

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023 - 5:30 PM**

21

**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE:**

Public Works Director Michael Burgess called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, February 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

21

**2. ROLL CALL:**

| <u>Members Present</u> | <u>Members Absent</u> | <u>Staff</u>                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| James T. Wood, Jr.     | Curtis Smith          | Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk |
| John Green             |                       | Michael Burgess PW Director      |
| Tom Weidenhamer        |                       | JT Hart PW Deputy Director       |
| Sam Perman             |                       |                                  |
| John Stephens          |                       |                                  |
| Marcie Bell            |                       |                                  |

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 10, 2023**

Motion to pull the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting minutes was made made by Committee member Bell with Committee member Perman providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Spring Break Readiness – Capt. Jason Fulghum**

Capt. Fulghum provided the members with the information regarding the status of Spring Break and what how they will be handling everything the same way as they have in the past with teaming up with the TDD and getting the information out that underage drinking will not be tolerated.

He spoke of the additional funding and staff they will have out patrolling on ATV's on the beach as well as on Okaloosa Island. They also have additional plans for booking and vans that will be strategically parked to use, if necessary, to shuttle people up the jail in Crestview. Adding that there are no fines, and everyone gets a court date that they have to show up for. Alternately, arrangements can be made with their State Attorney's Office, if they absolutely cannot come back to the county courthouse.

Committee member Bell asked about the other crimes that seem to be taking place recently, especially the scam type crimes. Mr. Fulghum replied that those types of crimes seem to typically happen more during the holiday season, not that they wouldn't happen, but those have not been seen typically during the spring break and the road units would handle them, if they would.

Committee member Stephens asked about jail time. Capt. Fulghum stated that mostly the parents come down and handle the situations to keep them out of jail. Committee member Stephens asked about the need for drug dogs. Capt. Fulghum stated that they will bring the dogs in if there seems to be a problem with that type of activity. *He thanked mbers & asked them to promote*

Committee member Bell asked how the Real Crime Center is going. According to Capt. Fulghum, it is going great and spoke of a potential carjacking incident that turned out to be a ruse but if it had really been one, they would have been able to catch the thief because the program was able to track everything involved in at particular incident.

Chairman Wood asked what they could do if anything to assist. According to Capt. Fulghum, making sure the signs are at all of the short term rental locations with all the contact information on it so that if there is ever a problem with the renters, the on call property manager can be immediately contacted to come to the location and evict the renters. As well as the property managers agreeing to not rent to anyone under the age of 25, which has helped tremendously.

- **Safety Study for Legion Drive & Legion/Main/Airport Signal, cost proposal, recommendation to City Council**

Mr. Burgess explained at the February 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, he provided Council with an update on their direction to provide a traffic safety assessment for the intersection of Legion Drive, Airport Road and Main Street. The purpose of this being with concerns over speeding and congestion on Legion Drive, especially during school pick up and drop off times heading east on Legion. He explained that the thought is to reconfigure the current lanes to a left turn only and two through lanes. Also installing a pedestal traffic signal at the location of the Chevron. The scope of work and cost proposal being provided in their packet by Volkert, there are six tasks associated with the traffic safety assessment. With an optional 7<sup>th</sup> item for traffic and speed counts, with the total costs of the study \$53k and \$60+ with the 7<sup>th</sup> option added, and staff is looking for a recommendation or further direction.

The Chairman asked why the city would invest any money to this prior to the Cross Town Connector being finished. Mr. Burgess explained there are still several properties that need to be acquired before that project can get started and that he would invite the Grants and Projects Manager to their next meeting to help answer some of their questions. There was a discussion regarding the short merge lane needing some attention as well and the need to have a traffic study to adjust the timing for the light changes.

Committee member Green suggested adding to the study the areas of concern that were broached at their last meeting by Mr. Gee. Mr. Burgess explained that is a different area of concern that would not be included in this study. He explained that he and his staff along with the engineering staff went out to that location after their meeting last month and made some necessary adjustments and additions to make that area safer.

**Motion by Committee member Bell to table this item to their next meeting so that the Grants and Projects Manager can attend that meeting and answer their questions. With Committee member Green providing the second. After further discussion regarding the timeline, Committee member Stephens made a substitute motion to recommend the safety study for Legion Drive, Main Street and Airport Road as long as the study is done before the school year is out. Committee member Bell provided the second. Committee member Weidenhamer asked if the motion includes the \$7k speed study. Committee member Stephens amended his motion to include the \$7k speed count study, with Committee member Bell agreeing and seconding the amended motion. The substitute motion passed 6-0.**

- **Glow in the dark paint** – This item was pushed to the March meeting for further information.
- **Additional Lighted Pedestrian Crossing Fixtures, location, recommendation to Council**

Mr. Hart explained to the members last physical year staff order eight individual lights and two were added on Airport Road, with two more added by the Fire Station on Airport Road. The one proposed for west end Legion Drive will also be installed shortly. Additionally, signs have also been ordered with a cost increases from the last ones purchased. This discussion was decided to be continued to their next meeting.

- **Use of ADA Detectable Warning Mats, Surface Applied and Anchored**

Mr. Hart explained that there are over four hundred mats throughout the city that are in need of being replaced. The previous Council did not like the glued or screwed down ones, however, if they are used in a location without appropriate radius they hold up very well when not rolled over as much by vehicles. Staff is looking for a recommendation to replace the ones that are in need of being replaced immediately with glued or screwed in type and the ones that experience more vehicle rollovers, they will replace with the cast in place product, for cost associated reasonings.

**Motion by Committee member Weidenhamer, seconded by Committee member Bell to recommend to Council to direct staff to use the surface applied and anchored ADA Detective Warning Devices at designated locations city-wide and use the other concrete devices in areas of the city that are subject to vehicle rollovers. The motion passed 6-0.**

**Motion by Committee member Green to recommend City Council direct staff to specify the standard for ADA Warning Pads to be installed on the sidewalk pedestrian crossings in the city's Design Manual, with Committee member Bell providing the second.**

Mr. Burgess stated that he would research the ASTA standard for truncated dome panels and bring that back to them for their review and a recommendation at their next meeting for an inclusion into the Design Manual. **Committee member Green withdrew his motion.**

## **5. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

### **➤ Stormwater/Floodplain**

Chairman Wood opened this item to the public to speak on any issues they may have, with no one coming forward, he closed the public on the topic.

### **➤ Public Services Report**

#### **Departmental Update**

##### **Currently have three vacancies:**

- Maintenance Technician (vacant for over two years, advertised)
- Facilities Maintenance Technician (recent retirement, advertised)

#### **Operational Update**

##### **Recent & Upcoming Council Agenda Items**

- Jan 3 – Discussion of Surplus Property Disposal (trade-in option), first reading
- Jan 17 – Declaration of Surplus Property
- Jan 17 – Purchase of 2 F150s and 1 SUV
- Jan 17 – Surplus Property Disposal Ordinance, 2nd reading
- Feb 15 – Stormwater Maintenance Technician filled
- Feb 16 – Bid opening/Miscellaneous Asphaltic Services Contract (H&T sole respondent)
- Mar 6 – Regular City Council Meeting/Miscellaneous Asphaltic Services Contract for approval

#### **Project Update**

- US98 Median Improvements, underway – final punch-list items
- US98 Median Improvements (SR293 to County Line), imminent
- Variable Messaging Boards – arrived 17 Feb
- Four Pedestrian Crossing Systems, ordered, delivered early 2023, 2 of 3 installed on Airport, 4th destined for Legion
- SH Hayes completing lots of sidewalk repairs - Tree roots and vehicles increasing hazards
- Staff working through citywide tree trimming
- Main Street/Indian Trail Striping – project complete
- Installation of 5 speed humps, PO issued and installation imminent.
- Demolition of three beach structures, started Feb 3 complete – Committee member Perman suggest No Trespassing signs be erected for a safety/legal standpoint.
- ZIIC installing new Scenic 98 plant material
- New Dump Truck – mid-late 2023

## **Emergency Management Update**

### **Operational Update**

- Hurricane Season – over for 2022
- Updates to Disaster Preparedness Plan to begin in March of 2023

## **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **➤ Member Comments:**

- **Committee member Green** – Committee member Green spoke of how dangerous the crosswalk is here at City Hall and how he feels there is urgent need for something to be done to make it safer at the pedestrian crossings stating how it seems to be too confusing for people to get through it safely at any area.

Committee member Bell suggested having the pedestrian crossing signs added as well.

Mr. Bill McKissick spoke of how that the roundabout is the most populated area of any intersection in the city and with the high volume of traffic, whatever is determined by a study, would need to be doubled.

- **Committee member Perman** - Stated that she feels the committee needs to make a stance statement on motorized e-bicycles, e-scooters and uniboards. She also spoke of how she understands that Council wants this committee to make a statement on what they feel needs to be done for Dolphin Street.

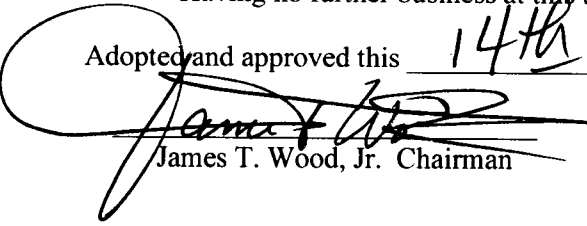
- **Committee member Bell** – Thanked the members for finally getting the subject parking area problem resolved at the end of Gulf Shore Drive. The dumpster at East Pass Towers is now in the street. She also questioned if her area review includes the roadways that are privately gated. Mr. Burgess informed her that they are not.

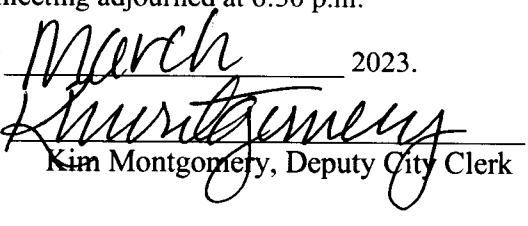
- **Chairman Wood** – Mentioned that the Land Use Attorney did research on the topic of safety of e-bikes and would like the information added to their agenda for the next meeting. Committee member Perman stated that she also did some research and will bring it to the meeting.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 14th day of March 2023.

  
James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman

  
Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk