

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 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, August 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

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

Staff

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 12, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022, meeting was made by Committee member Bell with Committee member Stephens providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Discussion of Traffic Control / Pedestrian Safety Measures for FY23, pricing and placement**

Mr. Hart spoke of the options to purchase for pedestrian controlled crossing lights.

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| • Roadway Light Assembly & RRFBs - solar powered | \$31,550.00 |
| • Safewalk Illuminator - solar powered single direction | \$ 7,950.00 |
| • Blinker signs & RRFBs Assembly | \$10,450.00 |
| • Single Direction RRFBs Assembly | \$ 7,250.00 |

He also mentioned that there are several different companies that provide the same kind of products in this type of market, which is good, since he needs to obtain multiple quotes per the Operating Instructions from the Finance Department.

Committee member Stephens asked if the Hybrid design is too costly to consider? The Chairman stated they are \$150k per unit.

Mr. Burgess spoke of how he agrees that consistency, to use the same kind of product throughout the city is the key and is what Chairman Wood's expressed at their last meeting.

Committee member Green asked how many extras they planned to purchase in the event that once installed, they are damaged from an accident. According to Mr. Hart, staff will have one extra complete set on hand. Committee member Green suggested adding additional dollars to the total costs to purchase and have on hand extra parts for any necessary repairs to the units.

Chairman Wood stated that he prefers Option #2.

Committee member Smith stated they need to ensure that the units purchased and installed in the area by the Airport are FAA approved.

Committee member Bell asked if option #2 could have flashing lights added to them later if it's determined that they are needed? According to Mr. Hart they can be added.

Motion by Chairman Wood to purchase ten (10) units of the #2 option which is the Safewalk Illuminator - solar powered single direction at \$7,950.00 a unit. Committee member Bell provided the second.

In discussion, a question was posed about the timeline of getting these installed. According to Mr. Burgess, he would have to take this to Council for approval and then it would be about a 10-days for the P.O. process. After that, just ordering them and the wait time for them to come in.

Chairman Wood suggested for staff to perform a few test projects at a couple of locations first.

There was a brief discussion about having some locations chosen to install them to test how well they are used and their performance. Mr. Burgess stated that he would place them on collector streets at mid-block crossings on Airport Road and an area on Legion Drive.

Chairman Wood suggested the area in Gulf Shore Drive where there have been issues with landscaping blocking the view of pedestrians cross in front of traffic.

Committee member Bell suggested the cross at O'Steen instead since all that is there is the painted crosswalk and nothing else, the other location mentioned, do have stop signs.

Committee member Perman spoke of all the beach accesses in Crystal Beach are dark as well as the west entrance of the Crab Trap, that gets so backed up.

Committee member Smith spoke of how those areas along the beach have to first be assessed for turtle protection before any lighted fixtures can be placed.

Chairman Wood amended his motion to add, **that none will be located near any beaches**, with Committee member Bell agreeing to the amended motion and providing a second. With no further discussion, the Chairman called for the vote and, **the motion passed 6-0.**

Chairman Wood spoke of how the funds left over from last years allocations should be enough to cover these purchases and spoke of the 2-speed humps that were discussed at the last Council Meeting that are needed at the childcare on Beach Drive. Mr. Burgess reminded the

member that there are also the two that were requested at their last meeting to consider and quoted at \$7,500.00.

Committee member Green asked if there is anything that can be done about the people riding their bikes on the wrong side of the road. The member discussed a recent death of a bicyclist being hit by a car.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Stormwater/Floodplain Issues – Public Comment

None

➤ Public Works/Emergency Update – August 2022

Mr. Hart provided the following updates to the members.

Operational Update Recent & Upcoming Council Agenda Items

- July 11 –Solid Waste Franchise Ordinance, 1st Reading
- August 1 – Flood Insurance Update, Risk Rating 2.0
- August 1 – Solid Waste Franchise Ordinance, 2nd Reading (continued)
- August 11 – Budget Hearing #4
- August 15 – Solid Waste Franchise Ordinance, 2nd Reading
- September 8 – 1st Budget Hearing
- September 19 – 2nd Public Hearing Project Update
- Construction of additional Office Space at Shop, completed
- US98 Median Improvements, underway – plant removal, irrigation, wells, pavers

Mr. Burgess added that the original contract for this project was supposed to be up on August 27th. But due to supply chain and other issues it has been extended out at least 60-days.

- New Toy Trailer for pumping equipment, upgrades and outfitting completed
- New F150s (2) – early August
- New JD Tractor and New JD Loader – Mid August or earlier
- New Dump Truck - TBD
- New Brush Chipper – early August Emergency Management Update

Operational Update

- Hurricane Season started June 1
- Hurricane Guide for 2022, published on Facebook & Next Door, paper copies available

➤ Member Comments

- Committee member Perman

Mentioned how she is very concerned over the different means of transportation that people are using now and how they are not obeying the rules of the roads. The members discussed this concern at length. The main discussion was about the use of LSVs and even golfcarts on the roads by people that either should not be operating them because they are not of age, too many people in them, and not properly road certified. As well as the use of motorized bikes, scooters, and one wheeled motorized skateboards.

Additionally, there was a discussion about Walton County's LSV program and how their sheriff's department stays on top of the enforcement of their laws and how the city may need to implement a similar program possibly associated with the Short Term Rental Registration requirements.

Committee member Bell spoke of how this problem needs to be addressed like how the livery vessel program was decided and how it could be enforced.

Mr. Burgess spoke of how this concern was taken to Council and ultimately, they chose to enforce the State's Statutes with LSV's only being allowed to be operated on Hwy 98 and 293 at signalized Intersections. He mentioned that it all boils down to the 5-E's:

- Encouragement
- Education
- Enforcement
- Evaluation
- Engineering

Motion by Committee member Smith to recommend City Council begin a public education program on Low-Speed Vehicle Laws and start that program by funding the purchase of stickers using the Walton County program as an example. Committee member Stephens provided the second. The motion passed 6-0.

- **Committee member Smith**
 - **Four Prong Lake Flooding Analysis**

Committee member Smith explained that the long term solution to the problem is going to take some time with the permit that has been started with the State in regard to the preliminary design. For a short-term solution, one being emergency management pumping and the second being in the area of public safety when emergency pumping has to occur; to prevent any tripping hazards. He recommends installing Cal-Lock piping system and a horizontal directional boring below Scenic Hwy 98 and installing valve boxes on either side of the Cam-Lock pipes to hook up and pump the water into the Gulf.

Motion recommend City Council direct staff to engage the city and the homeowner's associations in the area for the feasibility to develop a pumping strategy that works for Four Prong Lake with a cost share agreement.

Committee member Green amended the motion to add, that the homeowner's association be requested, not asked that part of their responsibility would be paying a portion of the fees. Committee member Bell provided the second. In discussion, Committee member Green stated that the cost should be something that is shared and should not be a one way cost.

Committee member Bell pointed out that looking at the map, there is a utility easement and asked why it's not used to pump the water.

According to Committee member Smith, the entire water shed is massive because that is a Coastal Dune Lake that initially naturally flowed to the Gulf but was closed off when Scenic Hwy 98 was built, which didn't matter until it was developed. He additionally expressed that the management of it should have been on the State, the County and City and not an HOA, to offset the costs. **With no further discussion, the Chairman called for the vote and the motion passed 6-0.**

➤ **Public Comment**

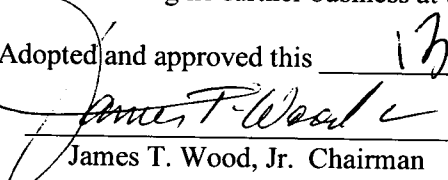
Todd Buhr 4510 Luke Avenue informed the committee members that there is a 35 mph sign that is located on the highway near Sherwin Williams store that is half bent over adding that is could cause some confusion. Mr. Hart stated that he would inform Ferovial, who is the contractor for FDOT.

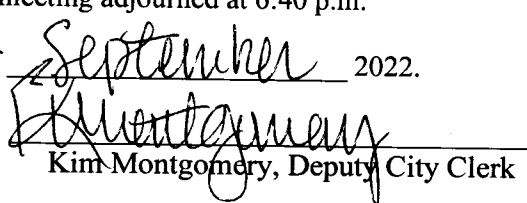
He then spoke of the ongoing issues of people parking over and blocking sidewalks and how it is an ongoing problem for people that have any kind of mobility challenges. Stressing how he's afraid that someone is going to get hurt. And lastly, the problem of people parking in the streets whether it be landscaping businesses or construction crews and suggests, for a public safety standpoint, that certain roadways in Crystal Beach be changed to one-way streets to help reduce pedestrian and oncoming traffic conflicts.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 13th day of September 2022.


James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk