

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL  
JULY 29, 2024  
ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5:15 PM**

The Council of the City of Destin met in special session with the following members and staff present:

**Destin City Council**

Mayor Bobby Wagner  
Councilmember Torey Geile  
Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

Councilmember Jim Bagby  
Councilmember John Stephens  
Councilmember Dewey Destin

**City of Destin Staff**

Acting City Manager Krystal Strickland  
Public Information Director Tamara Young  
Community Development Director Tina Deater  
Parks & Recreation Director Lisa Firth  
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp

Deputy City Clerk Kim Montgomery  
HR Director Jaime Haynes  
IT Director Andy Peters  
Principal Planner Steve O'Connor

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Dual Authentication of Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR) Truth in Millage (TRIM) Compliance**

Acting City Manager and Finance Director Krystal Strickland introduced the item as a housekeeping measure. The FDOR Property Tax Oversight Department oversees the TRIM process to ensure that taxpayers and the public are properly informed about the legislative process by which local taxing authorities determine ad valorem property taxes. The FDOR requires a dual authentication by e-signatures through their Oversight and Assistance System ePortal. Traditionally, the Contact and Access Manager for this portal has been the Finance Director, and the Chief Administration Officer has been the City Manager. Currently, she is set as the Contact and Access Manager and Mr. Louis Zunguze is set as the Chief Administration Officer.

To continue the best practice of dual authentication for TRIM compliance, staff proposes to update the Contact Manager and Chief Administrative Officer to add flexibility in the event either the City Manager or Finance Director are not available during the 100 days of TRIM compliance as follows:

- Alternate Contact and Access Manager: Senior Accountant Kamila Merrell
- Alternate Chief Administration Officer: Acting City Manager Krystal Strickland

Councilmember Schmidt initiated further discussion, seeking clarification on the duration of the authority, which was confirmed to be the 100-day TRIM process starting July 1 and ending on October 9, 2024.

**Councilmember Schmidt moved to set the alternates for dual authentication of FDOR TRIM compliance documents, setting Kamila Merrell as the Contact and Access Manager and Krystal Strickland as the Chief Administrative Officer, for the duration of the calendar year 2024 TRIM compliance process. Councilmember Stephens provided a second to the motion.**

Further discussions included questions about the scope of the dual authentication authority, its application solely to TRIM compliance documents, and whether additional duties or documents were involved. It was clarified that this authority was limited to the TRIM compliance process.

Councilmember Destin inquired about the health status of the City Manager, expressing concern over the duration of his absence and the need for potential interim solutions.

The City Attorney updated the council on ongoing evaluations and discussion with HR, indicating that further information would be provided shortly.

Questions were also raised regarding spending authority and dual authentication requirements for financial documents, which Ms. Strickland clarified, emphasizing that dual authentication was not required for expenditures but was in place for financial institutions' signature authority.

Councilmember Bagby expressed concern about potential issues with dual signing authority within one department, particularly regarding financial oversight.

Ms. Strickland assured the council that there would not be dual signatories from the Finance Department, as the financial institution's signature authority would remain with herself and other designated officials outside the department.

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

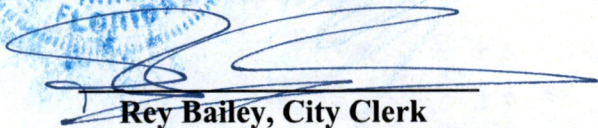
There were follow-up discussions on potential plans for managing City Manager Louis Zunguze's duties during his absence. Suggestions included developing short-term and long-term contingency plans, consulting the Florida League of Cities' Range Rider program, and reaching out to experienced city manager for interim duties.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

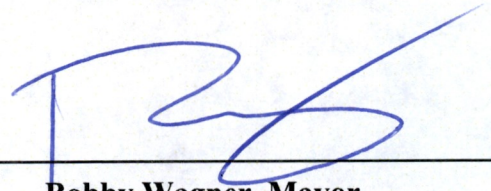
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM.

**ATTEST:**



**Rey Bailey, City Clerk**



**Bobby Wagner, Mayor**