

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 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, August 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex Chambers

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

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

Staff

Rey Bailey City Clerk
Michael Burgess PW Director
Ryan Scott City Engineer
Joe Bodi, Engineering Assistant II

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **July 9, 2024**

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024, meeting was made by Committee member Weidenhamer with Committee member Bell providing the second. The motion passed 7-0.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Old Pass Court at Gulf Shore Drive, Citizen Complaint – *Item pulled complaint withdrawn***

➤ **Airport Road & Destin Commons Drive Pedestrian Intersection Improvements – Joe Bodi**

The Engineering Assistant II, Joe Bodi provided the members an overview of the project is to provide improved pedestrian facilities at Airport Road and Commons Drive Intersection. He noted that, while there is an existing crosswalk, with the future the Linear Park exit being at this location, staff is looking to make the intersection safer for the pedestrians. The project aims to implement signalization at both points for the intersection for those crossing to Commons Drive. Currently, staff is seeking funding for the design stage, with plans to pursue grant opportunities.

The members discussed funding options, including the possibility of using the Okaloosa County ½ penny sales tax funds and applying for additional grants.

Staff recommends the following intersection improvements be completed before the Linear Trail Project is completed, to help ensure pedestrian's safety at this busy intersection. Staff obtained a quote of \$64,500.00 for design from Volkert, Inc. (continuing services consultant). The services include:

- Updating the survey
- Geotechnical and subsurface services
- Design of the pedestrian sidewalk/crosswalk facilities
- Traffic signal timing considerations

Chairman Wood suggests waiting for the design completion.

Motion by Committee member Bell to recommend City Council approve the funds for design and permitting with 50% coming from Public Works/Safety Committee and 50% from Engineering Professional Services for a total of \$64,500.00, with committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. In discussion, Mr. Bodi explained how having the design already in place will provide the city with a number of grant opportunities.

➤ **Speed Study and Traffic Calming at Calhoun Ave. & Hickory Street**

Mr. Bodi reminded the members of a citizen complaint about speeding on Calhoun Avenue near Dalton Threadgill Park that was received and was presented to them at their July 9th meeting, and how the committee requested the Engineering Division present alternative traffic calming approaches and potential locations for speed humps on Calhoun Avenue. In response to their request, staff conducted a Stealth Speed Study between Hickory Street and Carter Lane on Calhoun Avenue from June 13-17 and where the speed tables would possibly be installed and it did meet the 85th percentile requirements. Mr. Bodi informed the members that they would potentially be installed 125 feet north/northwest of Carter Lane and 350 feet south of the area and at the same time, making sure to install them so that they would not interfere with any permitted driveway cuts or too close to the intersections. He then provided the members with a Power Point Presentation, that is available to the members and the public on both the website, and in their agenda packet, of roadway improvements that can be implemented to slow traffic down, and also suggested bringing in the area public for discussions and a survey form to fill out on options they'd like to see implemented. He explained further that at this time, staff recommends the Committee postpone the installation of speed bumps on this general stretch of roadway and use this opportunity to choose an alternative methods to slow down drivers.

According to the City Engineer, Mr. Ryan Scott he suggests to first create an optical illusion by painting the lines at the curves to narrow the lanes and then have a speed study performed afterwards to see if there is a reduction in speed for that immediate area.

Committee member Smith agreed as well as implementing the three way stop at the intersection or suggested a mini urban roundabout for consideration.

Vice Chair Green stated that he agrees with the form for the residents to fill out, but spoke against the speed tables and humps, saying they are a waste of funds, cost too much, and feels they don't work.

Motion by Chairman Wood to recommend the narrower striping in the curves on the roadway as discussed by Mr. Scott and Committee member Smith and then review the results of the speed study to see if they have reduced the speeding. Committee member Perman provided the second, the motion passed 7-0.

D). Pedestrian Crossing/Speed Limit Reduction, Beach Drive at Sea View Drive

Mr. Burgess discussed the email that was received by Pastor Farris with his concerns of the recent traffic accident involving a pedestrian that was hit by a car, and his suggestions he made in his email for crosswalk to be installed and rumble strips. He asked the members for their input on the situation, but also pointing out that rumble strips are very noisy, and he does not recommend them simply because of the residential homes in the immediate area, and how they may not appreciate the noise they make as cars go over them at night.

Committee member Tom Weidenhamer agreed with the idea for a new crosswalk and rumble strips should be installed, but to also take in consideration of the residents and the problem that the rumble strips may cause.

Motion by Committee member Tom Weidenhamer, seconded by Committee member Bell to recommend Council direct staff to install a new pedestrian crosswalk and signage at Beach Drive at Sea View Drive.

Committee member Bell questioned if a flashing beacon could be installed at this location.

According to Mr. Scott, because of the location of the accident, the fact that the person was jaywalking, as well as the nearness of a crosswalk, that is within 400-feet in the immediate area, he does not recommend another crosswalk be installed at this location, and possibly have one installed at Mountain Drive instead, which is a more heavily used road.

Committee member Tom Weidenhamer agreed and amended his motion for the crosswalk at Mountain Drive, with Committee member Bell seconding the amendment. Committee member Bell questioned the presence of an actual sidewalk, which a brief discussion commenced regarding the necessary work to clean and straighten the sidewalks and necessary signals and signage. **With no further discussion, the motion passed 7-0.**

5. DISCUSSION

Committee member Marcie Bell – spoke of how the property at Hobby Lobby that was discussed at the last meeting looks to be mowed. Committee member Tammy Weidenhamer agreed it was, but there are still other issues that have not been addressed regarding trash and overgrown areas into the road.

Chairman Wood – Asked that the other two crosswalks that are on Beach Drive in the same general location of what they discussed earlier get the proper signage necessary because, currently, there are none. He also mentioned his ride-along he took with the Florida Patrol and the tickets that were given out to people that were driving without their headlights on at midnight and they all either did not have thier driver's license or insurance either.

Committee member Curtis Smith – Asked about the progress of the inventory of the roads for paving projects. According to Mr. Burgess he had a conference call with iWorks for an IA assessment to identify all issues to compile. Committee member Smith also mentioned how Airport Road's is condition is deteriorating and will need to be resurfaced soon. According to Mr. Burgess, it is on the future resurfacing schedule and will most likely have to be done in segments, not including the surface area that has the special treatment on the area of the curve.

Tammy Weidenhamer – Again addressed the overgrown areas in the parking lot of Hobby Lobby shopping center, as well as mentioned the lights in the Marler Parking Lot are flashing like a disco. Mr. Burgess stated that staff is aware, and they have been reported to Florida Power, who maintains the light for the city.

5. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

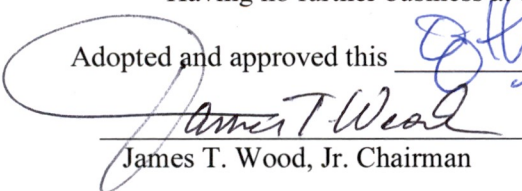
➤ Stormwater/Floodplain

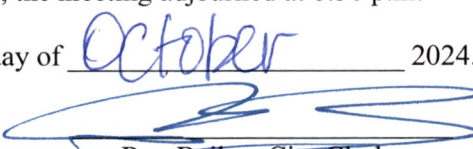
Chairman Wood opened this item to the public to speak on any issues they may have, with no one coming forward, he closed the public on the topic.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 8th day of October 2024.


James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman


Rey Bailey, City Clerk