Water Users Update Q&A – Monica Wallace**

Mrs. Wallace explained to the members she is the Operations Manager for Destin Water Users (DWU) and provided the members with the history for the company and how the company was founded in 1963, started flowing water in 1964, provided wastewater in 1972 and later expanded to reclaimed

water in 1985. She spoke of how DWU produces drinking water, collects the used drinking water which is treated and then is reused for irrigation to a portion of the service area. How the solids are treated and turned into fertilizer for sod farms in Southern Alabama, and how the number of the ground wells, piping, water towers and staff employed by the company and future projects. She showed the members a brief Power Point Presentation and took and answered questions from the members.

➤ **Operations Financial Report – Krystal Strickland**

Ms. Strickland explained the unassigned fund balance is currently at \$40M with \$10M set aside for restricted reserves. She then briefly explained what the funds are used for, and how those funds are used for the city to operate until the next years Ad-Valorem comes in.

➤ **Capital Project Status Report**

- Citizen Directed Council Projects
- Crosstown Connector
- Beach Acquisition
- Feasibility Study for a multi-use event center
- Undergrounding electricity
- Transit Trolleys
- Feasibility for a city marina
- Annexation study
- Renewal & Replacement Program
- TRSAF – Intersection Safety has \$100k budgeted with \$17k encumbered as of now for contracts to address certain intersections

➤ **Budget Calendar**

- May 17, 2022 @ 5:30 pm is the initial Budget Workshop to discuss operations
 - COLA will be discussed – Staff was just recently caught up from a wage study
 - June 14, 2022 – Capital Improvement Program Budget Workshop to discuss funding the initial phase for Undergrounding will be discussed. Now is the time to approach Council with anything they see that needs to be funded for either the next year or to get on the 5-year CIP so grant funding can be researched
 - August 4, 2022 is the last date to get everything locked in for the TRIM notices with the Budget Hearing Notices next

➤ **Okaloosa Half Penny Infrastructure Surtax**

This is a 10-year process that expires in December 2029 now go towards undergrounding utilities since the County has stepped up and significantly agreed to fund the beach parcels for those parks.

- \$800K will be dedicated for over a 10-year period with upwards of \$255k can be budgeted to use or they can let it build up

➤ **We Love Our Children Signs**

Mr. Burgess explained this was a directive by Council member Schmidt, and asked the members if they know of any locations they feel these signs need to be placed, to please email him the location.

Committee member Stephens suggested parks, boat launches and schools if they are not already in place.

➤ **Re-Striping of Luke Ave and John Ave** – The Thermoplastic striping is faded and needs to be restriped. A quote has been obtained for \$18,672.00 from the Continuing Services Contractor and, the funding is available.

Motion by Committee member Bell, seconded by Committee member Weidenhamer to recommend the restriping of Luke Avenue and John Avenue to City Council for consideration and possible approval. The motion passed 6-0.

➤ **Departmental Update:**

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

Public Works staff at City Hall are relocating to the PW Building this coming week.

➤ **Operational Update:**

- Restriping of Azalea Drive was approved
- Flood Plain Report has been submitted to Council
- Facilities Condition Assessment was approved, and they will be surveying all city facilities in the upcoming weeks
- Council approved a 12" brush chipper for purchase
- Stormwater Pipe Repairs at Legion/Main Street has started
- Proclamation for National Public Works Week

➤ **Project Reports**

- Sidewalk assessment and survey for repairs are underway
- Installation of swales on 4th & 3rd Street
- Speed tables (3) on Calhoun Ave have been installed and will be painted when the asphalt is cured.
- Hwy 98 Median Improvements is under way
- Pavement Assessment to gauge the scoring and ranking of the streets has been done internally, to set priorities
- Signage Assessment is upcoming

➤ **Emergency Management Update**

- Hurricane Season starts June 1st
 - An above average hurricane season is anticipated
 - Emergency Management Operations & Instructions are up-to-date
 - Debris removal contracts are also up-to-date

- Airport Road at the Destin Oaks Apartments is on schedule for repair

5. MEMBER COMMENTS:

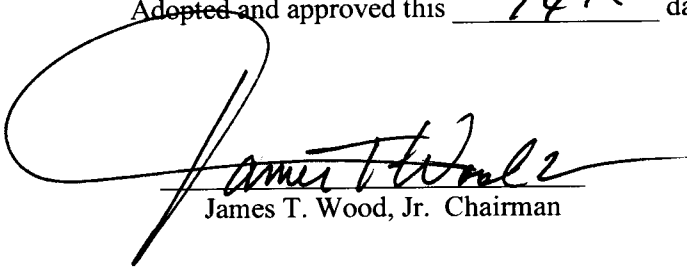
- **Committee member Bell** - provided the members and staff with pictures of flooding issues and locations on Holiday Isle. As well as curbing issues she has seen that could potentially cause an accident for bicyclers not being familiar with how the curbing drops off.
- **Committee member Perman** – Asked for the status of the motion activated crosswalks on Scenic Hwy 98 at the beach accesses. Mr. Burgess apologized and stated that he would have an update for her at their next meeting adding that they have to be FDOT approved to be installed. She also asked that the Dolphin Street widening be included in the 5–10-year CIP Plan. Mr. Burgess explained that the most part of the roadway that needs to be widened from Scenic Hwy 98 and it has no ribbon curbing that helps keep the roadway from falling apart. Also, the ROW not very wide and there are sewer and water lines along there. However, Mr. Burgess stated that he would investigate this further and provide them with an update.
- **Committee member Stephens** - Reported that at the public parking near McGuire's, there is a public parking sign has an arrow on it that points towards the McGuire's parking lot and could be confusing for tourists. Mr. Hart stated they would look into it.

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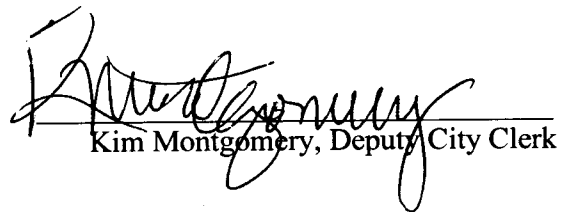
A brief discussion took place about who made a motion to recommend the 2022 Stormwater Master Plan Project List and Study Areas. Once it was determined that it was Committee member Green, **Committee member Perman made the motion which was seconded by Committee member Weidenhamer, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed 5-0.**

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 14th day of JUNE 2022.



James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman



Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk