

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE:

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

2. Nominations for Chairman & Vice Chairman

➤ **Chairman**

Motion by Committee member Weidenhamer, seconded by Committee member Green for Jim Wood as Chairman. Motion passed 4-0, Committee member Bell was not present for the vote.

➤ **Vice Chairman**

Motion by Committee member Green to nominate himself as Vice Chairman with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. The motion passed 4-0, Committee member Bell was not present for the vote.

3. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>
James T. Wood, Jr.	John Stephens	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
John Green		Michael Burgess PW Director
Tom Weidenhamer		JT Hart PW Deputy Director
Sam Perman		
Curtis Smith		
Marcie Bell in at 5:40		

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 11, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022, meeting, as written was made by Vice Chairman Green with Committee member Perman providing the second. The motion passed 4-0.

5. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

➤ **Stormwater/Floodplain**

Chairman Wood opened invited members of 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**

- **Ongoing vacancy in the Public Services Dept.**
 - Maintenance Technician (vacant for over two years, advertised)
 - Facilities Maintenance Technician (recent retirement, advertised)
 - Stormwater Maintenance Technician (new position, advertised)
- **Operational Update**
 - Nov 7 – Continuing Services Contract Renewals (approved)
 - Nov 7 – Purchase of Mini-Excavator & Utility Tractor (approved)
 - Nov 7 – Installation of 5 Speed Humps (Stahlman, Beach, & Sibert),
 - Nov 28 – Continuing Services Contract Renewals (approved)
 - Nov 28 – Discussion of E-Bikes on Sidewalks (with Comm. Dev. at present, will come before this Committee before going to Council)
 - Dec 12 – Demolition of Three Beach Structures (Tarpon Street Access)
 - Dec 12 – Median Maintenance Contract Renewal
 - 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
- **Project Updates**
 - US98 Median Improvements, underway – final punch list items
 - US98 Median Improvements (SR293 to County Line), imminent
 - Variable Messaging Boards – Should be delivered sometime in March
 - Four Pedestrian Crossing Systems, ordered, delivery in late 2022/early 2023
 - Six School Crossing Systems, installed and complete
 - Main Street/Indian Trail Striping – project complete
 - Installation of 5 speed humps, PO issued
 - Demolition of three beach structures, scheduled for Feb 3rd
 - New Dump Truck – early 2023
- **Emergency Management Update**
 - Hurricane Season – over for 2022
 - Updates to Disaster Preparedness Plan to begin in March of 2023

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Waste Management – Doug Rainer**

Mr. Doug Rainer of Waste Management spoke to the members regarding the recycling program and how they are in the process of building a new facility, and when it's finished, the company will no longer have to truck recyclables to another station to be separated.

He introduced their new District Manager, Tony Sidebottom new for the South Atlantic Market. Mr. Sidebottom briefly provided the members an overview of his duties and responsibilities of the position.

Mr. Rainer explained that in partnership with the city's new PIO, information will be shared with the citizens for any impending emergencies, such as hurricanes.

Building a Material Recovery Center (MRF) in Fort Walton Beach which is a \$30M investment to the region, specifically the panhandle to receive recycling. It will be automated to receive, bail and sale or push out recyclables. He also informed the members that new recyclable carts will be replacing the older ones.

Committee member Bell spoke of how majority of the short term rentals are putting garbage into their recycle bins and asked what the percentage is for contamination of recyclables.

According to Mr. Rainer, he does not have that number today, but will find out and send the information to Mr. Burgess to share with them. He also spoke of how they are willing to work with staff to help educate the short term rental public and how the trucks are smart trucks because they have cameras and everything is recorded, so the drivers see everything that is dumped from the cans.

➤ **Col. Derick Gee - 305 Seagull Lane**

Mr. Gee spoke of his concerns that he has regarding the safety of the crosswalk at Beach and Spring Lake during the before and after school hours. He spoke of how nature of the drivers for the immediate area as well as the signage in the area needs to be reevaluated. He asked for further assessment of the intersection by the committee to deem whether or not there is a safety factor that he feels there is. He spoke of several occasions where he has witnessed vehicles almost striking other vehicles and of an incident where a child on a bike was struck but thankfully, was not injured and was able to walk away from the accident. He mentioned how once drivers get past where the sheriff's vehicle is sitting on Beach, they tend to speed up and on several occasions he's had to pull his children out of the crosswalk to keep from getting hit or step into it himself so that the drivers will see that someone is in the crosswalk. He thanked Chairman Wood for coming out to the location with him to perceive the situation himself and thinks that additional signage and possibly another crossing guard would help the situation.

PW Deputy Director JT Hart explained that staff has been out to the location and has moved the signage from one side of the roadway to the other and installed a flashing beacon for pedestrian

crossing. Additionally, the crosswalk he is referring to have another crossing guard is outside of the school zone so, a crossing guard could not be placed out there however, they could put up the signage that notifies the public of the school hours for the 20 mph speed limit to try to slow the traffic down.

Committee member Bell asked if there is any reason why the crosswalks can't be painted yellow instead of white. According to Mr. Burgess, the standard MSD requirements are to be white. Adding that the white ones are supposed to alert the traffic that the pedestrian has the right-of-way and the yellow just is a first come bases.

Committee member Bell then brought up the flag system she has spoke of in the past that is used by the City of St. Augustine, Florida and suggested that perhaps that would be a good location to implement the system. She also noticed that on the west side of the intersection of Kelly and Benning there is a school zone sign but there is not one on the opposite side of the road and suggests that one be installed for those that do not live in the area and use that roadway.

Committee member Smith suggested a speed table raised crosswalk with pavers be installed to help alert the traffic that people use it to cross, especially with both the schools and the churches in the area.

Committee member Weidenhamer suggested for some signage to be installed to encourage pedestrians to continue to walk up to the intersection of Kelly and use that crosswalk instead with the crosswalk guard during the school hours.

Mr. Burgess informed the members that he has a meeting with the Engineering Department and take them to the location so they can help determine what can be done to make that crosswalk and area safer for pedestrians.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Member Comments:

- **Committee member Smith** – Informed staff that the turn arrow north of the Fire station in Crystal Beach is worn off and needs to be put back down.

- **Committee member Green** – Asked for an update on the Airport Road medians. Mr. Burgess informed him that the City Engineer has worked on the plans for the area at Industrial Park and as soon as he signs and seals them, they will be provided to the contractor.

- **Committee member Perman** - Thanked staff for the installation of the traffic mirror at Kelly and Calhoun Avenue. Mr. Hart informed the members that staff has also ordered one for Bayou and Main Street as well. Committee member Perman spoke of the potential traffic nightmare with the Tarpon Street Beach Park and thinks that turning Dolphin into a one way street from Scenic 98 to Luke Avenue needs to seriously be considered. She also mentioned that the beach crosswalks along Scenic 98 are still dark and dangerous at night and lighting needs to be

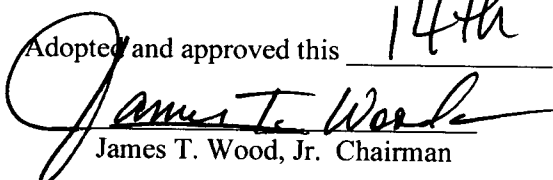
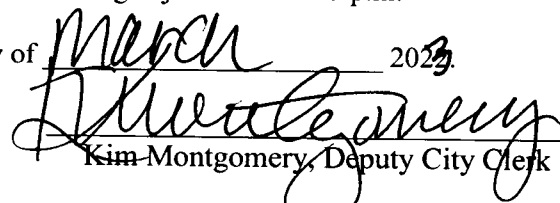
installed so drivers can see people in the crosswalks. She then spoke of how the need to regulate motorized bikes and scooters should be seriously considered. Mr. Burgess stated that at their March meeting the City Attorney should be in attendance for their Sunshine Law overview, and he will make sure that Mr. Bauman will have some information to provide on the limitations and latitude regarding what may be able to be done. Committee member Perman spoke of the need to ^{asked where they can be obtained} obtain signs for LSV use on the roadways similar to what is used in Walton County. Mr. Burgess spoke of the five "E's" of Engineering and how education can only go so far with people on the right and wrong things they should do and possibly, having information included in the short term rentals that provide LSV's for their guests may help.

- **Committee member Bell** – Asked about the status of replacing the purple hued lights along Hwy 98. According to Mr. Burgess, Destin is not the only city experiencing the issues and it may well be a supply chain issue. She then thanked staff for removing the palm tree on Gulf Shore Drive sidewalk and questioned the status of broken sidewalk located at the end of Norriego. Mr. Burgess informed the members that the location of this situation is questionable regarding who is responsible for replacing it. Additionally, the result of this situation will most likely enable a policy to be put in place for these similar situations in the future. Committee member Bell also brought up the space located at the end of Gulf Shore Drive where people tend to back into and hang over the curb into the sidewalk where paid parking is located and what the status is. Mr. Burgess spoke of how staff has tried to turn it into a multimodal area for bikes racks but they have been stolen and staff will make a decision on what to do for it.

She lastly spoke of the situation at her home on Christmas Eve where she heard a loud noise and went outside to see what was happening and noticed in the immediate area, there were several deputies and their vehicles on her street and how she asked what was happening and was informed they were called out to a domestic violence situation that may include a gun, she mentioned how alarming it was, but no one contacted her to alert her to stay inside her home until the situation was handled. She feels that the situation should have been handled differently by somehow alerting the nearby homes of what was potentially taking place and for everyone to stay inside.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 14th day of March 2023.
 James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman
 Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk