

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 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, March 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Staff

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 10 & February 21, 2023

Motion by Committee member Wood, seconded by Committee member Weidenhamer to approve both January 10, 2023 and February 21, 2023, as amended, passed unanimously, 7-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

➤ **Catherine Star, 821 Indian Trail**

Mrs. Star requested for the committee to consider installing sidewalks on the north side of Indian Trail from Main Street that connects to Bayou Drive, which does have sidewalks. She spoke of how a lot of families with school age children have moved in the neighborhood recently and there are now two bus stops where anywhere between 8 and 10 children walk to and wait at the stops without any sidewalks, and middle school children also have bus stops in the same area. She explained how connecting would also make it safer for people that are walking or riding their bikes along that area.

The Chairman spoke of how he would like to get some feedback from the property owners on both sides of the road, in a petition format to make sure everyone is in agreement with a sidewalk being installed along that stretch of the road, and spoke of issues that have happened in the past where sidewalks have been requested and some homeowners spoke out how they did not want them.

Mr. Burgess spoke of how the cost for that area is anywhere in the \$130 - \$150k cost range for the sidewalks adding that there was just recently a 30% cost increase so, actually, it would be more. He then stated that they could add these into their sidewalk plan for consideration.

Chairman Wood stated to Mrs. Star that he would first prefer for her to obtain a petition with 60% signatures, or as close as possible to that percentage, in agreement to have the sidewalk installed and connected in the area of question.

Motion by Committee member Stephens to recommend to Council to approve the installation of the sidewalk contingent upon receiving the petition with an aim of 60% in agreement from the citizens where the sidewalk is needed, and adding it to the FY-24 Budget. Committee member Bell provided the second. In discussion, Committee member Bell asked Mrs. Star if she was wanting the sidewalk to stay on the same side of the road as it is now.

According to Mrs. Star, yes, in order to connect it, that would make the most sense. Committee member Bell then asked if they were agreeable to just the 16-homes on that side of the road and not both sides. According to the Chairman, he would agree to for just that same side of the roadway.

Mr. Burgess spoke of how the area has quite a bit of Live Oak trees along that area and the city requires a 10-foot clearance along sidewalks therefore, that may cause a complication to this request and should be considered. Also, any utilities in the immediate area that would also have to be considered for which side of the road would be the best for the sidewalks to be installed.

Committee member Weidenhamer spoke of how part of their charge of being on this committee is Public Safety, meaning the city has appropriate safe walkways for citizens through neighborhoods and emphasized that he doesn't feel the policies should involve consensus input from anyone, when safety of the citizens and especially when children getting to school is a factor.

Committee member Stephens agreed with that statement and amended his motion to remove the 60/40 petition portion of his motion.

Committee member Bell asked aren't sidewalks are covered on some level in the Land Development Code. Mr. Burgess explained sidewalks are required to be installed along the perimeter of the property lines for any new development.

Committee member Green asked which side of the roadway the sidewalk is located on Main Street's connection to Indian Trail, according to Mrs. Star, it is located on the non-water side of the road.

With no further discussion, **Chairman Wood called for the vote and the motion passed 7-0.**

Committee member Stephens asked what the policy is for any trees that may inhibit this request. According to Mr. Burgess, he will have the city's surveyor go out to the location and take a look at the situation and determine if there are any issues and where would the best location for the sidewalks to be installed and any other necessary implements that may need to be included.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Update on Road Re-surfacing, Re-striping, and Sidewalk Priorities

Mr. Burgess explained that as part of the FY budget for this year, there was funds set aside for resurfacing, sidewalk repairs and restriping. This committee, several month ago, recommended to Council for the resurfacing of Scenic 98 from the west loop to Cobia Street.

Resurfacing:

Legion Drive from Main Street to Beach Drive
Calhoun Avenue, a portion of Zerbe Street and Sibert Avenue
Kellaire Drive and Kellaire Court
Main Street from Highway 98 to Airport Road
Third Avenue and First Avenue
Vintage Circle and Vintage Court

Restriping:

Crystal Beach, is currently underway
Benning Drive to Hwy 98
Country Club East
Pine Ridge Trace

ADA Repairs:

ADA Transition Plan is in its final stages for pedestrian facilities, pointing out that the lack of ADA warning devices (yellow or black mats) with about 450 needing to be replaced, at a cost of about \$90k for the project.

Sidewalk Repairs:

Mr. Burgess spoke of the study done by Baskerville Donovan who identified the needs and at this time, they have spent close to \$60k on repairs. He explained how a majority of the ongoing issues are caused from grade changes because of the sand base and tree root intrusion.

B) Additional Lighted Pedestrian Crossing Fixtures, location, recommendation to Council

Mr. Hart explained to the members that the city has recently installed four pedestrian crossing system with the last two being installed on Legion Drive next to Buck Destin Park. The updated costs for the systems, and staff is looking to installing the double lighted systems which are \$5k a piece totaling \$10k overall per system. He also explained that parts for the remaining two systems have been ordered, and these systems will be installed at the crossing near Industrial Park Lane and the mid-block crossing on Legion Drive, and how the remaining surtax monies in the FY23 budget to be used for Traffic Safety Improvements. If the committee agrees, these crossings can be placed at the following beach access crossings in the Crystal Beach area:

- Scenic 98 at Shirah (Turtle Lighting), may require amber filters if necessary.
- Scenic 98 at Barracuda (Turtle Lighting)
- Scenic 98 at Pompano or Tarpon (Turtle Lighting)
- Scenic 98 at James Lee Park, west end (Turtle Lighting)
- Scenic 98 at James Lee Park, at Crab Trap (Turtle Lighting)
- Scenic 98 at James Lee Park, east side (Turtle Lighting) or, can be installed at alternate locations to include:
 - Beach Drive at Spring Lake Drive (by Destin Elementary)
 - Benning Drive at Azalea

Motion by Chairman Wood to recommend Council direct staff to purchase six sets of the double sided pedestrian light sets at \$10k per set, with the determination of where the six out of the eight locations are needed, once they come in, with Committee member Bell providing the second. The motion passed unanimous vote of 7-0.

Committee member Perman spoke of how since the majority of Council and this committee members live on the west side of the city, she suggested that they all should make a trip after dark to Crystal Beach, to sit and visually see how many pedestrians there are crossing the street either going to or coming back off the beach with no lighting or pedestrian crossing lights.

Committee member Stephens stated that he could agree to most of the listed, as long as one is placed on Beach Drive.

C) Misty Way Stormwater Improvements - Ryan Scott

Mr. Scott explained the stormwater issues stems from a drainage area that somehow got removed during construction of the subdivision and what is currently in place now is not adequate because of the fact that it is higher than the pipes for the road. He briefly explained how the drainage was rerouted to the adjacent vacant property however, since that property has been developed, the stormwater for the past three years has had nowhere to properly go and has been flooding the entrance into the subdivision. He suggests that in order to fix it, at the low point of the road, a curb inlet needs to be installed at the low part of the road, with a junction box to turn it at the corner and then replace the sidewalk with ramps, for a total cost of \$58k.

Motion by Committee member Bell, seconded by Committee member Smith to recommend the modification of the drainage as proposed to help alleviate any drainage issues and/or flooding found within the Misty Way roadway and eliminate the need for a swale system on the adjacent property owner's lot. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

6. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- **Emergency Management Update – Nothing at this time**
- **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.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **Member Comments:**

- **Committee member Bell** – Spoke of how eBikes and eScooters are dealt with so differently down south than how they are up here in the panhandle. She mentioned being in Miami recently and how they are all kept in a neat and orderly fashion, but around this area, they are just thrown on the ground anywhere and how messy it looks.

Mr. Burgess briefly explained the different types of eBikes, the speeds, and the how the Florida Statutes govern their speeds. He stated that he will be working with the Land Use Attorney on this subject and once staff is prepared, they will be bringing information to them to discuss.

- **Committee member Smith** – Spoke of the pavement down by The Henderson Construction is failing very quickly and how he is afraid that it will not hold up before the construction is finished.

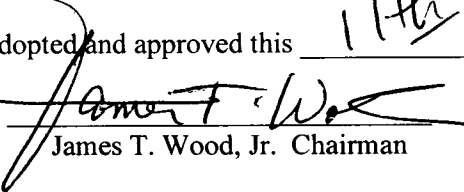
- **Committee member Green** – Asked if there is way that the Code Compliance staff can be trained to stop and speak to people who are riding their bikes on the wrong side of the road, and educate people the proper side of the roadways to operate their bikes before more people are hit and injured, or killed.

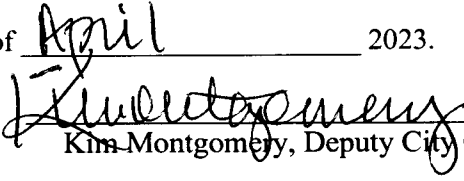
- **Chairman Wood** – Suggested to the members to take advantage of calling and speaking to Mr. Burgess prior to the meetings on any issues of concern that they may come across instead of waiting to speak of it at their meetings.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 11th day of April 2023.


James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk