

**REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 5, 2025
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 Terésa Hebert
Councilmember Sandy Trammell

Councilmember Dewey Destin
Councilmember Jim Bagby
Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

Destin City Staff

City Manager Larry Jones
Finance Director Krystal Strickland
Building Official Noell Bell
Projects/Grants/Contract Manager Jeffrey Cozadd
Public Information Director Tamara Young
Deputy Comm Dev Director Steve O'Connor
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp

City Clerk Rey Bailey
Public Works Director Michael Burgess
Parks & Rec Director Lisa Firth
Senior Planner Daniel Butler
IT Director Andy Peters
HR Director Jamie Haynes

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Pastor David J. Butler of 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 Geile, to approve the agenda passed 6-0. Councilmember Braden was absent from the meeting.

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

A. OCSO Spring Break Report - Captain Jason Fulghum

Capt. Jason Fulghum of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office presented a summary of spring break operations, reporting that the 54-day enforcement period was largely successful and

calmer than in previous years. Five deputies were deployed daily, resulting in 1,180 service calls and 664 arrests—mostly for underage alcohol possession—with the majority (89%) occurring within Destin city limits. Some repeat offenders were taken to county jail. Notably, a potentially disruptive fraternity from Atlanta had announced intentions to come to Destin, prompting proactive messaging and coordination with businesses, which ultimately prevented incidents.

Councilmember Schmidt inquired about the source of funding for additional personnel. Capt. Fulghum confirmed that the Tourist Development Department (TDD) funded all overtime expenses for the spring break detail. Normally, the Sheriff's Office covers on-duty expenses, though this year one Destin city employee was used to cover marine unit duties due to staffing issues.

Councilmember Schmidt inquired about Destin's jurisdiction over water areas. Capt. Fulghum clarified that the City of Destin has jurisdiction over parts of the harbor, Joe's Bayou, and smaller bayous. The marine unit patrols these areas for DUIs, wake zone violations, navigation law enforcement, and assists with Coast Guard and city code enforcement on illegal charters.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Stan Crowder, representing the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation (ECFF), spoke during a public meeting in Santa Rosa to announce the foundation's 10-year anniversary celebration of providing Destin with its only public aquatic facility. The event, called "Splash of Gold," will take place on May 17th and will feature Olympic gold medalist and YouTube personality Cody Miller, who will lead swim clinics. The event will also include family swimming time, cocktail hour, and an auction. Mr. Crowder expressed gratitude for the city's ongoing support, which is essential for the ECFF's nonprofit operations.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Extension of Tyler Technologies Contract to Overlap MGO
- B. Approval of minutes of April 7, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve Consent Agenda items 3A and 3B, as listed above, passed 6-0.

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- A. Lien Reduction Request - 4555 Wood Wind Drive

The City Manager introduced Item 4A, a lien reduction request for the property located at 455 Woodwind Drive. He provided background on the case, stating that on June 19, 2018, the Special Magistrate found the property in violation of city codes due to failure to register as a short-term rental. The owner was given until July 20, 2018, to comply. When compliance was not met, a fine of \$200/day (later noted as \$250/day) began accruing, resulting in a lien totaling \$618,500. The City Manager noted that as of the prior week, the owner paid short-term rental fees from 2018 through 2025, totaling about \$6,000. According to the city's code, a lien over 5 but less than 10 years old can be reduced by up to 5 % of the total amount.

Mr. Mike Ko, co-owner of the property, explained that he and his wife purchased the property in 2017. He stated they were unaware of the accruing fines until March 26, 2024, when the lien was discovered during the sale process. He asserted that the last time the home operated as a short-term rental was in November 2018. He argued that had they been aware of the violation, they would have promptly resolved it. He emphasized their belief that they did not receive proper notice of the hearings and lien, citing work and family circumstances and stating that a signature for certified mail in 2018 was not theirs. Co-owner Asher Ko also explained that the home had been vacant and unrentable for years due to damage and personal issues.

Councilmember Bagby acknowledged that while documentation showed delivery of notice to the registered address in Navarre, he was willing to compromise. He pointed out the property had been listed as a vacation rental as recently as March 2024 and questioned the inconsistencies. Despite this, he proposed a **motion for 50/50 split of the lien, reducing the fine to \$320,000, noting that continued legal action would incur further costs for all parties. The motion included a stipulation for payment within 90 days. Councilmember Hebert provided a second to the motion.**

Councilmember Geile questioned whether the property owners received proper notice, expressing skepticism about certified mail delivery and the possibility it wasn't signed by the property owners. He sought clarification from Deputy Community Development Director Steve O'Connor, who explained that certified mail was sent to the owner's registered address and that the U.S. Postal Service confirmed delivery. He added that the notices were also posted on the property itself and that the city followed its standard procedures at the time.

Councilmember Destin criticized the magnitude of the fine. He noted the property owners claimed they ceased renting in 2018 and believed the city's actions lacked proportionality.

Councilmember Destin offered a substitute motion to set the fine at \$100,000, provided that the applicant pay all outstanding short-term rental fees due to the city as well as pay the remainder of the lien within 90 days. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Schmidt.

Councilmember Schmidt asked about the property's condition and use over the years. The owners confirmed it had remained vacant due to flooding, repairs, and personal circumstances. Councilmember Schmidt questioned the city's procedures in 2018, specifically whether return receipt signatures were obtained for certified mail. He expressed concern over imposing large fines for activity that may not have occurred over several years.

The City Attorney explained the hearing process before the Special Magistrate. The owner of the property is first given a compliance window (typically 30 days). If not resolved, fines begin to accrue automatically after a second hearing. Compliance must be verified and recorded through an affidavit for the fines to stop. Simply ceasing the activity without notifying the city does not halt the accrual.

Councilmember Geile emphasized the need for realism and accountability. He noted that although the owners claimed non-receipt of notices, the certified mail was delivered to their registered address. He expressed concern about the motive behind denying receipt and supported a more balanced view of the case.

Having no further comments from the council members, the mayor called for a vote on the substitute motion, which passed 4-3 (Council members Destin, Hebert, and Schmidt voted “yes”; Council members Trammell, Geile, and Bagby voted “no”; Mayor Wagner cast a tiebreaking vote of “yes”).

B. Lien Reduction Request - 30 Moreno Point Road, #302A Destin, FL

The City Council meeting addressed a lien reduction request for a property at 30 Marina Point Road, which had previously been found in violation of the city code due to being an unsafe structure constructed without permits. The City Manager explained that the lien had accrued at \$250 per day from May 3, 2019, until the property was brought into compliance on February 5, 2021, totaling \$161,000. By code, a 25% reduction was permissible since the lien had been in place for over a year but less than two.

Brian Kiefer, a real estate attorney representing the new property owner, Len DeRouen, presented the case. He explained that Mr. DeRouen had purchased the condo in foreclosure in 2020 with no knowledge of the lien. Attorney Kiefer admitted he had provided his client incorrect advice based on the city's COMPASS system, which misleadingly showed the case as “closed/resolved” in 2021. He further argued that the violations had likely been resolved earlier by the prior owner, Donald Parkhurst, now deceased, and that the accruing fines should be recalculated from 64 days instead of 659, requesting the fine be reduced to \$16,000.

Councilmember Geile questioned why no title search had been performed, emphasizing that the buyer assumed responsibility for any existing liens. Attorney Kiefer confirmed no title company was used, and the purchase was made through an HOA foreclosure. Councilmember Schmidt asked whether the COMPASS system could flag active liens during permitting. City staff clarified that while COMPASS marked the case closed once compliance was achieved in 2021, it does not proactively alert users to lien statuses. The City Attorney explained that responsibility lies with buyers to inquire directly with the city about open code enforcement cases.

Councilmember Hebert moved to set the fine at \$25,000, provided that the applicant pay the remainder of the lien within 90 days, seconded by Councilmember Destin. Motion passed 4-2, with Council members Geile and Bagby dissenting.

Following the vote, there was further discussion on improving communication and transparency regarding code liens. Council members debated whether additional measures were needed to ensure proper notice of liens, beyond certified mail and property postings.

Council’s Additional Feedback and Consensus:

- Establish a baseline standard for fines and lien procedures to ensure fairness and transparency.
- Consider drafting a clear procedural standard for lien notification and enforcement while preserving discretionary review by the council in special circumstances. Maintain the council’s quasi-judicial discretion to assess

individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis, acknowledging that not all cases warrant identical outcomes.

- Explore in-person service of lien notices, such as through the sheriff's office or private civil servers to ensure proper delivery and acknowledgment.
- Reinforce the expectation that owners of multiple properties are responsible for compliance and communication regarding all holdings. Clarify that receipt of a permit does not necessarily resolve compliance issues unless the actual violation has been corrected.

The Deputy Community Development Director provided a detailed explanation of upcoming improvements involving the MGO software platform. He explained that the Code Compliance Division had scheduled a meeting with MGO to specifically address improvements to the software's code enforcement functionality. As a result of the challenges highlighted in this and a similar case, staff had been directed to work with MGO to create a "lien tracker." This system would support internal reminders for staff, triggering compliance deadline alerts—such as notifications 5 days or 2 days in advance—and also allow for better follow-up after deadlines have passed. He also noted the intention to implement quarterly reminders that inform staff of outstanding code liens and compliance issues, potentially prompting outreach efforts to affected property owners. He acknowledged that one of the main limitations is the city's reliance on property appraiser records, which often only include mailing addresses and lack updated contact information such as email addresses or phone numbers. However, he emphasized that when such information is available—especially in cases involving short-term rental applications—staff can and will make efforts to notify owners through those additional channels.

C. Resolution 25-10 Schedule of Fees

The City Manager briefly introduced the resolution, clarifying that it is a procedural step to incorporate fee changes already adopted by the council earlier in the year. These changes affected building permit fees and parks and recreation fees. Finance staff indicated that if the new parks and recreation fees had been applied in FY2024, the city would have generated approximately \$30,000 in additional revenue.

Councilmember Bagby expressed concern about the city's long-term fiscal health, emphasizing that property valuations—and therefore property tax revenues—are expected to remain flat over the next one to two years. He warned that without new sources of funding or state/federal support (which he deemed unlikely), the city will face budget constraints. He highlighted the need for serious policy decisions, such as either raising fees, reducing services, or cutting support in other areas. He supported the resolution but urged fellow council members to keep these broader fiscal challenges in mind during upcoming budget deliberations.

Councilmember Destin echoed Councilmember Bagby's concerns, stating that increasing fees should not be the default solution for addressing revenue shortfalls. He pointed out the need for alternative strategies beyond fee hikes, including cost containment and operational efficiencies. He also questioned the magnitude of the \$30,000 increase, noting that without knowing the total parks and recreation budget, it was difficult to gauge the significance of that figure.

The Finance Director reiterated that the council had already approved the individual fee increases in previous meetings—both for building permits (averaging a 34% increase) and for parks and recreation (based on comparable rates from nearby Fort Walton Beach). The purpose of this resolution was to consolidate those changes into a single, comprehensive fee schedule document for the fiscal year.

Several council members noted that the fee-related data and impact analyses had been discussed extensively in prior meetings. However, others emphasized the importance of rehashing the information during public hearing so that the community could understand the rationale behind the fee adjustments. One councilmember expressed frustration that the resolution bundled both building and recreation fees together, limiting the ability to vote differently on each item. Staff explained that the bundled format reflects prior council actions, not a new proposal.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to adopt Resolution 25-10 – Schedule of Fees – passed 5-1; with Councilmember Destin dissenting.

D. Employee Manual Update

The City Manager presented an update to the employee manual regarding a revision to the leave policy. The change consolidates all types of leave—sick leave, vacation, and other forms of leave (excluding comp time)—into a single, comprehensive Paid Time Off (PTO) system. This new approach allows employees to draw time off from one unified pool, making it easier to manage and use without needing separate justifications, like a doctor's note. The policy streamlines administrative processes while maintaining oversight by appropriate supervisors. More importantly, employees will not lose any accrued time, as accrual rates remain unchanged.

Councilmember Bagby moved to approve the 5.5.2025 revisions to the Employee Manual with an effective date of May 10, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Trammell. Motion passed 6-0.

Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to develop and present an option for transitioning city employees to Social Security and the Florida Retirement System, to be considered as part of the 2026 budget planning process. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 6-0.

