

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX CHAMBERS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 - 5:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex Chambers, with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present**

James T. Wood, Jr.  
Marcie Bell  
Tom Weidenhamer  
Andrea Ansley  
John Green  
Curtis Smith

**Members Absent**

Tammy Weidenhamer

**Staff**

Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk  
Joe Bodi Deputy PW Director

**3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Chairman Wood announced that if there were no changes to the two sets of minutes then entertain a motion to approve them both with one motion.

**Motion by Committee member Tom Weidenhamer, seconded by Committee member Bell to approve both the September 9, 2025 and the October 14, 2025 minutes as written.**

**4. AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Chairman Wood requested a motion to approve the agenda including a walk-on item: FY26 Work Plan to be addressed under his comments.

**Motion by Committee member Ansley, seconded by Committee member Tom Weidenhamer to approve the agenda with Chairman Wood's addition of the FY-26 Work Plans. The motion passed 6-0.**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Kelly Street Speed Reduction (Speed Study Results)**

- Staff reported Council requested a speed study on Kelly Street (between Beach and Benning).
- A 7-day speed study was conducted.
- Results summarized:
  - 85th percentile speed: 28 mph
  - 95.3% of vehicles were at or under the speed limit
  - Approximately 15,000–16,000 vehicles counted
  - Only three vehicles exceeded the limit by more than 10 mph
- Staff does not recommend adjusting the speed limit; the current limit is appropriate.
- Questions/discussion:
  - Confirmed study included the school zone area.
  - Noted school zone cameras are not in Destin (discussion referenced cameras elsewhere in the county).
  - Clarified equipment used: radar traffic counters mounted to signage.

**Motion by Chairman Wood, seconded by Committee member Weidenhamer to not recommend the Kelly Street speed limit reduction and keep it at the current speed limit of 30 mph. The motion passed 6-0.**

**B. Proposed E-Bike Ordinance (Template Review/Next Steps)**

- Chairman Wood briefly spoke of the Okaloosa County e-bike forum held October 1, 2025 and how the City of Niceville’s City Manager agreed to create a template ordinance draft that will be taken before their City Council for first reading, which happens to be tonight, December 9th.
- Chair indicated ordinance references state statutes to simplify compliance and reduce need to review extensive statute pages.
- Proposed Destin-specific addition discussed:
  - Add language regarding not leaving a place of safety (crosswalk/sidewalk context), i.e., riders/pedestrians cannot enter the roadway when a vehicle cannot reasonably stop/yield in time.
- Direction/next steps:
  - Committee members asked to review the packet ordinance.
  - Chair to report results of Niceville vote; if it passes, staff will draft a Destin version for committee’s consideration.

**C. Confirmed Volunteer Nominations – East Pass Bridge Aesthetics Committee**

Chairman Wood explained creation of a new Bridge Aesthetics Committee related to Marler Bridge replacement. He stated that two representatives were needed; rather than holding a

special meeting, Chairman Wood appointed Committee members Marcie Bell and Tammy Weidenhammer to represent the committee at those meetings.

**Motion by Tom Weidenhamer, seconded by Committee member Ansley to nominate Marcie Bell and Tammy Weidenhammer to serve as the Public Works/Public Safety Committee representatives for City Council consideration for the Bridge Aesthetics Committee. The motion passed 6-0.**

#### **D. City Project Map Updates**

- Staff reported project status updates:
  - Project #18, Mattie Kelly Park Drainage Outfall changed from green to yellow (now under construction); pre-construction meeting tomorrow.
  - Project #13, Norriego Point Park marked complete: Norriego Point Park & Gulf Shore Drive extension (expected to drop off future map).
  - Project #19, Morgan Sports Center batting cages mostly complete / substantially complete.
- Questions/discussion:
  - Batting cages: power available for pitching machines later; pitching machines not currently included.
  - Sidewalk question near Norriego Point/Gulf Shore extension parking area:
    - Inquiry whether sidewalks will be installed along a section connecting parallel parking to the road extension.
    - Response: staff did not have a definitive answer; confirmed it is a current topic of conversation.
    - Chair stated intent to have an answer at the next meeting.

#### **E. DISCUSSION:**

##### **❖ Committee Member Updates / Individual Discussion**

- **Committee member Curtis Smith**
  - Four Prong Lake Outfall / HOA Update
  - Update provided on cost estimates and strategy:
    - Estimated project cost cited around \$4 million.
    - Recommendation to HOA: consider temporary pumps (approx. \$20k–\$30k per event) instead of a multi-million-dollar automated solution.
- Noted Council member Bagby pursuing additional funding; recommendation to pause spending until feasibility clearer.

- Chairman Wood reported that City Council at their December 1st meeting, stated the County has agreed to up to \$1,000,000 cost reimbursement; Council approved the amendment.
- Other funding sources was referenced:
  - Prior grant around \$1,000,000 (noted may be expiring/needs extension).
  - FDEP funding referenced as \$1,000,000, with extension requested.
  - City contribution referenced (amount uncertain in discussion).
- Request made: provide a concise funding summary at the next meeting showing all available/secured funds and gaps; staff to coordinate.
- **Committee member Ansley**
  - Sidewalk width near Destin Elementary School / Cross Town Connector
  - Question was raised about why replacement sidewalks near the Cross Town Connector at Beach Drive were rebuilt in the old footprint rather than matching wider multi-purpose path standards.
  - Mr. Bodi explained:
    - The area is expected to be disrupted soon by Crosstown Connector project.
    - The minimum sidewalks were required to avoid having no sidewalks for 6-8 months. The wider sidewalk will replace those with the larger project.
    - Clarified the work that is underway is DWU installing water/sewer infrastructure ahead of the roadway project.
    - Future sidewalk widths expected: south side 12 ft, north side 10 ft (as planned).
  - Parks & Recreation events announcements
    - Holly Jolly Market: Sunday, 11:00 AM–5:00 PM.
    - Holly Jolly on the Harbor (2nd annual): Sunday, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM, with multiple school bands participating; family activities planned; encouraged attendance before the boat parade.

❖ **Committee member Bell**

Fire hydrant on Gulf Shore Drive was repaired/being worked on, then later it and the blue reflectors were removed and covered. She expressed concerns about spacing distance and fire protection coverage.

Mr. Bodi explained:

- Hydrant inventory is maintained by Destin Water Users, shared with Fire Department.
- Hydrants are now GPS-tracked.
- Rule-of-thumb spacing cited: 500 ft (single-family), 400 ft (multifamily/commercial); removal could be an issue if spacing now exceeds standards (NFPA referenced).

- Noting that the removal is better than having a non-functional hydrant than leave one that provides a false sense of security.
  - Norriego Point area hydrant density:
  - Observation of five hydrants along the right-of-way with no structures; explained possible reasons (system blow-off needs, reviewer preferences replacing blow-offs with full hydrants).
  - Removal of blue reflectors (RPMs) for hydrant location:
    - The blue reflectors are no longer necessary because hydrants now that they are GPS located.

### **Telecom Pedestals / Damaged Utility Boxes**

- Committee member Bell raised concern about damaged/abandoned green pedestals (e.g., near Gulf Shore Drive turning lane at US 98, near Chevron area), asking about safety and city appearance.
- Chair requested: provide photo and the closest address (or nearest landmark address) and/or sticker/ID number on the pedestal to report to the owner (e.g., Lumen or Cox).
- Discussion points:
  - Lumen pedestals often have IDs.
  - General identification: square tops often phone (Lumen); round often cable (Cox).
  - Chair noted challenges getting response; offered to contact a regional manager at Lumen to escalate.
  - Discussion included possibility of researching how other jurisdictions handle abandoned utility infrastructure and easement responsibilities.
- Follow-up question on prior issue (Grant Harbor/Beach & 98):
  - Observation that vegetation appears to have been cut back; FDOT reportedly not interested in moving major signal/utility equipment due to intersection sight distance considerations.

### **❖ Chairman Wood**

#### **FY26 Work Plan**

Chairman Wood presented FY-26 work plan as a work in progress and requested member review and feedback.

Noted administrative requirement to use goal/objective sheets (expanded documentation), increasing length of the document to eight pages.

- Timeline:
  - Chair plans to present to City Council in February:
    - Close out FY25 plan
    - Brief FY26 plan

- Goal to have committee approve FY26 plan next month; otherwise at first meeting in February.
- Chair requested assistance:
  - Members to review goals/objectives; volunteers welcome to help transfer content into required sheets (five goals/objectives).
  - Chair tracking prior-year motions: 22 motions, 19 followed through (summary to be used in FY25 closeout).
- Minor correction noted: Andrea's name is missing on one page and included on another; to be corrected.

## **F. PUBLIC COMMENTS - STORMWATER FLOODPLAIN**

- Chairman Wood opened floor for public comments on stormwater. With no one in the audience to speak, he closed the public input for this subject.

### **❖ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS**

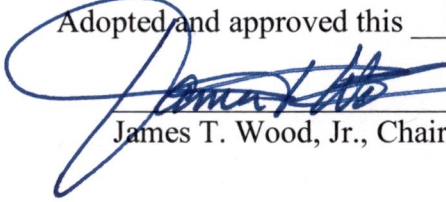
- **Committee member Smith**
  - Spoke of concern about how often roadways that need repaving get milled down prior to repaving without verifying existing pavement thickness.
  - He recommends:
    - If pavement is less than 3.5-4 inches, avoid milling because it reduces structural thickness and durability.
    - Suggested using edge milling strategies where needed (e.g., near curbs/manholes).
    - Proposed adding coring/testing into the process to verify pavement thickness prior to milling decisions.
  - Mr. Bodi assured the members:
    - As an example, Airport Road had a 5-inch pavement, milling used to improve ride quality; contractor did address a few areas; overall successful.
    - Staff stated they are cognizant of thin pavement and will tack coat and overlay without milling where appropriate.
    - City Engineer department is very involved in reviewing projects.
    - On Regatta Bay South: noted prior thin lift (1-inch) delaminating; and acknowledged the need for careful evaluation and oversight.
      - City staff overseeing; milling included in budget as a contingency line item.
      - If not needed, funds redirected to other repaving needs.

- Staff acknowledged the recommendation and agreed to add coring/thickness checks into the process going forward; noting that the City has access to a coring machine.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Adopted and approved this 13th day of January 2026.

  
James T. Wood, Jr., Chairman

  
Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk