

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 - 5:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE:

Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>
James T. Wood, Jr.		Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
John Green		Michael Burgess PW Director
Tom Weidenhamer		Ryan Scott City Engineer
Sam Perman		Joe Bodi, Engineer Asst. II
Marcie Bell		Mayor Wagner
Curtis Smith		

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **November 14, 2023**

Motion to approve the November 14, 2023, minutes as written was made by Committee member Bell with Committee member Green providing the second. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0.

➤ **December 12, 2023 - Pulled**

Committee member Weidenhamer stated that he thought he made a recommendation in to have a cul-de-sac type turnaround for emergency vehicles added to the Linear Park plans and asked the clerk to investigate this further. The decision was made to have the minutes pulled for evaluation by the clerk.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Okaloosa County Half Cent Sales Surtax Allocation - FY24 "TRSAF" Projects**

Mr. Burgess explained the committee was again allotted the \$100k for traffic safety and has provided them with five suggestions on how to spend the funds on items needed. The Chairman stated that he would definitely like to see a couple of the rapid flashing pedestrian beacons installed on Holiday Isle at Norriego and Moreno Point Road. Mr. Burgess stated that he would bring back a list of items and their unit prices at their next meeting for their recommendation to Council.

➤ **Draft Article 6, Street Trees – Daniel Butler Senior Planner**

Mr. Butler explained to the members how staff is condensing articles in the Land Development Code in order to make it more user friendly for the public and staff. In this article, staff is looking for the committee's input for street trees located within the right-of-way. He further explained that staff is recommending the removal of Sparkleberry, which tends to grow in a more shrubby fashion and can block the view of traffic and Live Oaks because of their root system that can eventually damage the utilities or street/sidewalks or, at least have root barrier requirements to be installed at planting.

Motion by Chairman Wood, seconded by Committee member Bell to recommended changes to the allowable list of street trees as presented and forward to the Local Planning Agency as soon as possible for their consideration and recommendation to City Council.

Committee member Bell mentioned she feels the Sylver Palms how should be included in the allowable street trees list and asked to **amend the motion to add Sylvester Palm to the allowed list of street trees, Chairman Wood accepted the amendment.**

Chairman Wood then spoke of the need to have staff consider putting in some language regarding how close trees, such as Pine trees, can be planted to sidewalks, so that they do not cause root problems to the sidewalks in the future. Committee member Bell asked the Chairman if he would explain what he meant by pine trees being planted. The Chairman stated that he feels there should be a distance requirement to the right-of-way, so there won't be a chance for the roots to disturb the sidewalks.

Mr. Butler stated that staff can take a look at that and bring back for discussion measures and language that may be implemented for their discussion and a recommendation to the Local Planning Agency.

Committee member Smith recommended for staff to add language, "Understory trees can only be planted within so many feet of power lines", to keep them from being mutilated.

Committee member Bell spoke up to say she has realized that Sylvester Palm tree is already on the list of allowed trees and therefore withdraws her amendment to the motion. With no further discussion, **Chairman Wood called for the vote for the original motion, the motion passed with a vote of 6-0.**

➤ **US-98 & Palms Street Intersection Improvements**

Mr. Scott explained to the members that this item is information only from FDOT regarding the intersection improvement they are making. They will be lengthening the right turn lane and installing turn lanes on Highway 98, pedestrian crosswalk and signalization. The members discussed certain aspects for the project and in all agreed that even though they don't have any say in the project, they are agreeable with it since it will be installing a traffic signal with pedestrian crosswalks.

➤ **Crosswalk Speed Table at Main Street and N. Lakeside Dr.**

Mr. Bodi explained this item is in reference to the approval of the Crosswalk Speed Table they recommended to Council for the installation at Main Street and N. Lakeside Drive. Once staff got to the location, it was discovered there are stormwater drainage issues that would be affected. He further explained how this project could become very expensive and staff needs an alternative location. Additionally, there is also parking at the general location and there are accessibility issues that have to be addressed as well. He then provided the members with pictures of the general vicinity showing a concrete stormwater flume, the erosion that is taking place, as well as a video staff took that shows what is happening as a result of the stormwater runoff.

Committee member Green spoke of how the speeding issues are from people coming from the north heading south and suggests moving the speed hump further north for a better objective because it is flatter. He then asked what the long term plan is for the intersection for mobility.

Mr. Scott stated that he does not recall anything in this immediate area regarding the Mobility Plan, however a lot of work needs to be done for stormwater.

Motion by Committee member Weidenhamer, seconded by Committee member Bell to install a speed hump north of the intersection in North Lakeside Drive and Main Street. In discussion, Committee member Smith suggested moving it just 5-feet so that to make it work. Mr. Scott pointed out that it would still cause an issue with the traffic being dumped into that stormwater flume. With no further discussion, **Chairman Wood called for the vote and the motion passed 5-1 with Committee member Green dissenting.**

➤ **Beach Circle Road Relocation Request**

Mr. Scott explained to the members that Mr. Stanislav Nikolov approached staff about an issue he discovered after purchasing the property in question and came to the city about the problem. There is approximately seven (7) feet of public roadway encroaching on his property, which is an undeveloped lot, that he is wanting to build his home on. Staff is requesting to ask the City Council to add this to the 5-Year CIP and to get it placed in the FY-25 budget for the design and correction needed to the roadway, since there is obviously no funds available in this year's budget.

Mr. Stan Nikolov of 955 Airport Road, #1424 owner of the property at Beach Circle and Beach Drive spoke of how he is mostly concerned about any liability issues. He thanked everyone for their professionalism and how quickly it took for him to be here and discuss how to remedy the issue.

Committee member Green questioned the requirements for the sidewalks to be installed when a property is developed and if there is any type of buyout program been considered.

According to Mr. Scott, the fee in lieu process typically only covers sidewalks when there is hardship, but in this case, the city would cover this when the roadway is corrected.

Chairman Wood made the motion to recommend to the City Council include the Beach Circle Road reconstruction, in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan and place this project on the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget, with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.

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

- Three paving projects are currently ongoing and will be stripped next week.
- Five stormwater projects.
- Directional bore for Four Prong Lake is in and the fittings for the pipe just needs to be attached.

Mayor Wagner informed the members that in Tallahassee, the appropriation bill has the most backing as well as with the Northwest Florida Water District (NWFWD). He further explained Representative Pat Maney is confident they will get \$1M and possibly another \$1M to \$1.5M from NWFWD and explained that this project has the most potential to be funded by the state agencies in the next year or two for the Weir System.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ Member Comments:

- **Chairman Wood** – Spoke of seeing the new Tesla charging stations being installed near the Winn Dixie and stopped to speak with the workers. He stated that he was pleased to find out that they had correctly pulled the permits and called 811 to ensure there was not any utilities before they started to dig.
- **Committee member Bell** – Asked staff when the completion of the resurfacing for Moreno Point Road would be. She also asked staff who would a citizen speak with regarding sidewalks that are not on the Mobility Plan. Mr. Burgess explained they could make an appointment with the Planning Staff or contact him at any time.
- **Committee member Perman** – Asked if there are any alternative solutions to the

flashing lights at James Lee Park at the west end.

Mr. Burgess explained the issue at James Lee Park is the spacing between the back of the curve and the sidewalk is too narrow to put the base because the sign would overhang the sidewalk and the roadway, because it is a 36-inch wide sign. She also asked about Calhoun Avenue resurfacing and the bike, paths project. Mr. Burgess explained the project is due to start soon and everything will go back exactly how it currently is.

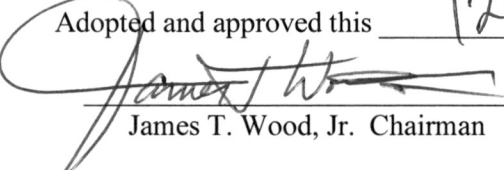
- **Committee member Smith** – Spoke of a recent traffic accident on Emerald Coast Parkway that shut down lanes in front of Walmart and how the traffic light's timing at Kelly Plantation made the traffic jam worse. He stated that he is aware that part of Commons Drive is not within the city limits but feels that the city should reach out to the County and ask for assistance when there is a bad accident.

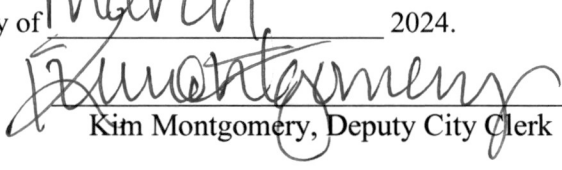
Mr. Burgess stated that there is a way for them to remotely control the traffic lights if they are contacted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 12th day of March 2024.


James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk