

**REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 8, 2024
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 Bobby Wagner
Councilmember Torey Geile
Councilmember Terésa Hebert
Councilmember Matthew Sweetser (Remote)

Councilmember Kevin Schmidt
Councilmember Dewey Destin
Councilmember Jim Bagby
Councilmember Johnny King

Destin City Staff

Interim City Manager Louis Zunguze
City Engineer Ryan Scott
Code Compliance Director Troy Williams
Public Information Director Tamara Young
Grants/Projects Manager Jeffrey Cozadd
Finance Director Krystal Strickland
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp

City Clerk Rey Bailey
Public Works Director Michael Burgess
HR Director Jaime Dittmer
IT Director Andy Peters
Building Official Noell Bell
Parks/Rec Director Lisa Firth

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The mayor called for a moment of silence, which was then followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember King, to approve the agenda passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted “yes”; Councilmember Sweetser was a remote participant and did not vote).

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

- A. Recognition of the 2023 10U Softball All-Stars and Recognition of the 2023 12U Baseball All-Stars

The mayor announced that this item has been rescheduled to January 22nd council meeting.

- B. 2023 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

The mayor announced that this item has been rescheduled to January 22nd council meeting.

- C. Permitting Process – Presentation

According to Councilmember Geile, there have been complaints that the City of Destin is one of the most difficult and time consuming to get a permit. He has discussed this matter with several other contractors that disagree with that assessment, and one of them referred him to Panhandle Permitting. They apply for every type of permit throughout the Florida Panhandle and they will explain that Destin is not even close to being one of the most difficult.

Ms. Julie Shepard of Panhandle Permitting stated that her firm specializes in expediting the building permit process. They pull permits from Escambia County to Bay County. She noted that most municipalities, including the City of Destin, basically follow the state's standard permitting procedure. They have heard similar complaints from different municipalities, mostly from individuals that do not have knowledge of the permitting process. There are also complaints from out-of-state contractors and unlicensed contractors that are not familiar with the state's standard permitting process. There are those that come from other states that do not require permits and they get frustrated when things do not meet their expectations and do not receive their permits fast enough.

She added that the City of Destin's permitting process is no more difficult, and maybe even easier, than those of other municipalities; and that based on their experience, the City of Destin staff are quite professional and helpful to their customers.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. 2024 Ford F-150 Super Cab 4x4 for Code Compliance Department, authorization to Issue a Purchase Order
- B. 2024 Ford Maverick XL AWD Crew Cab, Renewal and Replacement Program, authorization to issue Purchase Orders
- C. Miscellaneous Mechanical Services, authorization to execute a 3-year noncontract.
- D. Milling, Resurfacing, and Restriping of Calhoun Ave (US98 to Cross St) plus Zerbe Street from Calhoun to Stahlman
- E. Budget Amendment - Adjustment for Prior Year Encumbrances Rolled Forward
- F. Resolution 24-01 Financial Institution Signature Authority
- G. Approval of minutes of November 6, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting
- H. Approval of minutes of October 16, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting
- I. Volunteer Committee/Board Attendance Report
- J. Draft Minutes of Standing Committee/Board Meetings

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to approve Consent Agenda items 3A through 3J, as printed above, passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- A. Interim City Manager Contract

The City Attorney briefly discussed the contents of the proposed contract for Mr. Louis Zunguze as both Interim City Manager and Community Development Director.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve the proposed Interim City Manager Contract, effective January 2, 2024, passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted “yes”).

B. Options for Median Maintenance and Proposed Extension of ZIIC Continuing Services Contract

Public Works Director Michael Burgess discussed the following proposed options for the city council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute a 6-month contract extension with ZIIC Outdoors, from January 1 thru June 30, 2024, and for the City Manager to advertise an RFB for these services as soon as possible; and to bring back a recommendation and budget information by May of 2024.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a 6-month contract extension with ZIIC Outdoors from, January 1 thru June 30, 2024, and for the City Manager to bring back budget information and a recommendation by May of 2024 on how to secure the necessary equipment and personnel to begin performing these services in-house.

Councilmember Schmidt moved to authorize the City Manager to execute a 6-month contract extension with ZIIC Outdoors, from January 1, 2024 through, June 30, 2024, and direct the City Manager to advertise an RFB for these services, and to bring back a recommendation on in-house services by May 2024; seconded by Councilmember Hebert.

Councilmember Bagby disagrees with the 6-month extension, arguing that it will leave the city without a contractor for a long period of time; and that it will end in June which is right the middle of the growing season and the busiest part of the season.

Councilmember Bagby offered a substitute motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a 12-month contract extension with ZIIC Outdoors, from January 1, 2024 through, December 31, 2024, and to direct the City Manager to bring back a draft RFP for these services as well as to bring back budget information on performing these services in-house by the middle of the summer; seconded by Councilmember Destin.

Following additional discussions, Councilmember Bagby offered an amended motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a 9-month contract extension with ZIIC Outdoors, from January 1, 2024 through, September 30, 2024, and to direct the City Manager to bring back a draft RFP for this services as well as to bring back budget information on performing these services in-house by the middle of the summer. Amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Destin and passes 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted “yes”).

C. Motion to Consider Rescission of the Prior Council Directive on FPL Undergrounding Contractor

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to consider rescission of the prior council directive to negotiate a contract with ADS and have a motion to rescind this action considered at the next council meeting on January 22, 2024, passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted “yes”).

- D. Operations Financial Report - Informational Only
- E. Capital Project Status - Informational Only

Councilmember Bagby recommends incorporating this monthly report on capital project status with Councilmember Geile’s project status/updates.

- F. TDC Monthly Report - Informational Only

Councilmember Schmidt stated for the record that the TDC Monthly Report showed that the City of Destin brought in gross revenues totaling nearly \$74 million to the county by the end of calendar year 2023. The tax due on that amount was \$4.4 million out of the total of \$7.55 million.

- G. Announcements

1. Code Compliance Department will host a Short-Term Rental Property Management/Manager Collaboration meeting on Thursday, January 11th, at 1:00 pm, in the Annex Council Chamber.
2. Friday, January 19th, is Florida Arbor Day Celebration. The city will be donating and planting a Red Buckeye Tree at 10 AM at Leonard Destin Park in honor of that event.
3. City facilities will be closed on Monday, January 15th, in honor of the Martin Luther King Holiday.
4. The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22nd.
5. Vulnerability Assessment Outreach is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24th, at 6:00 PM, in the Annex Council Chamber. The public is invited to attend.
6. City staff is proposing to hold this year’s visioning session on Thursday, February 29th, from 8 am to noon.
7. Enough toys were collected during the Christmas Parade. These toys were distributed to 40 families and over 120 children in the Destin area over the Christmas Holiday.
8. The prioritization list for the city’s mobility projects was provided to the council last month for their review. Individual briefing with the council will occur in February.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- A. Councilmember Sweetser
- B. Councilmember Geile

1. Projects Status Updates

City staff provided an update to the following projects:

- Harbor Dredging – The city has received preliminary estimates as to the number of cubic yards to be dredged. The city is in the process of trying to obtain the costs associated with those numbers and will provide that information to the city council for directions.
- Pickleball Courts – 30% design is going before the Parks and Recreation and Public Works/Safety Committees for their review and comments.
- Four-Pronged Lake – Activity to commence on January 22nd.

2. Motion to consider rescission of the prior action by the city to terminate an Individual's membership on the City's Parks and Recreation Committee.

Motion by Councilmember Geile, seconded by Councilmember King, to consider rescission of the prior council directive to terminate Mr. Isaac Birch's membership on the city's Parks and Recreation Committee and a motion to rescind this action to be considered at the next council meeting on January 22, 2024, passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember Geile, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to reinstate Mr. Isaac Birch's membership to the city's Parks and Recreation Committee passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

- C. Councilmember Destin
- D. Councilmember Bagby

Councilmember Bagby moved for the council to approve the following individuals for initial memberships to the Parks Foundation Board:

- **Parker Destin**
- **Jay Howard**
- **Sandy Trammell**
- **Michelle Buhr**
- **Chatham Morgan**
- **Lance Johnson**

Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hebert.

Councilmember Bagby explained that the Parks Foundation Board is not a direct support organization of the city, and not in any way part of the city or the city's committee structure. The city has agreed to work closely with this board and expects the board to eventually work closely with the city to raise money, conduct programs, or seek donations of lands that could then be improved upon by the city, or possibly donated to the city based on the board's decision.

Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

- E. Councilmember Hebert
- F. Councilmember King
- G. Councilmember Schmidt

1. Visioning Session – Discussion

Councilmember Schmidt stated that his goal is to have a proactive approach in planning for the visioning session and not limit themselves to just the morning of February 29th to conduct this session. He would like staff to plan for a visioning session that would allow each member of the city council to provide their vision for the city and enough time to discuss them however long it takes. He is looking forward to a very productive session.

Councilmember Bagby agreed with being proactive in planning for the visioning session. He expressed that the city has a process in place that works as long as they follow it. There is no need to revise their long-term strategic plan every year unless there is an emergency that requires them to revisit the plan. He continued that the city conducts a citizen survey one year, and then a staff survey the following year, and holds an election during even-numbered years. They have a process where they integrate all these elements in planning for the visioning session.

H. Mayor Wagner

I. City Attorney

1. Draft City Manager Job Description and Recommended Salary Range

Motion by Councilmember Destin, seconded by Councilmember Bagby, to approve the City Manager Job Description and Recommended Total Compensation package, and authorize the Human Resources Director to post the position passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted “yes”).

2. Resolution 24-02: Establishment of City Manager Selection Committee

The City Attorney explained that the resolution deals specifically with establishment of the citizens search committee and proposed city manager hiring process. Staff recommends that the city council establishes the Citizen Selection Committee whose sole purpose is to assist the city council in screening a city manager for potential employment by the City of Destin as further set forth in the resolution. As proposed, the city council will consider the recommendations of the committee in making its decision to hire a city manager. However, the city council retains the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject all applicants or to select a city manager for employment by the City of Destin that was not recommended by the committee and shall not be bound by the recommendations of the committee. The committee will be made up of 7 members. Each council member may make one appointment to the committee.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to adopt Resolution 24-02 passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to appoint Jason Belcher, Councilmember Sweetser's nominee to the City Manager Citizen Selection Committee, passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember Geile, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to appoint John Stephens to the City Manager Citizen Selection Committee passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember Destin, seconded by Councilmember Geile, to appoint Chatham Morgan to the City Manager Citizen Selection Committee passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to appoint Todd Buhr to the City Manager Citizen Selection Committee passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember King, to appoint Ken Wampler to the City Manager Citizen Selection Committee passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember King, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to appoint Lockwood Wernet to the City Manager Citizen Selection Committee passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember King, to appoint Seattle Alderman to the City Manager Citizen Selection Committee passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Geile voted "yes").

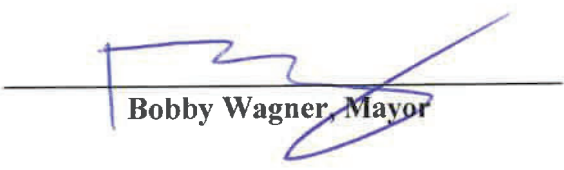
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

ATTEST:


Rey Bailey, City Clerk


Bobby Wagner, Mayor