

**MINUTES OF THE
HARBOR AND WATERWAYS BOARD MEETING
DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX
JUNE 26, 2025 - 5:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Stephens called the meeting of the Thursday, June 26, 2025 Destin Harbor and Waterways Board meeting to at approximately 5:30 p.m., at Destin City Hall Annex, with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Member Present:

Jim Green (Entered the meeting at 5:35 PM)
John Stephens
Jerod Hayden
Ryan Holloway
Guy Tadlock
Bill McKissick (Entered the meeting at 5:35 PM)

Staff:

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Steve o'Connor Deputy CD Director
David Prichard CD Director
Kyle Bauman, Special Projects Counsel

3. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Board member Tadlock with Board member Holloway providing the second, the motion passed 4-0, with Chairman Green and Board member McKissick not present for the vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 24, 2025

Motion by Board member Holloway, seconded by Board member Hayden to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2025 meeting passed 4-0 with Chairman Green and Board member McKissick not present for the vote..

5. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **506 / 508 Harbor Blvd. Commercial Marine Construction, HWB-001589-202**

Mr. Butler, Principal Planner explained to the board the proposed seawall is between zero feet and three feet waterward of the Mean High Water Line, and there will be some areas where it doesn't cross the Mean High Water Line. However, the request was required to come before the Board because there are some sections of the wall are placed at maximum three feet beyond the Mean High Water Line, with a 210 linear feet and a four foot cap. Staff has reviewed the request and has found that it is in accordance with our Marina Siting within the Land Development Code, Section 11, including the riparian setbacks and the length. Staff recommends approval of this shared seawall between 506 and 508, measuring approximately 210 linear feet with a 4-foot cap, with the condition that they submit all Federal and State approvals with the marine construction permit, and they comply with the city's marine siting regulations at all times.

Motion by Board member Tadlock, seconded by Board member Holloway to recommend City Council approve the request Harbor and Waterways Board recommend that City Council approve the Proposed Commercial Marine Construction Project at 506 & 508 Harbor Blvd, for the construction of a new seawall with the following conditions:

- 1. All applicable Federal or State approvals shall be submitted with the Marine Construction Permit application; and**
- 2. All regulations of the City’s Marina Siting LDC Section 11.05.00 shall be adhered to and followed at all times.**

**Chairman Green and Board member McKissick entered the meeting at 5:35 PM.*

Vice Chairman Stephens opened the floor for public comment, with no one speaking up, he closed the public portion and called for the vote on the motion. **The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0 for approval.**

➤ **742 / 744 Harbor Blvd. HWB-001616-2025**

Mr. Butler explained the request, What’s Up Docks LLC, on behalf of both Jennifer Aden and James Morris, is requesting approval for the construction of a new shared 15-foot by 4-foot access pier leading to a 30-foot by 3-foot T-access walk, two 30-foot by 2-foot finger piers, and two 30-foot by 13-foot covered boat slips with lifts under a 33-foot by 30-foot roof. The applicant seeks a recommendation for approval from the Harbor and Waterways Board for a Residential Marine Construction project for a total square footage of 1,050. Additionally, the applicant provided the authorization from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Permit No.: 0447038-002-EG/46, as well as Army Corps of Engineers authorization (ACOE), Permit No.: SAJ-29025-00892 (GP-TCP). City Staff reviewed the application and determined that the plans comply with LDC Section 11.05.00, Marina Siting, and the Coastal Management Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan (Coastal Management Element Policy 6-1.1.6). Staff recommends approval for the request.

Motion by Chairman Green, seconded by Board member Hayden, the motion passed with a 6-0 vote for the Harbor and Waterways Board to recommend City Council approve the Proposed Residential Marine Construction Project at 742 & 744 Harbor Blvd, for the construction of a new shared dock with the following conditions:

- 1. All applicable Federal or State approvals shall be submitted with the Marine Construction Permit application; and**
- 2. All regulations of the City’s Marina Siting LDC Section 11.05.00 shall be followed at all times**

6. DISCUSSION:

❖ **Noriego Point Update:**

- The park expected to open late July or early August.

- Delays due to weather and construction changes in restrooms and material reorders.
- Estimated 40-day project extension.
- Council requested limited beach access for boats over July 4th weekend uncertain if it would be implemented.
- Member comment: Reopening part of the beach, even temporarily, would earn public goodwill.
 - Suggestion to publicize via social media if any temporary access is granted.

❖ **East Pass Navigation and Coast Guard Coordination:**

- Ongoing issues with channel markers, lighting, and maintenance since 2021.
- Coast Guard recently repositioned buoys 1 and 2 to the deeper part of the ebb shoal, improving navigation.
- Concerns raised about unlit and unmarked areas, including damaged west jetty and moved markers.
- Board consensus: Current entrance conditions are substandard for a city branding itself as a “world-class fishing community.”
- Comparison made to Orange Beach’s well-lit, navigable entrance.

Motion by Chairman Green, seconded by Board member McKissick to request the City Council to reach out to the Coast Guard about Destin’s East Pass marker to be repaired and upgraded with a new day marker at the end of the west jetty, lights to be added to all nun and can buoys, and keep markers numbered one and two at their new location and have them illuminated. The motion passed 6-0.

Chairman Green stated that if staff needed any assistance in writing the letter, he would be glad to assist.

❖ **Use of Discontinued No-Boating Buoys:**

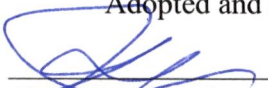
- Okaloosa County has offered free buoys previously used at Crab Island.
- Suggested placement: Tide pool swim areas at Noriego Point, and possibly Clement Taylor Park.
- The board advised city staff or Larry to contact Michael Norberg (County Coastal Resources) directly.
- Recommendation to seek Council support before installation.

➤ Mr. Butler reported that there will not be a meeting in July.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 28th day of August 2025.



 Jim Green, Chairman



 Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk

Vice chair John Stephens