E. Destin Community Center - Exterior Building Condition Assessment (BECI)

The City Manager provided an update on the exterior condition of the Destin Community Center, noting that while the doors are in relatively good shape and can be repainted and recoated, the overall condition of the facility is poor. A recent inspection of the building's exterior envelope revealed multiple issues including water intrusion, material failure, and visible structural degradation. Key recommendations from the inspection include a full replacement of the roof, replacement of the storefront windows with thermally broken aluminum frame systems, and removal of the damaged EIFS (exterior insulation finishing system), which lacks a moisture barrier, to be replaced with a new drainable system. Given the severity of the issues, the City Manager recommended issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain cost estimates for repairing or replacing individual components—roof, windows, exterior coating, and door painting—using the

\$717,000 currently budgeted, with the possibility of allocating additional funds in the next fiscal year.

Councilmember Destin moved to request proposals to obtain cost estimates for repairs and replacements, seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 5-1, with Councilmember Schmidt dissenting.

F. FY26 Budget Calendar

The City Manager noted that the budget calendar is being provided to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2026. It includes all the details regarding State of Florida Truth in Millage (TRIM) requirements and staff deadlines for components of the budget book, in addition to recommended dates for council workshops. This year, many items were slightly delayed due to the ERP system implementation. Also, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners has scheduled their first budget hearing for September 4, 2025. The City of Destin Resolution 24-15 set a regular council meeting for September 4, 2025. Because the city cannot hold their budget hearing on September 4th, staff recommend changing the date of the regular city council meeting/first budget hearing to Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

Councilmember Bagby moved to change the date of the first regular council meeting in September from September 4, 2025, to September 2, 2025, and to approve the budget calendar as proposed. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hebert and passed 6-0.

G. Land Development Code Approval Process

The City Manager addressed the approval process for the new Land Development Code (LDC), which consists of 11 articles. He recommended a phased review of the articles through individual or paired workshops, eventually consolidating all revisions into a single ordinance for adoption to ensure clarity and ease of implementation.

The Deputy Community Development Director expanded on this "Option 1" approach. He proposed reviewing and tentatively approving articles in stages across multiple meetings (e.g., grouped chapters) but finalizing them as one ordinance with a single effective date. This method would simplify tracking code changes over time and benefit staff efficiency by having a clear implementation timeline.

Councilmember Schmidt moved to have the Land Development Code be brought back for approval using Option 1, with one ordinance for the entire Land Development Code approval: seconded by Councilmember Hebert.

Councilmember Trammell expressed opposition to Option 1, favoring a process that allows for individual ordinance approval per chapter. She emphasized the importance of reviewing each component in detail due to potential concerns in specific chapters.

Councilmember Destin supported Option 2, the more traditional approach, where each article or group is reviewed and approved separately with individual ordinances. He voiced concern about losing critical review opportunities by consolidating everything too early and cited confusion over staff's explanation of the readings process.

The City Attorney clarified that her recommendation was also Option 2, supporting separate approvals to allow more thorough council involvement and legal defensibility.

Ultimately, Councilmember Bagby noted that while the terminology (Option 1 vs. Option 2) was debated, all parties appeared aligned on the need for detailed chapter-by-chapter review with a single implementation date.

Councilmember Destin offered a substitute motion to direct the draft Land Development Code to be brought back for approval using Option 2, as discussed, with multiple ordinances for the entire Land Development Code approval, seconded by Councilmember Trammell. Motion passed 5-1, with Councilmember Schmidt dissenting.

H. Draft Minutes of Standing Committees and Boards - Informational Only

I. Announcements

- 1) A reminder for each council member to bring two or three priorities for the strategic plan summary and update at the May 19th council meeting..
- 2) Beginning on May 13th, the City will launch "My Government Online" (MGO), which will replace the Compass system. MGO will be used for permitting, licensing, business tax receipts, short-term rentals, code compliance, and more. On that date, Compass will stop accepting new applications but will remain accessible to complete existing ones. Outreach for this transition has included over 10,000 emails, website updates, social media posts, and other efforts to ensure a smooth changeover.
- 3) City offices will close at noon on Friday, May 16th, for an Employee Appreciation Day; emergency contacts will be made available online.
- 4) On Memorial Day, May 26th, the American Legion will host a ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at the Destin Memorial Cemetery, featuring a wreath-laying and short speeches, followed by refreshments at the Legion Post. City offices will also be closed that day.
- 5) A public workshop focused on SRS and visioning is scheduled for June 9th at 5:30 p.m., with encouragement for those who participated in last year's survey to attend and share their input.
- 6) Sea turtle nesting season began on May 1st and will run through October 31st. The city is providing special red flashlights at City Hall that are safe for turtles to be nesting. This year, individuals picking up flashlights—whether locals or visitors—will be asked to provide some basic information, including their city and state, to help improve data tracking.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. First Reading of Ordinance 25-08-LC relating to the imposition of mobility fees; providing for adoption of a mobility fee study and table of mobility fees; providing for mobility fee discounts; and providing for city enforcement.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 25-08-LC by title and then presented it to the city council on first reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION OF MOBILITY FEES; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF A MOBILITY FEE STUDY AND TABLE OF MOBILITY FEES; PROVIDING FOR MOBILITY FEE DISCOUNTS; PROVIDING FOR CITY ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none, the mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Schmidt moved to approve Ordinance 25-08-LC on first reading as presented with the discounts applied to Long-term Single Family Uses, and the full rate per the Mobility Fee Study to all other uses, seconded by Councilmember Hebert.

Councilmember Destin sought clarification on what the council was voting on. He asked if they were approving one of three options presented, referencing an "alternative motion."

The City Attorney clarified they were voting on whether to approve the ordinance on first reading, and that the motion proposed increasing all fees except for long-term residential, which would receive a 50% discount. She also clarified that if the ordinance was adopted, fees could not be waived for individual projects, such as a grandmother building a small playhouse for grandkids. All properties in each category must be treated equally; no case-by-case exemptions (i.e., no "spot zoning") would be allowed.

City staff further explained that the motion being voted on was not explicitly one of the original three options listed in the staff materials. However, it was informed by discussions during mobility fee workshops, where the consensus was to lower the impact fee for long-term single-family and duplex residential uses. The result was a 50% discount for those uses, while all other uses would pay 100% of the fees recommended in the mobility study.

Councilmember Destin asked about a line in the summary indicating that fees would fund multimodal infrastructure and questioned how this would be relevant if the city was dissolving the multimodal transportation district (MMTD).

Staff clarified that although the MMTD as a zoning/overlay district is being eliminated, multimodal infrastructure still refers to projects supporting bikes, pedestrians, and vehicles. While MMTD-related regulations (like maximum parking limits and increased bicycle parking requirements) are going away, design standards are being preserved through the Design Manual. This includes elements like street design and façade requirements.

Councilmember Bagby asked what the fees at 100% looked like for long-term residential, referencing charts that showed 50% and ~90% rates but not 100%. Staff pointed to Option 1 in Attachment 4 of the report, which showed maximum fees for all uses, including long-term residential.

Staff reiterated that the proposal under consideration applied a 50% discount to long-term residential fees. For example, for a 2,000–2,999 sq ft home, the current fee was \$1,425, and the proposed fee with the 50% discount would be \$9,389, which is a ~600% increase from current levels. For a 500 sq ft home, the fee would rise from \$583 to \$5,023 under the proposed structure.

Councilmember Destin expressed concern over the steep increases (e.g., 600% for an average home), calling them “totally unreasonable.” He acknowledged that while the fees only apply to new construction, the increases still impact residents' ability to afford building in Destin. He noted that most people have children or grandchildren who might be affected and said he could not support the ordinance due to the scale of the increase.

Motion passed 5-1, with Councilmember Destin dissenting.

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

- A. Councilmember Braden
- B. Councilmember Trammell
- C. Councilmember Destin

Councilmember Destin acknowledged the work of the dedicated code enforcement officer on beach vending enforcement noting that initial warnings have had some success—most general operators have ceased activity, and only one repeat offender remains active and continues to operate daily, indicating that current enforcement measures are not fully effective.

At the next council meeting, Councilmember Destin intends to introduce a motion under his name to: Reallocate funds to the legal department to allow the city attorney to pursue a court injunction against repeat offenders of the beach vending ban.

- D. Councilmember Bagby
 - 1) Seek Attorney General's Opinion on Public Release of Tourist Development Tax Collection Information

Councilmember Bagby explained that for the City of Destin to collect fees owed, it is necessary to obtain address information so notices can be mailed to individuals. However, there is a legal concern regarding whether such information can be shared, as referenced in a statute cited by the Clerk of the Courts. To clarify this issue, he proposed **a motion authorizing the city attorney to draft a request for an opinion from the Florida Attorney General on whether the city can legally obtain the information from the Clerk of the Courts. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hebert and passed 6-0.**

- E. Councilmember Hebert
- F. Councilmember Geile
 - 1) Projects Status/Updates
- G. Councilmember Schmidt

Councilmember Schmidt mentioned that the pickleball item is awaiting discussion at the TDC meeting, scheduled for May 28. He requested that the City Manager contact Craig Coffey, the Deputy County Administrator, to ask if the item could be placed on May 20 BOCC meeting agenda in case the TDC meeting is canceled again. He noted that a previous delay occurred due to a TDC meeting cancellation and emphasized the importance of moving the item forward.

Councilmember Schmidt referred to previous discussions on utility box wraps and requested that 2 to 3 ideas along with their costs be brought back to council to consider another round of decorative wraps. He supported Councilmember Trammell's idea of creating standardized wrap designs and making it a permitting requirement for new utility boxes, particularly as more are installed alongside fiber and power infrastructure.

Councilmember Schmidt proposed exploring the idea of allowing beach bonfires in Destin, similar to what is done in Walton County. **He made a motion for the city manager and staff to research and bring back a proposal, including potential revenues and implementation logistics. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hebert and passed 6-0.**

Councilmember Bagby requested that, along with the bonfire proposal, the staff should include a calculation of the linear feet of public beach the City of Destin actually controls. He highlighted that most of Destin's beach is privately owned, with the state and county controlling the largest public sections, limiting where beach bonfires could feasibly occur. He suggested coordinating with the county on James Lee Park if the city wants to pursue the idea for meaningful revenue.

I. Mayor Wagner

The mayor addressed the potential opportunity for Destin to join Walton County in an upcoming beach renourishment project, citing the passage of a beach bill championed by Senator Jay Trumbull. Although the beaches in question are not entirely within Destin, the mayor emphasized that areas such as Crystal Beach and Holiday Isle have been classified as "critically eroded" by the 2024 FDEP report. The mayor expressed interest in "jumping on the wagon" of Walton County's larger project to potentially benefit from economies of scale and shoreline improvement. As part of this effort, the mayor noted that the ECL would be critical, as land seaward of the ECL would become public beach, while private beaches would remain so. The mayor acknowledged cost feasibility and jurisdictional complexity but hoped the TDC could assist with funding, as they hold beach nourishment reserves.

Councilmember Destin made a motion to formally authorize the mayor to advocate Destin's interest in partnering with Walton County on the beach renourishment initiative. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hebert and passed 6-0.

Councilmember Bagby stated that accurate and current survey data is essential, particularly regarding the ECL (mean high water line). He asked the council's TDC representative to obtain the most recent beach survey from the TDD Director noting that Crystal Beach has an existing ECL for the eastern two miles, while Walton County has recently updated theirs. He emphasized that nourishment projects take 5–7 years to realize, and public perception may be confused once the governor signs the bill, mistakenly assuming all beaches becoming

public. He reminded the council that property rights enforcement will still be expected from private beach owners.

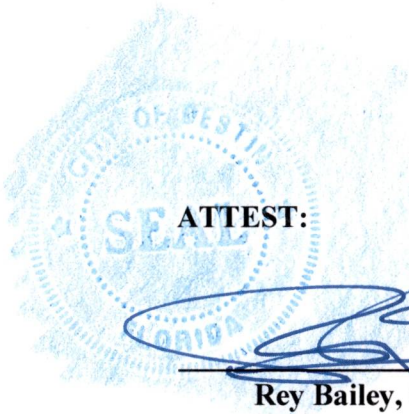

The mayor also raised the issue of wake activity in Joe's Bayou, noting that the current no wake zone only covers the mouth of the bayou, and once past the park, vessels are allowed to create wake. The mayor advocated expanding the no wake zone throughout the bayou to improve safety and reduce disruption, particularly around the boat ramp.

I. City Attorney

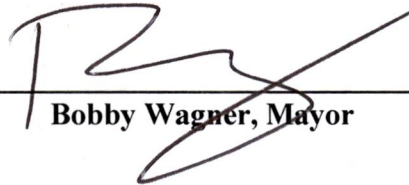
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.


ATTEST:


Rey Bailey, City Clerk



Bobby Wagner, Mayor