

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 - 5:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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.	Marcie Bell	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
John Green	Andrea Ansley	Joe Bodi, Deputy Public Works Director
Tom Weidenhamer		
Curtis Smith		
Tammy Weidenhamer		

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda with no changes was made by Committee member Tom Weidenhamer, with Committee member Smith providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **December 9, 2025**

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting was made by Committee member Tom Weidenhamer with committee member Tammy Weidenhamer providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **E-Bike Ordinance**

Chairman Wood provided background on the ordinance effort, noting several community complaints regarding e-bike speeds, careless driving, and related issues throughout the county is what's lead to a countywide forum on October 1, 2025. Following that forum, the Niceville City Manager volunteered to draft a model/template ordinance reflecting the forum's outcomes. The draft ordinance presented with input from other cities, including discussion that the City of Crestview's primary concern was downtown e-bike parking obstruction.

Chairman Wood noted that the template was expected to be on first reading at the City of Niceville's City Council Agenda last month; however, it was pulled it from first reading to address requested changes and is being brought back for first reading the same evening as this meeting is.

Chairman Wood emphasized the goal of this endeavor is maintaining consistency among local jurisdictions to reduce confusion caused by differing municipal rules.

❖ **Proposed Committee Amendments – Chairman Wood**

Chairman Wood recommended advancing the ordinance to City Council with targeted revisions, including:

1. Add e-bike class information to the definition section (to incorporate the commonly used Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 framework discussed in prior meetings).
2. Add “place of safety” language to clarify that no e-bike/e-scooter/micro-mobility device shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and enter the path of a path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield or stop, such as at neighborhood ingress/egress (described as a “neighborhood entrance” rule).

❖ **Helmet Requirement Discussion / Additional Revision**

The committee’s discussion focused heavily on the ordinance language regarding helmets. Members expressed concern about requiring adults to wear helmets and questioned whether the city should impose requirements beyond state-level standards, especially given the comparison raised that Florida does not require adult motorcycle helmets. Members also discussed whether the helmet requirement could unintentionally apply to low-speed devices used by children; in response, it was noted that the ordinance’s micro-mobility definition referenced devices capable of higher speeds, the discussion indicated 20 mph or greater thresholds, which would help avoid capturing very low-speed toys.

Motion by Chairman Wood to accept the ordinance and recommend it to be prepared for City Council’s review with the two changes discussed, adding the e-bike classes and adding the place of safety portion at the end of section 21-2 item B. Committee member Tom Weidenhamer providing the second.

During discussion, Chairman Wood indicated willingness to modify the helmet provision to align with an under-16 years old standard and referenced a federal helmet standard, (16 CFR 1203) as support for limiting helmet requirements to youth. The Committee agreed to revise the ordinance language accordingly.

Further concern was raised about other municipalities passing ordinances that unintentionally impact users of micromobility devices (e.g., motorized wheelchairs). The Committee discussed that the speed-capability threshold should help prevent such unintended impacts, while acknowledging the importance of drafting the necessary language.

❖ **State Law / Pending Legislation Discussion**

The Committee briefly discussed pending state legislation related to e-bikes. Chairman Wood stated that, if passed, one anticipated impact would be a driver's license requirement for Class III e-bikes, which would be the primary change affecting the local ordinance.

Committee member Green mentioned seeing online information suggesting Florida had recently adopted helmet requirements for certain e-bike classes; the Chair stated that the claim did not align with his understanding and would verify the applicable state law language.

Chairman Wood restated the motion to recommend the e-bike ordinance for City Council review with the following revision discussed:

- **Add the definitions of levels 1, 2, and 3 e-bike class details to the definition section.**
- **Add the “place of safety” provision described during discussion; and**
- **Revise the helmet language to apply to operators age 16 and under (or “16 and below,” as stated during discussion).**

Committee member Tom Weidenhamer provided his second to the revisions, and the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

➤ **2025 Annual Report/2026 Work Plan**

Chairman Wood stated the work plan update was primarily an administrative change, the city provided new, expanded “goals and objectives” sheets, requiring the committee's work plan content to be transferred from a shorter format into a longer template. There are five goals/objective items to be transposed into the new template. He then pointed out that Committee member Green is working on one item, while Committee member Ansley has four items. Since Andrea is not present, her work was not available for their review, and since there still needs work to be done, he recommends postponing action until their next meeting, emphasizing the plan must be finalized at the next meeting due to the Chair's scheduled February briefings to City Council.

Motion by Chairman Wood, seconded by Committee member Smith to continue the 2025 Annual Report Work Plan to their next meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

6. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

➤ **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.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Committee Member Smith – Reported he had recently purchased a Tesla Cybertruck with full self-driving capabilities and emphasized the importance of clearly visible roadway markings,

such as lane lines, turn arrows, channelization, and striping for the safe operation of the camera/AI-based driving systems. He encouraged continued focus on striping visibility, particularly during repaving projects, and noted some areas outside Destin have terrible line visibility.

➤ **Public Works Updates**

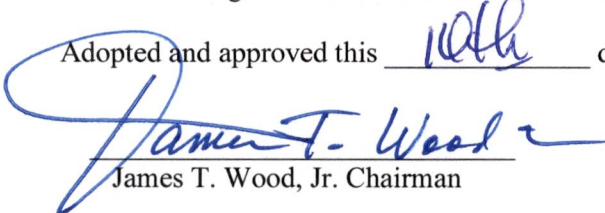
Mr. Bodi provided the members with the following updates:

- Road resurfacing/milling: Milling has started with Regatta Bay Blvd.
- Airport Road: A section of Airport Road was identified for repaving, due to substandard conditions.
- Roadway Striping approach:
 - Collector roadways will receive center lines and long-line striping, with edge striping and bike lanes as applicable.
 - Residential/local roadways will not receive long-line striping (no edge striping or centerline striping).
 - Markings such as stop bars, crosswalks, stop signs, and special condition markings (including speed hump markings/arrows/hash marks) will continue to be updated as part of repaving projects.
 - In discussion, members considered whether evolving vehicle automation might require revisiting striping practices on local roads; it was noted that automated systems rely especially on clear guidance in complex areas such as turn lanes and channelization.
- **Norriego Point/Harbor Dredging project:** Mr. Bodi reported the dredging project was about to begin, anticipated to start that weekend, from at East Pass Lagoon near the bridge and extending back toward the “dog leg” area associated with the federal channel. He stated the city is paying per cubic yard of material removed and that means/methods are contractor-driven with the city dictating outcomes. Comment was expressed about observations from past dredging projects where dewatering harmed fish populations. Mr. Bodi indicated dewatering was not the approach and would be performed wet and not dewatered.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 10th day of February 2026.


James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk