

**REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 18, 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 Johnny King

Councilmember Dewey Destin
Councilmember Terésa Hebert
Councilmember Jim Bagby

Destin City Staff

Interim City Manager Louis Zunguze
City Engineer Ryan Scott
Parks/Recreation Director Lisa Firth
Finance Director Krystal Strickland
Projects/Grants/Contract Manager Jeffrey Cozadd

City Clerk Rey Bailey
IT Director Andy Peters
Public Works Director Michael Burgess
Code Compliance Director Troy Williams
City Attorney Kyle Bauman

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Pastor David Butler from Faith Assembly Christian Church gave the invocation, 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 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted “yes”; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

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

A. Proclamation - Government Finance Professional Week

Mayor Wagner read the proclamation designating March 18-22, as ***Government Finance Professionals Week*** in the City of Destin, and then presented the proclamation to the city’s Finance Director Krystal Strickland.

B. Joe's Bayou Presentation from FDEP

Mr. Pearce Barrett, Project Engineer from FDEP gave a comprehensive presentation on the Joe’s Bayou enhancement project. This included detailed explanations of the planned

enhancements such as increased public access to water, environmental safeguards like living shorelines, and facility upgrades including the redesign of docks and improvement of boat ramps. Feedback from community and surveys had been incorporated into the project design, showing responsiveness to public input. Key points included:

- Enhancements to Shoreline Access: Modifications for better public access and environmental protection measures.
- Fishing Pier Adjustments: Implementation of living shoreline projects to protect against erosion and environmental degradation.
- Environmental Initiatives: Introduction of new environmental structures to protect the shoreline.
- Facility Improvements: Upgrades to existing recreational and boat ramp facilities.

Progress to Date:

- Desktop investigations (review of published data)
- Development of website to serve as platform for public outreach
- Develop an online survey and analysis of the results
- Surveys (boundary, topographic, bathymetric and natural resource)
- Initial geotechnical investigations
- Assessments of existing conditions and facilities
- Architectural master plan and conceptual designs (30%)
- Pre-application permit meeting(s) with regulatory agencies (DEP, United States Army corps of Engineers (USACOE))
- Address and incorporate as appropriate comments from previous presentations
- Finalize 60% design documents and begin permitting process

Next Steps:

- Note comments from city staff, Parks and Recreation Committee, and the city council presentation of 60% designs and incorporate in preparation of 90% plans where feasible.
- Prepare 90% design documents and submit for permits with local, state, and federal permitting agencies in spring 2024
- Present 90% design documents along with permitting comments to staff, Parks and Recreation committee, and the city council
- Prepare bid documents and release for bids

Following the presentation, council members asked detailed questions about specific changes to the project such as the removal of certain docks and the rationale behind the redesign of the boat launching areas. Discussions also covered technical aspects such as the management of stormwater and adjustments to fishing and boat launching areas. Specific concerns about project timelines and safety features were raised.

Councilmember Hebert moved for approval of the current direction shown so far on the 60% Joe's Bayou Recreation Area Improvement Project plans and to have the City Manager work with FDEP and staff to move this project to 90% plans; seconded by Councilmember Destin. Motion passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mike Buckingham, a Destin resident, reported an issue regarding a sub-contractor not being paid by the main contractor on a city project. He requested council intervention to ensure fairness and legal compliance.

Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to obtain a copy of the contract between the general contractor for the Capt Royal Melvin Heritage Park project and the sub-contractor in question, and the general contractor's statement at the completion of the project certifying that they have paid all their sub-contractors; and then reach out to the general contractor and remind them of their obligation to pay their sub-contractors; seconded by Councilmember Hebert.

Councilmember Geile recommends having the sub-contractor file a complaint or bring this matter before the Department of Business and Professional Regulations (DPBR), the organization that investigates and determines whether a citizen, sub-contractor, or firm is being treated unfairly and then takes the necessary steps to rectify the situation.

Motion passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

Mr. Shane Moody, President and CEO of the Destin Chamber of Commerce, expressed gratitude towards the council for their participation and support of a recent event involving the Destin Forward class; adding that the Destin Forward program focuses on leadership development.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Declaration of City Property as Surplus (Vehicles, Equipment, and Other Miscellaneous Items)
- B. City of Destin Vulnerability Assessment - Dewberry Task Work Order Amendment
- C. Authorization to purchase four John Deere Gators for the Parks Department
- D. Destin Fire District-Beach Safety Contract 2024
- E. Approval of minutes of February 29, 2024, City Council Strategic Visioning Session

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve Consent Agenda items 3A through 3E, as printed above, passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

A. Public parking support for Destin's 67th Annual Blessing of the Fleet and Community Fish Fry on Thursday, May 9, 2024

Staff noted that the blessing of the Fleet was the catalyst for beginning Destin's Annual Week of blessings activities. The Destin Week of Blessings Committee and the Immanuel Anglican church have requested that the city waives the parking fees at the Marler Parking Lot on Harbor Blvd. on Thursday, May 9, 2024, beginning at 2:00 PM in support of this long-standing community event.

Councilmember Bagby moved to waive the parking fees at the Marler Parking Lot for the 2024 Blessings of the Fleet, effective at 2:00 PM on May 9, 2024; seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

B. Pickleball Courts - 60% Construction Documents

According to the City Engineer, the city council previously directed staff to engage Jenkins Engineering, Inc. to design a pickleball area located on Indian Bayou Trail between the City Hall Annex building and the Public Works building. When the 30% plan was presented to the council on February 5, 2024, the council directed staff to work with Jenkins Engineering, Inc. to move forward to 60% plans with Option 4, which is 4 courts, none covered, and with one set of bathrooms. Staff then presented the 60% plans to the Parks and Recreation Committee. The committee voted to recommend approval of the plan with the following revisions: add temporary overflow parking on the south side of the project, swap out the tennis and basketball courts at the bottom for multi-use courts, two of the same size as the tennis courts.

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Bagby moved to direct the City Manager to work with staff and Jenkins Engineering to move forward to 90% design documents which include the recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Committee; seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

C. FY 2023 Annual Audit and Financial Statements

The Finance Director presented the Fiscal Year 2023 annual audit, which showed a clean report with no significant issues. The report underscored the city's healthy financial state and effective management practices.

Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to accept the 2023 Annual Audit and Financial Statements for the City of Destin and the City of Destin Community Redevelopment Agency passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

D. FY25 Budget Calendar

The Finance Director presented a proposed budget adoption calendar for Fiscal Year 2025. The budget calendar establishes dates for the two budget and millage public hearings, budget workshops, deadlines for budget entry, and review processes and statutory deadlines.

Councilmember Bagby moved to approve the FY 2025 Budget Calendar and to set the Budget and Millage Adoption Public Hearing #1 for September 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the annex council chambers at 4100 Indian Bayou Trail; seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted “yes”; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

E. Operations Financial Report - Informational Only

Highlights of the period ending 1/31/2024 was provided as follows:

- 75% of Ad Valorem (property) taxes have been received. Most property taxes arrive in the January/February timeframe.
- The city has expended 28% of the Operating Budget
- The city has expended 21% of the Capital Budget
- The net change in total fund balance is a year-to-date decrease of \$1.4 million. This includes the \$9 million acquisition of property at 1 Harbor Blvd.

F. Capital Project Status - Informational Only

A summary of the current capital improvement projects, showing status and Year-to-Date expenditures and encumbrances was provided.

G. TDC Monthly Report - Informational Only

A monthly report of collections of the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Tax was provided.

H. Announcements

- 1) Special City Council Meeting to be held Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6pm for RFP 24-01-ENG Utility Underground Conversion
- 2) The Destin Library will host an Easter Treat Trail for preschoolers on March 27th from 10-11 am.
- 3) The City of Destin’s annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30th at the Morgan Sports Center beginning at 9 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt is for youth ages 12 and under, with a special egg hunting zone for crawlers & toddlers.
- 4) The Destin Community Center will be hosting a community yard sale on Saturday, April 6th from 8 a.m. - noon. To reserve a spot and learn more details and fees for hosting a table, please call the Community Center.

- 5) The Presidential Preference Primary election will be held at the following voting precincts in the City of Destin:

- a. Precincts 35 and 44 – Destin United Methodist Church
- b. Precinct 20 – Destin Community Center
- c. Precinct 49 and 50 – City Hall Boardroom

Residents should check their voting registration card to determine where to vote.

- 6) Alex Fogg provided the city with stickers for Seagrass Awareness. Code Compliance and Public Information departments will be distributing those to livery pontoon vessels soon.
- 7) The city worked with Mr. Greg Fisher and the Boating Coalition to help support the livery safety video and pontoon safety video.
- 8) Per Councilwoman Hebert's request for the city to consider improving upon trash pickup issues, the Public Works Director, Code Compliance Director, and Public Information Director met with Waste Management staff to discuss several areas to partner on improving. These include five areas in particular:
- A. Service Day Stickers –stickers have been made available for residents at City Hall, City Annex and the Community Center. The Mayor and Public Information Officer will send a welcome letter to new residents, which will include stickers with the welcome packets.
 - B. Waste Management and the Public Information Department are going to review the "Did You Know" campaign content to better educate residents.
 - C. Waste Management and Code Compliance/Public Works are going to work even closer on communicating issues in real time.
 - D. Waste Management is going to update/improve curbside tagging.
 - E. Cleaning up delinquent accounts which are a violation of city ordinance using a multi-pronged approach.
- 9) The IT Department has converted many city cell phones to use the new mobile device management solution and plans to get everybody up to date.
- 10) A public workshop is scheduled for April 10th, beginning at 5:30 pm for the visioning workshop for the Destin City Center and city-owned properties in the Town Center CRA and Harbor CRA districts. Two or more members of the city council and/or other boards and committees may be in attendance.
- 11) Big thanks to Sheriff Eric Aden for allowing the city as part of the city's 40th birthday celebration to participate in the Captains' Hall of Fame in

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- A. Councilmember Stephens
- B. Councilmember Geile

- 1) Projects Status/Updates

Dredging operations update: The city is seeking a partnership with the county for the funding of the dredging operations and utilizing the county's contractor to do the work.

Councilmember Geile requests staff have a system in place for collecting condominium registration fees by May 4th.

- C. Councilmember Destin
- D. Councilmember Bagby

1) Letter of appreciation to the Northwest Florida Legislative Delegation

Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to draft, and for the mayor to execute, a letter thanking the NWF Legislative Delegation for their hard work in securing funding for the city's priorities; seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

2) Letter requesting the governor support funding items in the city budget

Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to draft, and for the mayor to execute, a letter asking the Governor to favorably consider the legislation and the moneys appropriated by the legislature for the City of Destin's projects; seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 5-0 (Council members King, Hebert, Bagby Destin, and Geile voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt and Stephens were absent from the meeting).

Councilmember Bagby asked staff to find other funding sources that would allow the city to use the following amount of money secured by the NWF Legislative Delegation:

- \$1 million for the Four-Pronged Lake project
- \$200,000 for the Hwy 98/Stahlman Avenue intersection project
- \$100,000 for the dredging project.

Councilmember Bagby requested that the following item be placed on the next regular council meeting agenda under his name: *Discussion on staff's catch-up plans for Renewal and Replacement funds.*

- E. Councilmember Hebert
- F. Councilmember King

Councilmember King raised concerns about recent traffic incidents and public safety, urging the council to prioritize traffic calming measures and pedestrian safety enhancements in upcoming projects.

- G. Councilmember Schmidt
- H. Mayor Wagner
- I. City Attorney

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

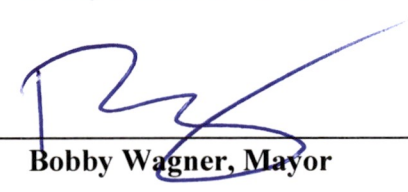
ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

ATTEST:



Rey Bailey, City Clerk



Bobby Wagner, Mayor