

**LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 - 5:30 P.M.
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Buhr called the Local Planning Agency Meeting to order on Thursday, September 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., in the Destin City Hall Boardroom; with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff Members Present</u>
Todd Buhr	James T. Wood, Jr.	Steven O'Connor, Principal Planner
Karen Hudson	Corey Ledbetter	Kimberly Kopp, City Attorney
Jay Purut		Sharon Gardner, Records Specialist
Marcie Bell		

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Agency member Bell, seconded by Agency member Purut to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023, meeting, as written.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Lamar Advertising - Presentation (Request from Lamar to be placed on agenda)

Mr. Stephen Stanford with Florida Lamar Advertising spoke to the members about his company, who currently has 11 billboards in the city. He explained their intention is to remove 5 of these billboards and convert the remaining 6 to digital. He cited a few examples of how these signs can be used by the city to advertise our current beach flag system, instructions for emergency evacuations in the event of hurricanes, and to promote city events.

The Agency members asked questions regarding the lifespan of the billboards, how many other billboard companies have signs currently in Destin, and if studies had been done to show how distracting these types of signs are. Mr. Stanford explained it's hard to answer the lifespan of the structures, but they make them as long lasting as possible. He mentioned that Tier 1 and Bill Salter advertising currently have other billboards in the area.

Ms. Renee Ellis also with Lamar Advertising answered that there have been studies done concerning the signs being a distraction and she could provide them. Discussions continued with Agency members asking about the use of these signs during evacuations for hurricanes and how these billboards would be operational during such an event. Mr. Stanford explained the signs would be turned off until it was safe to have their employees sent out to inspect them to operate again.

Agency member Hudson asked if there was a chance their signs wouldn't be able to help during an evacuation circumstance. Mr. Stanford stated that is correct if the signs are damaged. According to the City Attorney, if the billboards were destroyed during any type of storm, based on City Code, they wouldn't

be allowed to be replaced.

Vice Chairman Buhr suggested to Mr. Stanford to update his map he provided to show all of Lamar Billboards. He then directed his comments to staff, asking if these were considered off-premises signs and were they still considered nonconforming in accordance with the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan. According to Mr. Steve O'Connor, they are.

Vice-Chairman Buhr pointed out that since they are nonconforming structures, based on the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code, citing the specific codes that limit the amount of non-conforming structures, by recommending this to City Council, they are not following the regulations set forth in the code and because of that, he cannot support or endorse a recommendation to City Council.

Motion by Vice Chairman Buhr that the Local Planning Agency recommends City Council decline the Lamar Advertisings proposal since the action is not allowed by multiple sections in both the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code, with Agency member Purut provided the second, the motion passed 4-0.

5. DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. O'Connor reminded the committee of the Joint workshop with City Council on September 25th at 5:30 pm regarding Article 4 of the Land Development Code.

The City Attorney explained the intent of this workshop is not to go line by line through Article 4 but to provide 5 items to Council for discussion purposes. Questions were asked regarding the Sunshine Law during these types of workshops. According to the City Attorney, everyone can speak freely during workshops. Vice Chairman Buhr opened the floor to the public for comments. With no one in the public to speak, he closed the public portion and adjourned the meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussion at the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 5th day of October 2023.


James Wood, Jr. Chairman


Corey Ledbetter


Sharon Gardner, Records Specialist