

MINUTES
DESTIN YOUTH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
4:45 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by the City Clerk.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Deacon Martin
Estella Scoma
Sophia Eason
Annalyn King
Adelyn Merrell
Zoe Aslin
Aspen Baker
Alyssia Gentile
David Cowles

Members Absent:

Benjamin Hustin
Elleanorah Remm
Briana Demeter
Chloe Majors
Luci Frankfurt

City Staff Present:

Rey Bailey, City Clerk

3. CURRENT BUSINESS

A) Destin Youth Council Workplan: Youth Labor Rights Project.

The group revisited a prior discussion regarding student parking passes. The City Clerk clarified that, under Florida's Sunshine Law, subcommittees consisting of two or more members of the youth council cannot be formed, and that all meetings must be publicly noticed and recorded. Any proposed changes to parking passes – such as adding a third pass for resident students or providing a free pass for nonresident students – would be treated as recommendations to the city

council, not as formal work plan items. It was explained that such recommendations could be presented either during public comment or as a Destin Youth Council presentation, which would allow additional time. The youth council tentatively agreed to present the recommendation at the February 2nd city council meeting, with one member volunteering to present and others encouraged to attend in support.

The discussion then shifted to a major youth council project focused on employment opportunities for students. A proposal was introduced to create a student job bank or job board that would connect local businesses with high school students seeking employment. The job board could be hosted digitally – potentially on the City of Destin website—or coordinated through local schools. The group discussed inclusivity for students attending different schools, including Destin High School, Collegiate High School, Niceville, and homeschooled students.

Key elements of the proposed project included:

- Providing a centralized, ongoing resource for student job and internship opportunities.
- Ensuring participating businesses comply with child labor laws and provide safe, appropriate work environments.
- Educating students on child labor laws, workplace expectations, and professional conduct.
- Using existing or newly created easy-to-understand graphics and informational materials to explain labor laws and workplace readiness.

Members discussed partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, school administrators, and the city's Public Information Officer to support the project. Opportunities to promote the job board and educational materials at upcoming job fairs and career days were also identified, including dates at Destin High School in February and April. Several members volunteered to assist with research, graphic design, outreach, and staffing booths at these events.

It was noted that while the youth council's term ends in July 2026, the project could potentially continue beyond the current group depending on how it is implemented and supported.

Additional recommendations were briefly discussed, including a proposal to install lighting at tennis courts, playgrounds, and basketball courts within the city to improve safety and accessibility after dark. This item was identified as another recommendation that could be presented to city council.

Members were advised to submit any recommendations, research, or supporting materials by January 23 to allow time for agenda preparation.

4) NEXT MEETING DATE: Members voted unanimously to schedule the next youth council meeting on Wednesday, January 28th, at 4:45, at city hall.

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026



Estella Scoma, Chair



Rey Bailey, City Clerk

