

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 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, July 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. With the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

James T. Wood, Jr.
Tom Weidenhamer
Marcie Bell
Sam Perman
John Green (in at 6:30 p.m.)

Members Absent

Richard Hickey

Staff

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Michael Burgess PW Director
JT Deputy PW Director

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *May 11, 2021*

Committee member Weidenhamer stated that he could not vote to approve the minutes since he was unable to read them prior to the meeting. With only four voting members present, the decision was made to put them on the next meeting agenda for approval. Committee member Green was not currently present.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Update – Major Howell**

Major Howell informed the committee members that Capt. Abbott will be replacing him after this next City Council Meeting. And Sheriff Alden is moving towards a Community Policing Program.

Chairman Wood spoke of one of his biggest concerns is speed enforcement. Major Howell explained he has some statistics on that and a few other areas. He explained that from January to July of this year, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has conducted the following:

- 2085 Traffic Stops which resulted in:
 - 1252 have resulted in warnings
 - 315 Citations were issued
 - 97 Arrests
 - 63 DUI's

Also, Lt. Fulghum's Beach Units have issued their 60th BUI (Boating Under the Influence) and of that 59% are rental livery vessels.

Mr. Burgess mentioned he spoke with Committee member Hickey prior to the meeting and how he expressed his concern of seeing a number of vehicles parked in handicapped spaces and do not have their placards displayed, and how he feels the enforcement needs to be stepped up in the city.

Committee member Bell asked Major Howell if they enforce parking on the street. According to Maj. Howell, anytime there is a life safety issue, they will enforce it and take action. But they do take calls on priority.

Kristoffer Mercurio, who is the new Deputy Code Enforcement Manager was introduced and he provides a brief background of his experience.

➤ **Highway 98/Stahlman Avenue Traffic Analysis**

The Chairman asked for an update on what was revealed for the traffic light at this intersection that had the green ball, a right turn signal arrow and the white pedestrian walking signal lit up at the same time. According to Mr. Burgess, he reached out to the County who are responsible for maintaining the traffic signals and they informed him that it is an impossible operation of the signal even though he went to the intersection the same day and experienced it himself. He said that the County went to the site and tried to replicate the same situation and could not get it to happen and assured him that it cannot happen. Adding that signal box is aging and there may have been a glitch in the system.

He also informed the members that he emailed the Intersection Study that was performed by Volkert for their review, and he will place it on the next meeting's agenda for discussion and discuss some of their recommendations to consider and possibly make recommendations to Council.

➤ **Surtax Purchase**

Mr. Burgess informed the members that he got the approval from Council to purchase the two trash pumps with the State Grant reimbursing the city for one. And the Finance Director will be at their next meeting to discuss the budget.

➤ **LSV Update**

Mr. Burgess explained the ordinance will be going back to Council for their consideration, however, no action will be taken since it was not advertised.

➤ **Public Works/Emergency Management Update**

- City Surplus/Older Vehicles that are being replaced will go up for auction.
- 3 new vehicles have been purchased.
- Sibert Avenue Parking Improvements
 - The skinny lot between the cemetery and the parking lot was used by the contractor for their staging during their work for the Pedestrian Improvements on Calhoun and Zerbe therefore, they have agreed to grade it at no additional cost to the city. To implement an additional lit gravel paid parking lot for next year.

- The paid parking lots have made more money than ever this past year and at the first meeting in August he will be asking Council for funding to gravel and he's been working with Gulf Power to have lighting installed.
- The Harbor Pump is still down. The motor has been repaired, but the pump is still in the shop.
- Road Resurfacing/Restriping - staff will be bringing them a list to prioritize in October, once the funds are available for the new budget year.
- Several pipe failures in roadways on Airport Road just past Quail Lake, Indian Bayou at Country Club and Calhoun Avenue at Clement Taylor Park that are scheduled for repair by the Continuing Services Contractor for repair.
- FDOT Airport Road Curve Improvements is scheduled for next week. Mr. Burgess provided the members with the schedule, weather permitting.
- The Zerbe/Calhoun Pedestrian Sidewalk Project is nearing completion and explained it was delayed by the relocation of a power pole.

➤ **Emergency Management Update**

- Mr. Burgess explained the 2021 Disaster Preparedness plan is all up-to-date on what procedures and steps should be followed in the event of a hurricane and the aftermath.
- Purchased the two trash pumps, as mentioned earlier.

Committee member Bell asked where the Emergency Staff stay during a hurricane. Mr. Burgess explained generally staff would stay at City Hall or the Annex, but they also have Destin Fire Control District on Airport Road or, if it's projected to be worse, they could go to the college campus in Niceville.

She then thanked staff for repainting the handicap space at the O'Steen beach trail. Then spoke of the pedestrian crosswalk at Gulf Shore Drive and Highway 98 has the same circumstance as what was mentioned earlier at Highway 98 and Stahlman Ave. where the pedestrians crossing sign is displayed the same time the green light is displayed. And, along Holiday Isle, the pedestrian crossings are blocked by the overgrown palms. And sometimes the pedestrians think they are being seen but are not until they pop out in front of cars.

Committee member Green mentioned that to him, the crosswalk at the new 3-way stop at Main Street and Kelly Ave at the AOC store still needs to be reevaluated. Mr. Burgess stated that he would get with the City Engineer to go out to the location and investigate.

Committee member Perman asked if there are plans for additional lighting at the corner of Zerbe and Calhoun. Pointing out how dark it is. According to Mr. Burgess, LED light pole is being relocated to that area. And mentioned that he is working closely with a representative of Gulf Power for this area well as other areas of the city will get new LED lighting. Adding the only area where there may pose to be a problem with the new LED lighting is near the airport. She also reported that there is an area on Calhoun Avenue on the east side of the roadway where there is overgrown vegetation into the sidewalk. Mr. Burgess

asked that if she would get the exact address and report it to staff they will try to get in contact the homeowner. Adding that there is not an ordinance that regulates owners to maintain their property.

According to Chairman Wood the crosswalk at Matthew Blvd is so worn that it cannot be seen by drivers and is dangerous for pedestrians.

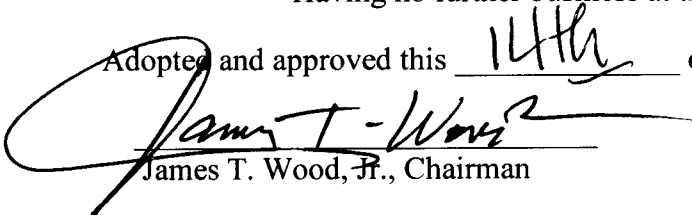
6. DISCUSSION:

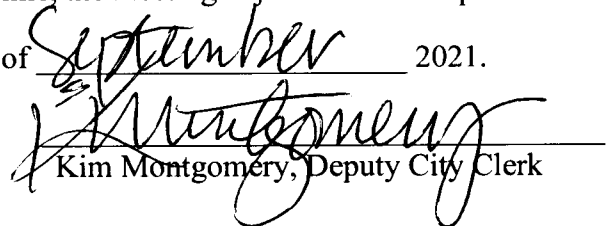
Mr. Burgess informed the members that he will be bringing to them the Draft Road Striping Policy for review and input and to get their input on guidance for future procedures for staff to follow for all collector streets.

Chairman Wood spoke to say that as long as the residential roads don't get short shifted, while the nonresident streets get full treatment. Adding that is the complaints he gets the most, from citizens regarding this subject.

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 14th day of September 2021.


James T. Wood, Jr., Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk