

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 3, 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 Terésa Hebert
Councilmember Dewey Destin

Councilmember Johnny King
Councilmember Bobby Wagner
Councilmember Rodney Braden
Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

Destin City Staff

City Manager Lance Johnson
City Clerk Rey Bailey
Principal Planner Steve O'Connor
Code Compliance Director Kimberly Corbin
Community Development Director Louis Zunguze
Grants/Project Manager Jeffrey Cozadd
Finance Director Krystal Strickland
Land Use Attorney Kimberly Kopp

Deputy City Manager Webb Warren
Public Information Manager Catherine Card
Library Director Wen Levingston
Public Works Director Michael Burgess
Parks/Recreation Director Lisa Firth
City Engineer Ryan Scott
City Planner Daniel Butler
City Attorney Kyle Bauman

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gary Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, which was then followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Wagner, to approve the agenda passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted "yes").

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

A. Destin Youth Council - Presentation

Miss Grace Fountain, Destin Youth Council Chair, presented the following information to the city council:

At their September meeting, the Destin Youth Council addressed several initiative/projects they would like to pursue during their term of office which expires in July 2023. They will prioritize these items and create work plans at their next meeting in October, and then present the work plans to the city council for their approval in November. Also, at their September meeting, the youth council voted unanimously to present two of their top priorities to obtain preliminary approval or advice from the city council. The two items are as follows:

➤ Beach Cleanup

- ❖ Seek council's approval to move forward with conducting a youth council-sponsored beach cleanup effort in October. This would include:
 - Identifying cleanup site to make sure that volunteers can safely access the site
 - Choosing an event coordinator to organize and keep everything on track before, during, and after the event
 - Gathering supplies – trash bags, first aid kit, hand sanitizers, water, gloves, sunscreen, etc.
 - Get volunteers to help. Recruit friends, family, neighbors
- ❖ Beach cleanups create opportunities for youth outreach
- ❖ Without assistance from the youth in cleaning up their local beaches, they will eventually be consumed with trash

➤ Local Drivers License Testing Site (On Road)

- ❖ Seek city council support in establishing a local facility in Destin with experienced, licensed instructors to administer in-person drivers testing
 - Currently, locals have to travel to Niceville to take their on-road driving test
 - Recommend using local Tax Collector's Office as as on-road driving test site
- ❖ Need support from the council to get this idea in motion.

Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to reach out to the Okaloosa Tax Collector's Office and request a once a week on-road driving tests to be conducted from their office in the Destin area; also, reach out to the TDC and request support for an independent beach cleanup effort by the Destin Youth Council this year, and possibly in conjunction with Nature Conservancy Beach Cleanup Day next year. Councilmember Hebert provided a second to the motion, which passes 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted "yes").

B. National Code Compliance Month

The mayor read the proclamation designating the month of October 2022 as *National Code Compliance Month* in the City of Destin, and then presented it to the Code Compliance Director Kimberly Corbin.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jimmy Perkins, a Destin resident and business owner, announced that on October 9 – 15, they have special guests coming to town: Wounded Warriors (US Marines and Sailors),

Purple Hearts, and Gold Star recipients. He will be providing several of his vessels to take them on a two-day tour of the harbor and would appreciate everyone's assistance. He also urged other businesses in town to do something special for these servicemen and women.

Mr. Perkins also noted they have reported 53 cases of people running illegal businesses in the harbor this year resulting in only two verbal warnings, which is not fair to those who are doing things the right way. He added that these are code violations and so law enforcement officers cannot do anything about it.

Ms. Heidi LoCicero, who resides at Mattie's Way and a Destin High School Board member, expressed her gratitude to the council for taking the appropriate action in moving forward with the issue relating to the conversion of the softball field at Morgan's Sports Complex. This item is on tonight's agenda for action. She also commended the Parks and Recreation Director, the City Manager, and other city staff members for their cooperations. This will give the Destin High School students a lot of hope and enthusiasm seeing the cooperations between the school and the city.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) FY23 Contract Renewal
- B. Beach Message Boards
- C. 2023 OCPLC Interlocal Agreement
- D. Reimbursement to Councilmember Bobby Wagner for expenses incurred while attending the Florida League of Cities Elected Municipal Officials II (IEMO II) training program on September 15 thru 18, 2022 at Estero, Florida.
- E. Request for use of city ROW for McGuire's Annual Halloween Fun Run
- F. Request for use of city ROW for the Annual Veteran's Day 5k
- G. Approval of minutes of September 8, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting
- H. Median Maintenance, authorization to extend continuing services contract by 3 months

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember King, to approve Consent Agenda items 3A thru 3H, as printed above, passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted "yes").

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- A. PAWS Contract

The City Manager informed the council that PAWS has requested a 90-day extension to the existing contract to give them ample time to put together a new proposal for the City of Destin. This will also provide ample time for city staff time to work with the new PAWS director on a future contract.

Councilmember Bagby moved to accept the 90-day extension of the PAWS contract and authorize the City Manager to execute that contract while negotiating a future contract, accordingly, seconded by Councilmember Hebert.

Councilmember Schmidt recommends reaching out to other entities, such as the Florida League of Cities, to obtain ideas and detailed information about what they do with regards to animal control services. He would also like to know the exact meaning of and what activities are included in the “calls for service.”

Councilmember Bagby noted that he has discussed some ideas with staff including having the charges on a per service call basis rather than per population.

Motion passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

B. Acquisition of property for the Cross-Town Connector

According to the City Manager, the first purchase agreement for this parcel was brought before the council for consideration on July 11, 2022 and did not pass the supermajority vote that was required. Council did vote to direct staff to negotiate a new purchase agreement and to bring that back for their consideration. A new purchase agreement has been agreed to by the property owner and that a supermajority vote will not be necessary to pass since the purchase price agreed to is below the average of the two appraisals.

Councilmember Hebert moved for approval to purchase of the vacant land at the corner of Anna Street and Benning Drive and authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase agreement and proceed with closing; seconded by Councilmember King. Motion passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

C. Preliminary Harbor Study Data from Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) – For Informational Purposes

Community Development Director Louis Zunguze presented the following report to the city council:

- On February 21, 2017, the City Council passed an ordinance establishing a process for the permitting of livery vessels, as subsequently amended on March 20, 2017. At that time, the City Council heard concerns that (1) overcrowding in the Destin Harbor is disproportionately affected by the proliferation of livery vessels, which contribute to a high number of inexperienced and ineffective livery vessel operators, thereby increasing the danger to the public health, safety and welfare; and (2) the proliferation of livery vessel rentals contributes to the deterioration of water quality in and around Destin.
- On April 15, 2019, the City Council passed Ordinance 19-08-CN and commenced a temporary moratorium on livery vessel permitting in order to study the impacts of livery vessel businesses on the city waterways, particularly, the Destin Harbor. Ordinance 19-08-CN was set to expire on November 1, 2019 but was subsequently

extended by the City Council for the purpose of enabling studies of the Harbor waters.

- On September 16, 2019, the City Council passed Resolution 19-21, authorizing an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers for assistance with funding and contracting service for a Harbor Capacity Study. Additionally, the City Council directed a 12-month extension of the existing moratorium on livery vessel permitting, providing for a new extension date of November 1, 2020. The Army Corps experienced unanticipated delays in performing the work for the city due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, there have been several subsequent extensions of the temporary moratorium. The moratorium is currently set to expire on December 31, 2022, unless extended by an ordinance of the city council.
- The Harbor Carrying Capacity Study is now nearing completion (see attached draft schedule). It is anticipated that the Study and analysis will be finalized in November 2022, and the final report will be provided to the City Council in January 2023. At this time, the ACOE has provided preliminary data to City staff. Staff desires to provide this preliminary data to the City Council at this time.
- The Harbor Carrying Capacity Study focuses on the following three goals:
 - ❖ Protecting the environmental health of the harbor and surrounding waterways.
 - ❖ Promoting safety and enjoyment on our local waters.
 - ❖ Promoting the economic viability of businesses operating on or along the Harbor.
- Since July of 2021, the City of Destin and the ACOE have been conducting a number of activities to support the Destin Harbor Carrying Capacity Study. These activities include:
 - ❖ Counting of parking spaces around the harbor area, including both public and private parking.
 - ❖ Counting of vessels in the harbor and on the water.
 - ❖ Inventory of both parking spaces, trailer spaces, and vessel slips. Photography of the harbor area including slips and vessels.
 - ❖ In-person surveys around the harbor area and boat launches.
 - ❖ Mailed surveys to a sample of residents including, slip owners.
- While the Study remains ongoing at this time, it is nearing conclusion and the ACOE has provided the attached preliminary data to City staff for informational purposes. It is anticipated that the completed study and final report will be provided to the City Council in January 2023.

PRELIMINARY DATA SUMMARY: It was determined that a sample of peak and non-peak dates throughout the summer would be representative of the existing usage trends in the harbor and facilities. The length of data collection varied from four-day weekends to

regular weekends and coverage of weekdays. Below is a schedule of dates for rounds of data collection:

- Memorial Weekend, May 26-30
- July 4th Weekend, June 27- July 5
- July 14-22
- August 1-8
- August 18-22
- Labor Day Weekend, September 1-6

The total number of days observed for vessel traffic collection is as follows:

- 12 holidays
- 9 non-holiday regular weekends
- 10 weekdays

As previously stated, data analysis substantiates the vessel traffic trends at Destin harbor.

Vessel traffic at Destin harbor was observed for a total of nine regular weekend days. Livery pontoons were the most recorded with over 5,000 trips to access the harbor followed closely by personal vessels and jet skis. It was generally expected that regular weekends would not be as busy as those of holiday weekends. By comparison, on average, there were only 100 fewer vessels accessing the harbor on regular weekends than on holidays.

Vessel traffic on regular weekdays was also observed for the capacity analysis. On regular weekdays, harbor access by livery pontoons were the most recorded with about 4,500 trips followed by jet-skis and tour charters. Personal vessels were recorded to enter or exit the harbor about 2,500 times. Figure 3 in the attached report summarizes the total number of vessel traffic by category on regular weekdays.

DISCUSSIONS:

The mayor stated that the preliminary report conveys to them what they already knew. He stated that when the initial moratorium was instituted by council in 2016, the main goal was to protect the heritage of this community, which was fishing. He recommends bringing back an ordinance proposing to make the moratorium permanent and bring more intrinsic value to the businesses operating under the moratorium and increase their worth since they are on a limited access program similar to the charter industry.

Councilmember Bagby noted that the council was supposed to receive a complete report in January 2023, which should include analysis on parking and environmental impacts. He stated that even though he is not against a permanent moratorium, he would prefer to have all pertinent facts on hand before taking that type of action.

Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to bring back an ordinance for a 6-month extension of the temporary livery vessel moratorium, until June 30, 2023, to be advertised for first reading on October 17, 2022 council meeting. Councilmember Wagner provided a second to the motion.

Councilmember Braden stated that it would be unfair to those businesses that are following the rules and meeting their parking spaces and all other code requirements not to be able to add vessels. He added that he would like the existing legally registered livery vessel businesses to be able to add more vessels to their existing fleet.

The Land Use Attorney stated that the council could approve the motion that would allow staff to bring back a proposed ordinance extending the moratorium at the next council meeting, and the council could then discuss any changes they want to make at that time.

Councilmember Wagner asked whether Jet Skis are sub-categorized as rentals and recreational personal vessels.

The Land Use Attorney replied that Jet Skis are livery vessels.

Councilmember Wagner noted that the parking analysis will be included in the final report, at which time they will know exactly how many more vessels businesses could add to their fleet once the moratorium is lifted.

Councilmember Destin opined that a moratorium should apply to all or it could create an issue regarding equal protection under the law, which means that a government entity needs to have a valid reason for any law or official action that treats similarly situated people or groups of people differently.

Motion passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

D. Morgan Sports Center Barracuda Field - Interlocal Agreement

The City Manager noted this is an interlocal agreement between the City of Destin, Destin High School, and the Destin Water Users for conversion and use of Morgan Sports Complex’s Barracuda Softball Field into a high school compliant baseball field for use by the Destin High School baseball team during their regular season. He stated that each entity negotiated in good faith, and that he believes the agreement outlines each entity’s role.

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember King, to approve the interlocal agreement between the Destin High School, Destin Water Users, and the City of Destin, for the use of the Barracuda Field at Morgan Sports Complex as a high school baseball field, passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

E. Announcements

The City Manager made the following announcements:

- The derelict vessel near Harbor Docks was removed last Saturday, October 1st. Okaloosa County provided some assistance in removing the vessel.
- Collections for Hurricane Relief supplies at the Marler Parking Lot on October 4 and 5. Goods collected will be delivered to the victims of Hurricane Ian.
- Destin Seafood Festival is scheduled for October 7-9.
- All city facilities will be closed on Monday, October 10th, in observance of Columbus Day Holiday.
- October 11th, at 3 PM – Blue Star Dedication at the Destin Library.
- Wednesday, October 19th, at 5:30 PM – Joint Harbor and Town Center CRA Workshop to discuss the undergrounding of utilities at the City of Destin.
- Ms. Dot Jones, a long-time committee volunteer for the City of Destin passed away recently.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. 22-49-SP Tom Murray of WindCrest Development Group, Inc., on behalf of Shanri Holdings Corporation, is requesting approval of a Major Development Order. The proposed project consists of the redevelopment of the existing Downtown Destin Shopping Center. All existing buildings, pavement and most of the existing utilities will be demolished and removed. Construction for the new development includes a ±69,000 SF grocery-anchored shopping center with new associated parking and Internal drive aisles, sidewalks, landscaping, utilities, and an expansion of the Existing stormwater management retention pond.

The City Attorney asked whether any of the council member or mayor had been involved in an ex-parte communications regarding this project. Each mayor and council member responded they have not been involved in any ex-parte communications regarding this project.

The City Attorney sworn in the following individuals for testimony:

- Principal Planner Steve O'Connor
- Senior Daniel Butler
- Jennifer Losurdo, Project Engineer, Genesis Engineer Collaborative
- Tom Murray, Wincrest Development Group, Inc.

The Land Use Attorney requested that the staff report and all its exhibits be entered into the record as City's Composite Exhibit A.

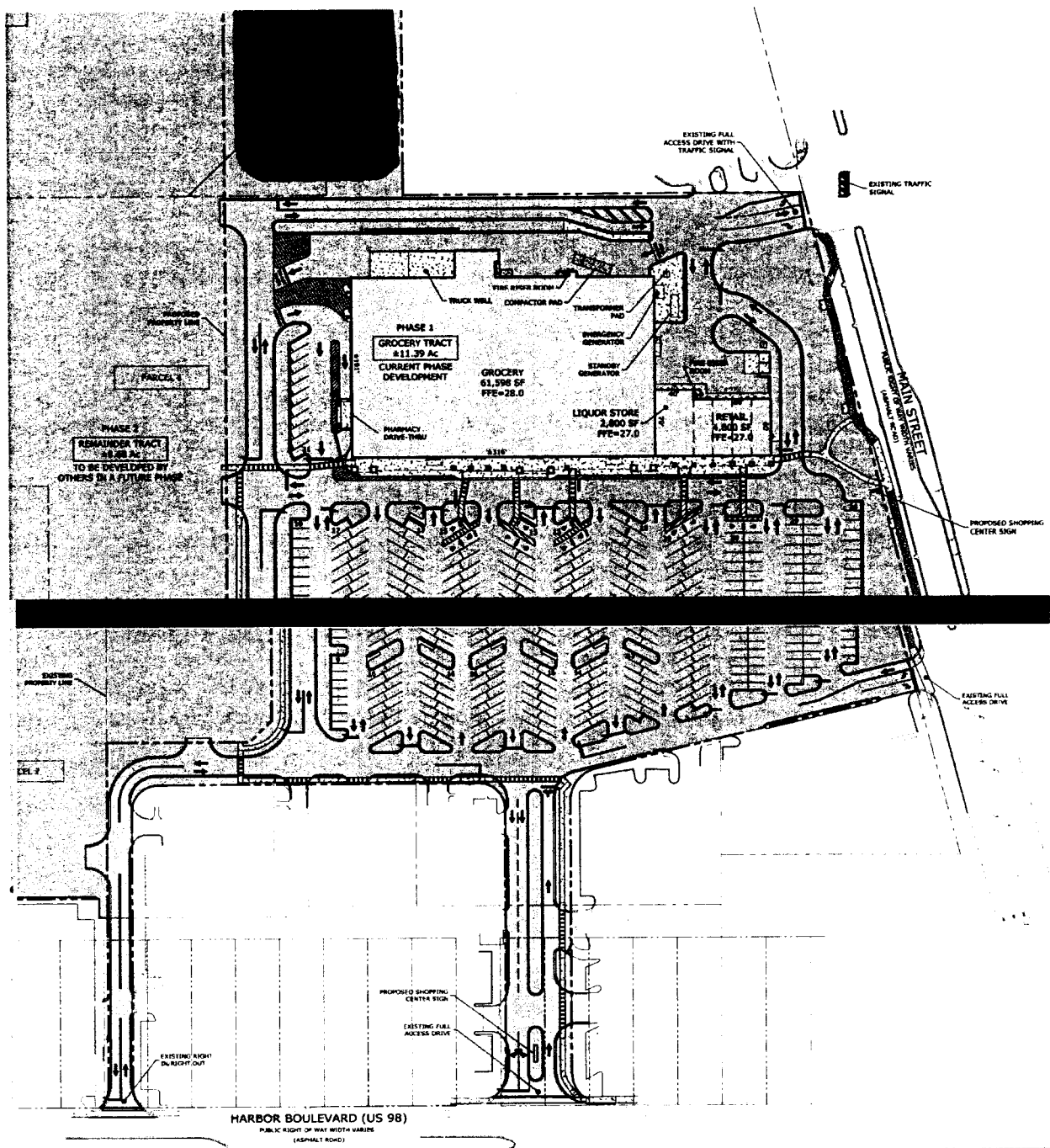
Having no objection from the applicant, the staff report and all its exhibits was admitted into the record as City's Composite Exhibit A.

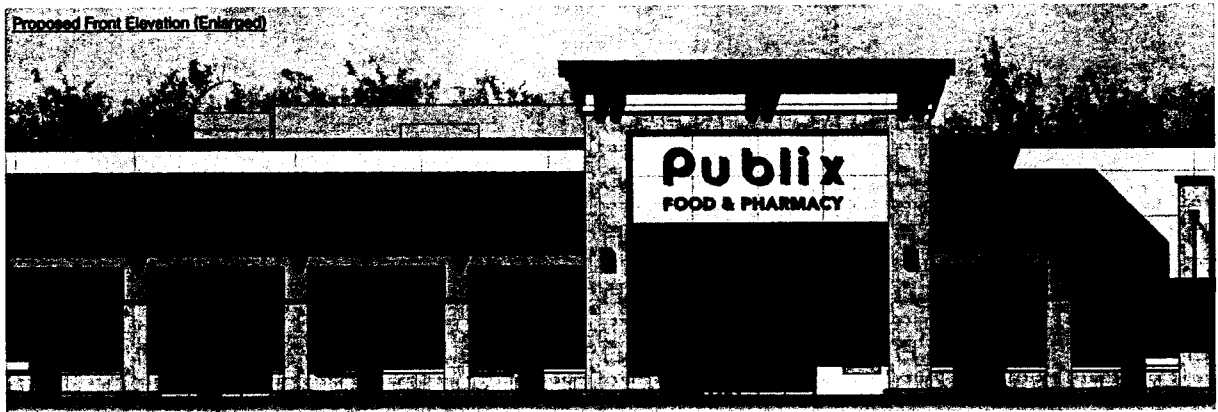
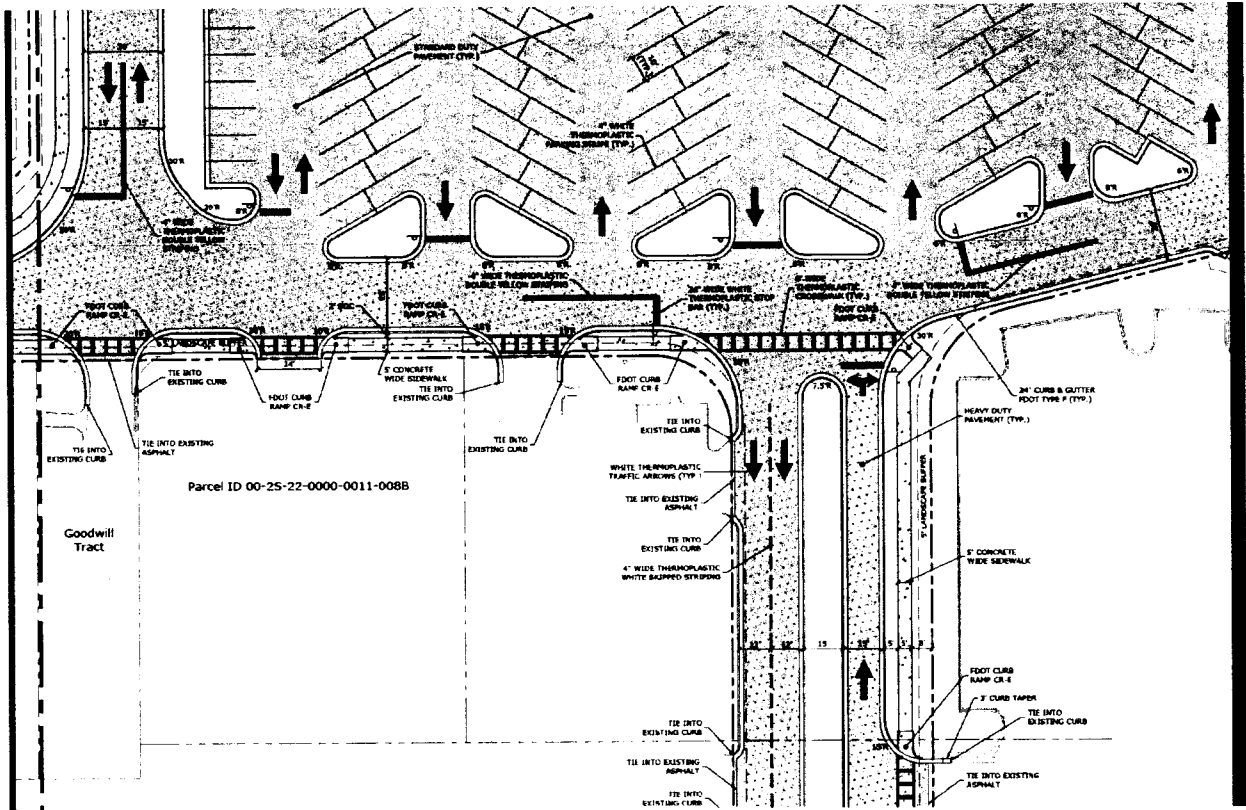
Principal Planner Steve O'Connor introduces the proposed project.

The project proposes to establish a ±61,000 sq. ft. grocery store with a ±2,800 sq. ft. liquor store and ±4,800 sq. ft. of other retail/commercial space located at the current Old Time Pottery location. The project encompasses the old theater and the building southwest of the Old Time Pottery store. The project would first demolish and regrade the entire site removing all buildings and impervious surfaces. The site would then be redeveloped as proposed in the Civil & Site Plans. The project has been reviewed and approved by the City's Technical Review Committee. There is only one aspect of the proposed development that does not meet current Land Development Code (LDC) regulations. That is the Parking Requirement. Per the Old Destin Multi-Modal Transportation District (MMTD) the minimum listed in LDC Table 8-6 is the maximum parking allowed. This would limit the amount of parking for this project to 276 parking spaces. The project proposed 320 parking spaces (26 over the maximum allowed). Given this sole compliance issue, it is up to the City Council to determine whether or not to require the strict adherence to the Old Destin MMTD parking maximums or to allow the developer to have 302 parking spaces on site. The submitted site plans also cuts off access to an undeveloped lot to the East of Goodwill; Parcel ID: 00-2S-22-0000-0011-008B. Staff has conferred with the applicant's representative and the affected property owner to find a solution. The affected property owner is requesting that an improved hard surfaced access point, similar to the other access points, be developed centered between the existing access points for the adjacent properties.

Next, Ms. Jennifer Losurdo and Mr. Tom Murray, representing the applicant, briefly discussed the following aerial photo and renderings of the proposed development:







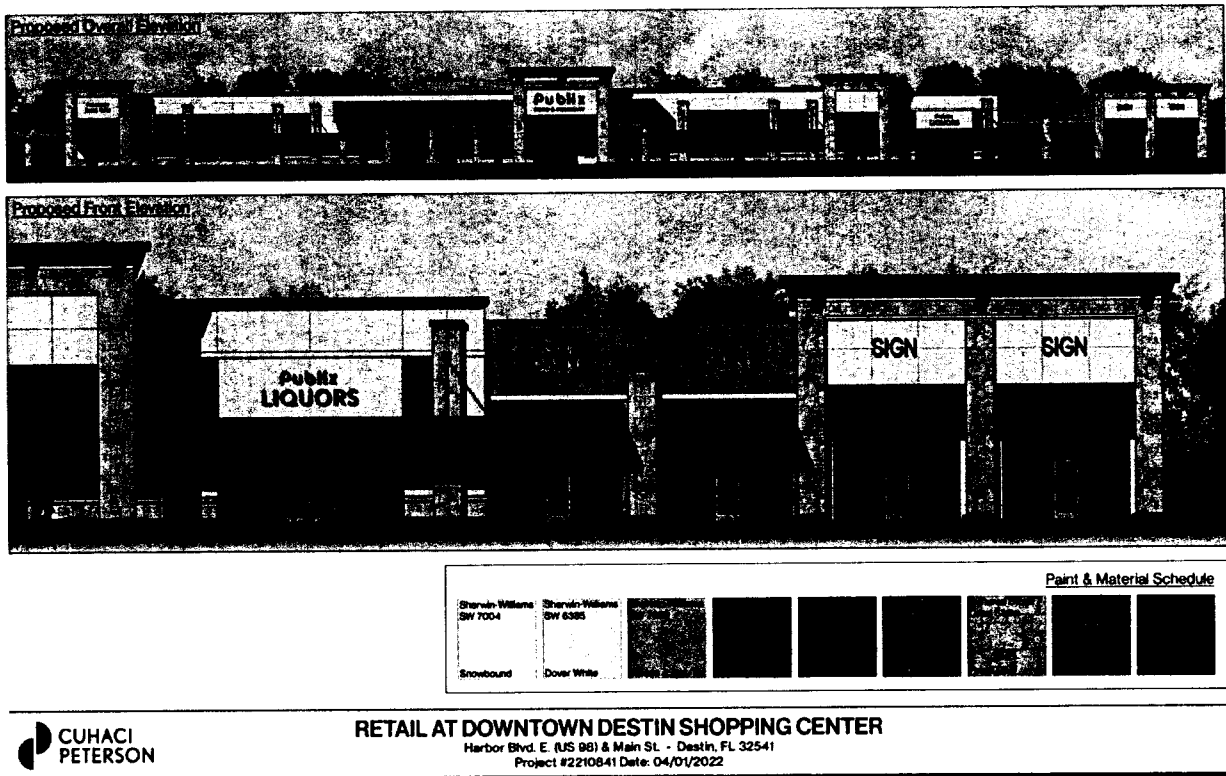
Sherrin-Williams SW 7004	Sherrin-Williams SW 6355	Sherrin-Williams SW 7022
Snowbound	Dover White	6000

Paint & Material Schedule



PUBLIX AT DOWNTOWN DESTIN SHOPPING CENTER
 Harbor Blvd. E. (US 90) & Main St. - Destin, FL 32541
 Project #2210641 Date: 03/22/2022

Publix



Councilmember Destin inquired as to the zoning designation for this project.

According to Mr. O'Connor, the entire site has a Town Center Mixed Use designation. He continued that the mixed-use aspect for this project is the multiple retail type of uses that would apply; adding it does not have a residential use as part of this development proposal.

The Land Use Attorney explained that in a mixed-use zoning district, they look at the district as a whole, and that the district is a mix of different uses – residential or commercial. She added that they require a certain amount of commercial component for residential use, but they do not require residential component for commercial use.

The mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed project. 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 Hebert moved for approval of project 22-49-SP – Publix Grocery, a Major Development Order as presented and with the following condition: Provide improved access to parcel 00-2S-22-0000-0011-008B, centered between the existing access points of the adjacent properties. Councilmember Wagner provided a second to the motion.

Councilmember Destin asked if staff could provide the percentage of commercial versus residential components in this mixed-use district; as well as the standard they are trying to achieve to make this district an actual mixed-use district.

Mr. Zunguze explained that for all the mixed-use districts, especially for this particular district, which is more commercial related, they have to have at least a 20 percent commercial component to it.

Councilmember Bagby requests statistics on commercial and residential components be included for any future mixed used development applications brought before the council.

Motion passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

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

A. Councilmember Braden

1. Waiver of fees accrued by Destin High School

Motion by Councilmember Braden, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to waive all fees accrued to date by the Destin High School passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

B. Councilmember Wagner

1. Low Speed Vehicle Safety Program

Councilmember Wagner stated that low-speed vehicles (SUV) are getting out of hand on Main Street and Airport Road. At times, minors have been seen driving SUVs, which is definitely a safety issue. He continued that short-term rentals are also providing SUVs to their renters. He added that it would be a wise decision for this city to unify with the rest of the Panhandle on the safety procedures and regulate where the SUVs will be allowed to be driven.

Councilmember Wagner moved to direct the City Manager to work with the Sheriff's Department, the county, and other area municipalities, to establish low-speed vehicle safety requirements and education and public awareness program. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Schmidt and passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

C. Councilmember Destin

Councilmember Destin requests the following topic be placed under his name on the next council meeting agenda: *Direct the City Manager to go forward with installing a raised pedestrian*

crossing on Sibert Avenue identical to the raised pedestrian crossing at the corner of Zerbe and Calhoun.

D. Councilmember Bagby

1. Resolution 17-36 - Amending the Destin Youth Council By-Laws increasing The maximum number of non-resident members

Councilmember Bagby moved to amend Section 2 of Resolution 17-36, Youth Council ByLaws to read: “The Destin City Council may appoint up to 30 percent of the members as non-resident members who attend a local area high school (or home school) to fill any vacancies occurring during the year”; seconded by Councilmember Wagner. Motion passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

2. Appointment of Palmer Stevens Lindsley to the Destin Youth Council

Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember King, to appoint Palmer Stevens Lindsley to the Destin Youth Council passed 7-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, Wagner, and Braden voted “yes”).

3. City Manager Annual Evaluation

Councilmember Bagby noted they have approved the FY 2023 budget, to include a 2 percent COLA which the City Manager and staff will receive. It also includes a 4 percent merit increase to city staff. He recommends giving the City Manager a 3.5 percent merit increase for the next fiscal year and explains his thought process behind this recommendation.

Councilmember Bagby moved to give the City Manager a 3.5 percent merit increase for Fiscal Year 2023 beginning October 1, 2022; seconded by Councilmember Wagner.

Councilmember Bagby stated that the City Manager has done a great job and has been a huge part of the advances the city and staff have made. He was also instrumental in changing the culture of this organization.

Councilmember Hebert agrees the City Manager has done a great job overall; however, there have been complaints from people regarding code compliant issues which have not been resolved, other codes not being enforced, and livery operators conducting illegal operations and not being held accountable for their actions. She added that the City Manager took the role as interim Code Compliance Director while that position was vacant, and so he should be held accountable.

Councilmember Hebert offered a substitute motion to give the City Manager a 3 percent merit increase for Fiscal Year 2023 beginning October 1, 2022; seconded by Councilmember Destin.

The mayor expressed his disagreement with the substitute motion; stating that the City Manager is not the Code Compliance Director. It would not be fair to penalize him for designating himself as the acting director as it is his responsibility to hire one and maintain leadership over that individual. He also noted that the Code Compliance Department has been understaffed and overworked for quite a while, and that the City Manager can only do so much to keep that department to continue to operate.

Councilmember King agrees with the mayor that penalizing the City Manager for the perceived shortcomings of one department at the time the department was understaffed and without its director is not fair to the City Manager.

Councilmember Destin stated that the City Manager has done a great job overall; however, he has the overall responsibility for the entire organization and to find solution to every problem that arise. He continued that a merit increase of 3 percent out of a maximum of 4 percent is justified.

Councilmember Braden agrees that the City Manager has the overall responsibility for every department in the city and is responsible for correcting any shortcomings of each of the department.

Councilmember Schmidt commented that livery operators conducting illegal operations has been at least a two-year issue and has remained unresolved, and that it is the City Manager's job to resolve it. He added that it is a huge issue for the citizens and the other businesses on the harbor.

Councilmember Bagby pointed out that the number one issue that had been brought up at almost every election cycle in Destin was code enforcement. People are always bringing up a list of things where the city's code enforcement is failing to meet expectations. This is one of the reasons he did not recommend a 4 percent merit increase for the City Manager. He felt that 3½ percent is more appropriate. However, their rating of the City Manager is not entirely a reflection of the City Manager's performance. It is the reflection of the council's performance. One of this council's responsibilities is to provide the City Manager enough resources to pay staff enough money and to be able to hire the right people to fill vacancies and get them out of the 30 percent employee shortage in which they have been in quite a while. He continued that they have done that this year. The council has worked hard to raise staff's salary and provide enough resources to be able to hire the right people. He likes the direction they are heading as well as the culture that has been created. For these reasons, he will have a higher expectation for the City Manager's evaluation next year.

The mayor called for a vote on the substitute motion, which passes 4-3 (Council members Schmidt, Hebert, Destin, and Braden voted "yes"; Council members King, Bagby, and Wagner voted "no").

Next, Councilmember Bagby announced the passing of Ms. Dot Jones, a great person, and a long time City of Destin committee volunteer.

E. Councilmember Hebert

1. Utility box paint project update

According to Mr. Zunguze, he has discussed this matter with a painter and that everything is in order in that regard. He continued that he was supposed to drive around the city with a Gulf Power representative this week to identify all the utility boxes and decide where they should start. But that plan has been delayed as Gulf Power has been called out to assist in the recovery from the hurricane that hit South Florida recently. Once they are able to make that trip, he will bring the matter back to the council to request some resources to purchase paint and other necessary equipment.

Councilmember Braden noted that Dr. Prebble Ramswell started that project a few years back, but nothing has been done to it. He requested that Dr. Ramswell, who is in the audience tonight, be allowed to speak and share her ideas.

Dr. Ramswell thanked Councilmember Hebert for continuing on with the project. She stated that she has done some preliminary work on this project which she has shared with staff. One of the things previously discussed was something popular with many cities, such as New Orleans, which is building a wooden box and setting it on top of the utility box. They use specialized paint for the box. They simply lift the wooden box to gain access the utility box. Part of the plan was to coordinate with different groups of people who are interested in painting their box to make sure they use the specialized paint. They would also need to establish a process whereby these groups would submit their basic idea for approval by the city to make sure they do not paint their boxes with something outrageous or offensive.

Councilmember Wagner likes the idea, stating that it is something commonly done in South Florida. He stated that since the city is creating new districts; they could have a theme that represent an entire district.

2. Dawn to dusk walking/dog on a leash walking until the crosstown connector is complete.

Councilmember Hebert noted there are some citizens that are inquiring if they would allow the walking of citizens and their dogs on a leash from dawn to dusk at the Destin Campground until the crosstown connector is complete.

The City Manager will discuss the matter with the City's Risk Manager to verify with their insurance provider that the city will not incur any additional liability by removing the "no trespassing" sign off the Destin Campground and then report information back to council by the next council meeting.

F. Councilmember King

Councilmember King pledged his full support for the Destin Elementary School Archery Team and to do whatever is necessary to promote the sport of archery in Destin.

G. Councilmember Schmidt

Councilmember Schmidt suggests they contact the Eglin Air Force Base commander again to find out whether the concrete barriers around the area where the Welcome to Destin sign is

located can be removed now that the fence has been installed. He stated that the area is not being maintained and it is completely overgrown with weeds.

Mayor Jarvis will reach out to Commissioner Ponder to see if they can both schedule a meeting with the new Eglin commander and then report back to council.

Councilmember Destin suggests they contact Representative Matt Gaetz's military aid/liaison to see if he could accompany them to that meeting

H. Mayor Gary Jarvis

The mayor requests the following topic be placed on the next council meeting agenda for discussion: *"Look back at what have been successful for the city-run sports program and consider going back to the traditional sports seasons for each individual sport"*

I. Land Use Attorney

J. City Attorney

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

ATTEST:

Rey Bailey, City Clerk

Gary Jarvis, Mayor