

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 - 5:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex Chambers, with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>
James T. Wood, Jr.	Curtis Smith	Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk
Marcie Bell	John Green	Michael Burgess Public Works Director
Tom Weidenhamer		
Andrea Ansley		
Tammy Weidenhamer		

3. MINUTES: September 9, 2025

The minutes were pulled to review an incomplete motion in the minutes on the last page, they will be represented for approval at the November meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **John Stephens - Mooring Field Work Plan Item**

Explained he is the Chairman of the Harbor & Waterways Board and the reason behind this work plan is to enhance the safety in the harbor. He mentioned how there is limited regulatory action and with the amount of boat traffic out there daily, he feels there is a huge need to get better control in the harbor, with five mooring field balls to start with and possibly one located in Joe's Bayou. This would enable the ability to get a hand on the liveboards in both locations.

➤ **Benefits to the Environment:**

- Pump out services required for vessels in mooring field.
- Illegal discharge of solid or liquid waste into waterway can be controlled
- Derelict vessels can be identified and removed easier

➤ **Benefits to local economy:**

- No Mooring Fields in panhandle. Could make Destin a destination for Loopers
- Mooring field generates revenues, which go back into operations & maintenance of facility
- Mooring field patrons use local services & products, such as boat repairs, groceries, shopping, dining, entertainment venues

➤ **Benefits to boating community:**

- Having a Harbor Master on staff
 - Benefits to environment:
 - Pump out services required for vessels in mooring field.
 - Illegal discharge of solid or liquid waste into waterway can be controlled
 - Derelict vessels can be identified and removed easier
 - Benefits to local economy:
 - No Mooring Fields in panhandle.
 - This could make Destin a destination for Loopers
 - Mooring field generates revenues, which go back into operations & maintenance of facility
 - Mooring field patrons use local services & products, such as boat repairs, groceries, shopping, dining, entertainment venues
- Benefits to boating community:
 - There are no available marine slips
 - Boaters can stay on their own boat in a mooring field
 - Vessels can be tied up without impacting other vessels
 - Boaters would have access to amenities like restrooms, showers, & other land-based activities

The question was raised as to why this was being presented to the Public Works/Safety Committee. Mr. Stephens explained how he obtained as much information as possible to present to them first, then with their backing he would present the work plan City Council, which may help with getting the work plan item approved by City Council and on track. Acknowledging that he is aware how this project would take several years before completion.

Motion by Committee member Bell, seconded by Committee member Tammy Weidenhamer that the Public Works Safety Committee supports the Mooring Field Work Plan presented by John Stephens, Chairman of the Harbor & Waterways Board. The motion passed 5-0.

5. MEMBER COMMENTS:

➤ **Chairman Wood** – Spoke of the utility box issue that was brought to their attention at the last meeting at Grand Harbor Condominiums and how he has his doubts that FDOT would agree to have it moved and feels that the recommended trimming of the landscaping would help tremendously for the view corridor of oncoming traffic.

He then spoke of the meeting that the County hosted regarding eBikes and how the City Manager of Niceville has volunteered to create a draft ordinance that could potentially be adopted county wise, and the process he will take to ensure that he sends it out to municipality for their comments once everyone is in agreement with the proposed language and it's adopted, it would potentially be easier to enforce rules.

➤ **Committee member Bell** – Identified fire hydrants that are not in working order on Gulf Shore Drive for staff to report to either Destin Fire Control District and Destin Water Users, or both, located at 626 Gulf Shore Drive. She then suggested that they all be tested to ensure they are working properly.

➤ **Committee member Tammy Weidenhamer** – Questioned Mr. Burgess about the schedule for the restriping for Kelly Street. According to Mr. Burgess, this is not an expensive endeavor as the contractor's only charge is cost per linear foot. He already has sent eight striping projects, including Kelly Street. She then spoke of several drains in her assigned area that have weeds growing out of them. Mr. Burgess explained that he has scheduled to rent a vacuum truck in December, and he will ensure that all the drainage areas in the city are clear of debris and overgrowth of weeds and grass.

➤ **Committee member Ansley** – Reported an area on Benning/Maltezo that is a designated bus stop and suggests a solar lit pedestrian sign for the drivers of vehicles along that area. She then spoke of how years ago, when she previously served on this committee, there was a bicycle helmet fitting grant through the State during the summer camp for the public along with bike safety seminars and suggests that they start this back up again.

In discussion on the issue and it was determined that because of liability issues that could become a concern, those were halted to have volunteers perform the fittings. Committee member Ansley stated that she would look further into this and report back with any additional information.

7. STORMWATER/FLOODPLAIN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

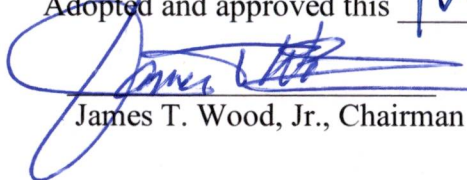
Chairman Wood opened the floor for public comments on this item. With no one coming forward, he closed the public discussion on the topic.

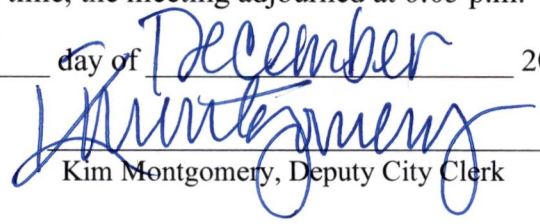
8. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 12th day of December 2025.


James T. Wood, Jr., Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk