

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 - 5:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Sam Perman

Staff

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Michael Burgess PW Director
Ryan Scott City Engineer
Joe Bodi, Engineer Asst. II

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- February 13, 2024
- December 12, 2023

Motion to approve the February 13, 2023, minutes as written was made by Committee member Bell with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. The Chairman asked if she wanted to approve both sets in one motion. Committee member Bell amended her motion to approve both the February 13, 2024 and the December 12, 2023 minutes as written. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Capt. Jason Fulghum – Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department Spring Break Update**

Capt. Fulghum explained how they are essentially following the same process they have been doing for the last few years. He spoke of how the Sheriff's Office receives funding from the TDD to assist paying their deputies who want to work overtime during the Spring Break period, and just received an update, prior to this meeting that so far, they have made 286 arrests since Spring Break started. Most are typically underage drinking; however, some have been for possession of narcotics. He explained how they issue a Notice to Appear (NTA), generally because they are less laborious on the paperwork side than sending people to the County jail, however they will, if necessary, for those that are repeat offenders and are not taking their NTA seriously. Those will be processed through the system. He also spoke of breaking up house parties where the parents will come down, rent a house separately for their teens, and go stay somewhere else, those house parties tend to happen at least once a spring break and are typically all underage kids they break up. Those that get caught will go to jail. They will do the same thing for the summer tourist season for those takeover events that tend to happen on Crab Island.

Committee member Smith asked if there are any ordinances in place with the city or the county that enforce underage drinking. Capt. Fulghum stated that the only one is no drinking in public parks, however if someone is abiding by the law, over the underage drinking laws, and not disturbing others around them on the beach, they will not push the issue, as long as they are not drinking from a glass bottle.

Committee member Bell asked if they had any weapon incidents recently. According to Capt. Fulghum, there was a stabbing incident at the gas station on the corner of Stahlman Ave. and Hwy. 98, and at this time, the person has not been caught. Committee member Bell also spoke of seeing a few young men walking along Hwy. 98 with open containers around the Harbor Docks area and asked about the current open container law. Capt. Fulghum stated that is an open container violation, being outside of the Festive Marketplace, located westward of Harbor Docks.

Committee member Bell also spoke of holes left in the sand on the beach and how dangerous the situations are and asked what do they do about those. Capt. Fulghum explained how the beach patrol deputies generally stop and speak to the parents to educate them on their dangers not only to the beach wildlife but also the dangers to people and the children digging them because of cave in instances.

➤ **\$100k TRSA FUNDS**

The Public Works Director, Mr. Burgess explained that the items have increased in cost since the last time they had funds available.

- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (pair) - \$12,000
- Speed Hump Installation (pair) - \$12,000
- Speed Detection Device for Speed Studies - \$2,500 each
- Variable Messaging Boards w/trailer - \$16,000 each
- LED Stop Signs - \$1,600 each

Chairman Wood stated that he wants assurance that two Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons are installed at Norriego Road and Moreno Point Road after the pedestrian crosswalks are corrected and mentioned that he has spoken with the Holiday Isle folks and told them he would ensure they get installed.

Committee member Bells spoke of the need to have additional message board signs available for Gulf Shore Drive. She mentioned how having one at the entrance alerting the public that there presently is no parking available at Norriego Point may cut down on the amount of traffic down there that has to just turnaround. Mr. Burgess stated that he would like to have to additional one as well to use for various reasons.

Motion by committee member Smith to purchase two variable message board signs, with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. In discussion, Chairman

Wood stated that he feels there should be two sets available for different events taking place at the same time and asked if they feel a third set should be purchased. Mr. Burgess mentioned it would be nice to have an extra two. **Committee member Smith amended his motion to purchase a total of four variable message board signs, with Committee member Weidenhamer seconding the amendment.**

Committee member Bell amended the motion to add the purchase of two Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons be purchased while they are still \$12k apiece. In discussion, Committee member Bell spoke of the pedestrian crosswalk along Gulf Shore Drive and Moreno Point Road that she will be discussing later, where she wants two rectangular rapid flashing beacons to go in. There was a brief discussion about the crosswalks design and Mr. Ryan Scott, City Engineer stated he feels the crosswalks can easily be fixed with the appropriate concrete work and restriping installed. Adding that they will have to be placed in the budget to get the funding before the area can be corrected. Mr. Burgess added that typically, when there are stop signs nearby, they generally do not install the rapid flashing beacons because of having too much signage. There was a discussion regarding what areas of the city where they may need to be installed. Committee member Bell stated that she didn't want them to be purchased just for the sake of having them if they are not going to go where she has been advocating for them for the past two years. She then asked the Chairman if he wanted her to remove her amendment to the motion for the purchase of the two rapid flashing beacon signs. **Chairman Wood agreed and called for the vote of the original motion to purchase three sets of Variable Message Boards. The motion passed 5-0.** It was agreed that staff would look into additional rapid flashing beacons devices that do not control any stop signals for discussion at their next meeting.

➤ **Draft Mobility Plan Presentation – City Engineer Ryan Scott**

Chairman Wood stated that since they have already been presented this previously and although, staff was asked to present it again, he feels since there has not been any changes to what they were originally presented, he would, if the committee agrees, to make the recommendation to City Council to adopt the plan. The members agreed.

Motion by Chairman Wood to recommend the City Council adopt the Draft Mobility Plan and prioritization as previously presented, with Committee member Green providing the second. Committee member Bell asked if her concerns she has for Gulf Shore Drive and Hwy 98 are included. Mr. Scott explained the Mobility Plan is a big picture type plan and her concerns can be dealt with separately. **With no further comment, the motion passed 5-0.**

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.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

➤ **Member Comments:**

- **Committee member Smith** – Inquired about the pipes that are still sticking out of the ground on both sides of the roadway at Four Prong Lake where the pump was installed and what the end plan is for those. Mr. Burgess stated that once all the work is finished, he will get with the County to work on a solution.

- **Committee member Green** – Asked Mr. Scott what the final decision will be for the raised crosswalk on Main Street since it did not meet the 85th percentile. Mr. Scott stated that he is meeting with Councilwoman Hebert to discuss the data collected and he will report back with what the final decision will be for that general area.

- **Chairman Weidenhamer** – Thanked staff for the installation of the No U-Turn signs on Airport Road.

- **Committee member Bell** – Explained to the members the pictures that she provided to staff prior to this meeting of the area in Gulf Shore Drive at Hwy. 98 intersection, she has previously mentioned, of the entrance where people tend to want to turn into just coming off at the intersection that to her, is a dangerous area and she would like to see closed off with landscaping or those yellow bollards, similar to the ones on Perry Avenue at Publix in Fort Walton Beach. She mentioned there are two other entrances nearby for people that need to turn in to access the gas station or the store on that corner.

➤ **STAFF COMMENTS**

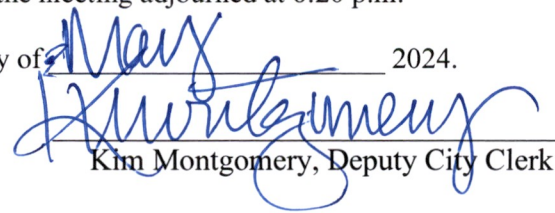
Mr. Burgess informed the members the Main Street paving project is almost finished and once the asphalt is cured, the permanent striping will go down, in about two weeks. The next paving project is Calhoun Avenue, where a portion has already been started, and the Destin Community Center parking lot. The other streets that have been paved and finished are Legion Drive, Moreno Point Road, and Matthew Blvd.

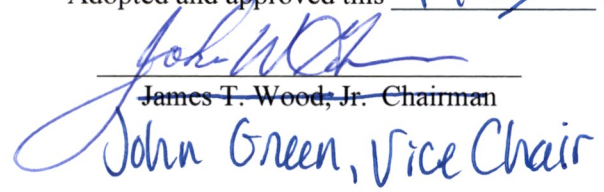
7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Adopted and approved this 14th day of May 2024.


James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk


John Green, Vice Chair