

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION
CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
5:00 PM
CITY HALL ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Council of the City of Destin met at an executive session with the following members and staff present:

Council Present

Mayor Bobby Wagner

Councilmember Terésa Hebert

Councilmember Sandy Trammell

Councilmember Jim Bagby

Councilmember Rodney Braden

Staff Present

City Manager Larry Jones

City Clerk Rey Bailey

City Attorney Kimberly Romano Kopp

William G. Warner, Esq.

Others Present

Liz Reyes, Court Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

1. EXECUTIVE ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION: Pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, the City's Special Counsel will be seeking the advice of the City Council regarding settlement negotiations and/or strategy related to litigation expenditures concerning the pending litigation:

Destin Fishing Fleet, Inc., v. City of Destin, Okaloosa County Court Case No. 2019-CA-00425-F, in the Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit, in and for Okaloosa County, Florida

Mayor Wagner convened the meeting and announced that:

"This session of the Destin City Council is hereby convened as noticed by publication in a newspaper of general circulation, The Northwest Florida Daily News, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

The City Attorney states as follows:

"Pursuant to §286.011(8), Florida Statutes, at this time, I would like to request that we adjourn to executive session so that I, the attorney of record for the City of Destin in:

Destin Fishing Fleet, Inc., v. City of Destin, Okaloosa County Court Case No. 2019-CA-00425-F, in the Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit, in and for Okaloosa County, Florida

may receive the Council's advice regarding the strategy to be used in this case and the type of expenses to be incurred."

The entire session would be recorded by a court reporter, the transcript would be filed with the City Clerk, and available to the public at the conclusion of the litigation discussed today. A copy of the published notice of this executive session is hereby identified as Exhibit A and will be attached to the transcript of this executive session.

In addition to the Mayor and City Council members in attendance tonight, the following persons will attend the session:

Attorneys for the City: ***William G. Warner, Esq.***
Warner Law Firm, P.A.
519 Grace Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32401

Kimberly Romano Kopp, Esq., LEED AP
Romano Kopp Law, PA.
P.O. Box 445
Destin, Florida 32541-0445

City Manager: ***Larry Jones***

The City Attorney (Cont.)

"At this time will the mayor and council members in attendance please identify yourselves for the record?"

The following members of the city council each announced their presence:

Mayor Bobby Wagner
Councilmember Rodney Braden
Councilmember Sandy Trammell
Councilmember Jim Bagby
Councilmember Terésa Hebert

The City Attorney (Cont.)

"I estimate that this executive session will take approximately 30 minutes. At the conclusion of the executive session, the Council will reconvene the public hearing, accept any motions if applicable, and the mayor will end the session."

Mayor Wagner states that:

"At this time, we will recess the public portion of tonight's meeting and convene the executive session.

Individuals whose names are not listed in the published notice left the room and the executive session convened.

Once the closed session ended and the City Clerk has returned, Mayor Wagner states:

"We will now reconvene the public portion of this meeting and I will accept any motions from the council."

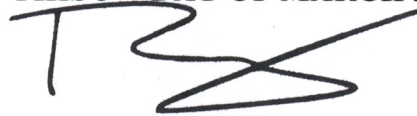
Councilmember Bagby made a motion to direct the legal counsel and the City Attorney to appeal the ruling and to engage with the insurance company and find out if they were willing to split the cost of the appeal. Councilmember Hebert provided a second to the motion, which passed 4-0 (Council members Bagby, Hebert, Trammell, and Braden voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt, Geile, and Destin were absent from the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:25 PM.

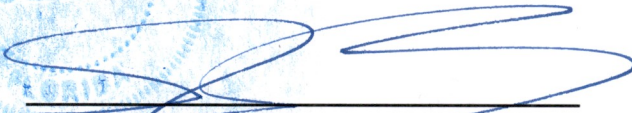
ADOPTED THIS 3RD DAY OF MARCH 2025

By:



Bobby Wagner, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rey Bailey, City Clerk