

**REGULAR MEETING  
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 5, 2026  
ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Council of the City of Destin met in regular session with the following members and staff present:

Destin City Council

Mayor Bobby Wagner	Councilmember Rodney Braden
Councilmember Torey Geile	Councilmember Dewey Destin e
Councilmember Jim Bagby	Councilmember Kevin Schmidt
Councilmember Terésa Hebert	Councilmember Sandy Trammell

Destin City Staff

City Manager Larry Jones	City Clerk Rey Bailey
Public Works Director Michael Burgess	Parks & Recreation Director Lisa Firth
Public Information Director Tamara Young	Principal Planner Daniel Butler
Planner Sherry Burney	Building Official Noell Bell
City Engineer Robert Tomasek	Finance Director Krystal Strickland
Community Development Director David Prichard	HR Director Jaime Haynes
Projects/Grants/Contract Manager Jeffrey Cozadd	IT Director Andy Peters
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp	

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, which was then followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**

**Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve the agenda passed**

**1. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS / SPECIAL / PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. 2025 Holiday Outdoor Decorating Contest Winners

The mayor recognized and presented award plaques to the following 2025 Holiday Outdoor Decorating Contest Winners:

- Best Decorated Home: Sarah Micholic 307 Cardinal Lane & Crystal Lynn, 301 Beach Drive
- Best Decorated Organization: Dolphin Point, 30 Moreno Point Road

- Best Decorated Business: La Paz, 950 Gulf Shore Drive
- Best of Holiday: Tara Shepard, 72 Indian Bayou Drive

#### B. Master Plan Presentation by Perez Planning and Design, LLC

Mr. Carlos Perez (Perez Planning & Design) presented the findings from the first two phases of the city's Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. He explained that Phase 1, the context analysis, reviewed existing conditions including the planning environment, the current park system, and community demographics, while Phase 2, the needs and priorities assessment, used a triangulated mixed-methods approach combining primary quantitative data, primary qualitative input, and secondary data. Public engagement was described as strong, including more than 450 survey responses and over 21,000 individual question responses, along with dot/coin voting activities and interviews conducted both one-on-one and through focus groups. From these inputs, he said the findings could be summarized into three overarching concepts: the need to modernize the parks system, the opportunity to integrate the system both physically through better trail/sidewalk connectivity and operationally through coordinated programs and alignment with other city plans, and the importance of optimizing the system – particularly given uncertainty about future funding after the November 2026 election.

Mr. Perez described Destin's seasonal population increase and an age distribution weighted toward adults, emphasizing the importance of multi-purpose, multi-generational investments. He reviewed recreation trends using a market potential index comparing Destin to state and national averages, highlighting above-average interest in activities such as pickleball, golf, tennis, and a wide range of fitness and wellness pursuits. Survey results were presented to show high park usage, with 87% of respondents reporting they use parks, and the most visited sites identified as Morgan Sports Complex, Clement Taylor Park, and Destin's beaches. He noted that when asked what prevents residents from using parks, the most common response was lack of parking/access, followed by concerns about facility maintenance. In a "how would you spend \$100" exercise for capital improvements, respondents across multiple engagement techniques most consistently prioritized improving and maintaining existing parks and facilities, followed by acquiring new parkland. A similar spending exercise for programs and operations showed a strong desire to increase staffing to improve maintenance and to expand community-wide events, and the consultants reported that many residents indicated a willingness to pay more in taxes for park improvements.

He also summarized park condition assessments, explaining that their team evaluated parks using a long-standing scoring method that benchmarks other parks against the system's strongest example, which they identified as Captain Leonard Destin Park. Overall, they rated the system as "fair," but said amenity conditions scored "poor," meaning many assets are aging and will require replacement rather than routine maintenance alone. He reviewed maintenance management findings within the modernize-integrate-optimize framework, citing challenges such as aging equipment, inconsistent access to specialized tools, outdoor storage that shortens equipment life, slow procurement processes, fragmented lifecycle planning dependent on other departments, inconsistent work order tracking across multiple systems, informal preventive maintenance displaced by urgent needs, and a peak-season workforce stretched thin and reliant on institutional knowledge rather than standardized documentation (noting standards were being developed as part of the project). He also reviewed program and service findings, stating that while offerings were strong for youth, adults, older adults, and special events, teens and young adults were underserved; demand was strong for fitness/wellness, nature and environmental education, arts, and aquatics but program depth was limited; evaluation and workflow practices were not consistently applied; pricing inconsistencies existed; and partnerships were present but not fully leveraged to expand staffing capacity, facility

access, or shared resources. They added that limited indoor/outdoor capacity constrained program growth, and that while operational metrics were tracked, they were not fully integrated into decision-making and evaluation cycles.

In the level-of-service analysis, the firm compared Destin's spending to peer jurisdictions using a five-year average. They reported that operations and maintenance spending appeared strong on a non-season per-capita basis, but that the per-capita figure dropped substantially during peak season due to the population surge, which they said aligned with staff reports of seasonal strain. They also stated that council should be commended for capital investment in parks and recreation over the last five years, but noted that most capital spending was focused on land acquisition while only a small share went to repairs and replacements, which they argued helps explain why the public repeatedly emphasized renewing and upgrading existing facilities. They then discussed potential statewide changes to property taxes that could appear on the November 2026 ballot and warned that, if approved by voters, such changes could reduce municipal revenues and affect the city's ability to provide services, making future prioritization and alternative funding strategies increasingly important.

After concluding the presentation, the council discussed whether to proceed with additional phases of the master plan. Some members questioned the cost of continuing – particularly the proposed visioning work – arguing that the city already has visioning sessions and has been actively investing in parks, and they expressed concern about paying for what felt like repetitive engagement rather than receiving direct, actionable outputs. Others emphasized that the city needs a clear, implementable plan with prioritized projects, order-of-magnitude costs, and operational impacts to support budgeting and help staff modernize facilities, staffing, and equipment. Council members asked specific questions about the market potential index (including why pickleball appeared high), the parking barrier finding given the parking at Morgan Sports Complex, and how relatively strong operations and maintenance spending could align with poor amenity scores; the consultants responded that the pickleball data likely reflected local spending on equipment even if residents play elsewhere, that parking constraints are most visible during high-demand periods and at beach access points, and that maintenance spending cannot overcome the need for capital replacement – especially when capital allocations have been heavily weighted toward land acquisition. Mr. Perez confirmed that the statistically valid survey was presented as having 95% confidence with a 2.5% margin of error, and discussion included how different engagement groups can skew results compared with statistically balanced sampling. Several members voiced concern that revenue constraints are likely if property tax reductions move forward, increasing interest in focusing on funding scenarios and implementation planning.

**Councilmember Trammell made a motion to proceed with Perez Planning and Design LLC for phases three, four, and five of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; seconded by Councilmember Geile.**

**Councilmember Destin offered a substitute motion to proceed directly to Phase 4, the Implementation Stage; that funding options be presented to the council; to invite Perez Planning LLC to participate in the upcoming Council Visioning Session; and to return to the council for a vote on Phase 5. Councilmember Hebert provided a second to the motion.**

According to the firm, they were willing to work with the City Manager and staff to adjust scope but cautioned that skipping Phase Three could limit the data and cost/operational work needed to support implementation.

**Motion passed 4-3 (Council members Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Braden voted “yes”; Council members Schmidt, Geile, and Trammell voted “no”).**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Ricky Lynn Grant Jr. shared general remarks about his interest in becoming more involved in politics and local affairs, while also raising a pedestrian safety concern about the traffic signal near Indian Bayou, where he said vehicles turn while pedestrians are crossing.

Mr. Jeff Reese spoke about dog leash enforcement, explaining that although Destin may have a leash law, Okaloosa County reportedly follows a “call-back” policy instead. He expressed concern that this creates safety risks for both people and pets and urged clearer, stricter enforcement.

Mr. Rob Valatin thanked the council for hosting a recent town hall meeting and commended members for their transparency and community engagement, particularly regarding the parks and recreation study.

Mr. Alan Osborne provided detailed comments about Norriego Point and the state’s recent purchase of the property, encouraging the council to maintain its current zoning and marina development position. He also suggested requesting a state-level investigation into whether the property’s development rights were properly disclosed during the transaction and emphasized protecting local authority and taxpayer interests.

Ms. Laurie Sanders asked the city to revisit previously approved parking plans affecting the area in front of East Pass Towers 1 and 2, including concerns about parking layout, traffic flow, and the need for sidewalks near the marina and condominium entrances.

#### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Support for FWB Around the Mound Alt 1B Project - Resolution No. 25-25
- B. Boardwalk Under the Bridge TA Grant - Resolution 25-26
- C. Approval of minutes of November 17, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting
- D. Approval of minutes of December 16, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting

**Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve Consent Agenda item 3A through 3D, as printed above, passed 7-0.**

#### **4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

- A. RFB 25-17-CM Crosstown Connector Phase 2 Construction

The City Manager noted that when the project was put out for bid in November, three proposals were received from CW Roberts, GF Coast Utility Contractors, and H&T Contracting. CW Roberts submitted the lowest bid at approximately \$5.66 million and received the highest evaluation score from the bid committee (121 out of 125 points). Staff recommended awarding the bid to CW Roberts, with the understanding that the contract will also require review and approval by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), which is partially funding the project.

**Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to award RFB 25-17-CM to CWR Contracting and request that staff bring a construction contract for council consideration, passed 7-0.**

#### B. Kelly Street Speed Limit

The council reviewed a speed study conducted on Kelly Street, where the posted speed limit is 30 mph. The study found that 95% of drivers were traveling at or below the posted speed, with 85% averaging around 28 mph, leading staff to recommend no change. However, concerns were raised about confusing signage within the school zone between Spring Lake Drive and Benning Drive, particularly due to the presence of an elementary school, daycare, park activities, and heavy pedestrian traffic. Some council members advocated lowering the speed limit in that section to 25 mph out of caution, while others argued that the data did not support the change and that road design, rather than signage, was the root issue. Reports from the sheriff's office indicated no significant speeding complaints.

**Councilmember Trammell moved to lower the speed limit to 25 MPH in the school zone between Spring Lake and Benning Drive; seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 5-2, with Council members Braden and Geile dissenting.**

#### C. LAZ Parking Management, authorization to execute a contract

The proposed contract includes license plate reader cameras, kiosks, enforcement staffing, and management of city-owned lots such as Zerby Community Center, Marler Park, and Joe's Bayou boat launch. The first-year cost is approximately \$337,897 due to equipment purchases, with ongoing annual operational costs around \$203,000 thereafter. Some members argued that enhanced enforcement and dynamic pricing would significantly increase parking revenue and improve compliance, potentially paying for the program itself. Others expressed concern over the increased cost compared to the prior \$80,000 annual contract with Passport and questioned whether hiring city staff directly would be more cost-effective. The agreement allows cancellation with 30 days' notice.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement for Professional Service with LAZ Florida Parking, LLC, for parking management and enforcement services, in substantially the form presented, and to take any necessary administrative action consistent with this authorization. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 6-1, with Councilmember Destin dissenting.**

**Councilmember Bagby moved to increase the FY 2026 Budget by \$337,897 in accordance with the amendment as published, seconded by Councilmember Hebert. Motion passed 7-0.**

#### D. RFB 25-16-PW, Norriego Dredging Project bid, contract, and notice to proceed

The City Manager noted that after re-bidding the project, two responsive bidders were evaluated: Gator Dredging, which scored 99 out of 100 points, and Complete Site Services, which scored 82 out of 100. Pricing between the two was similar, but Gator Dredging was slightly lower and offered a more favorable timeline, with completion projected by early March if issued a notice to proceed immediately. Staff recommended awarding the contract to Gator Dredging and authorizing immediate execution and notice to proceed. The dredging work will remove sand from the harbor bottom and place it in designated embayment areas to restore shoreline profiles.

**Councilmember Trammell moved to award the bid for RFB 25-16-PW to Gator Dredging, execute the Construction Contract, and issue the Notice to Proceed as soon as possible. Councilmember Hebert provided the second to the motion, which passed 7-0.**

E. State Park Conservation Land Adjacent to City's Norriego Point Park (Holiday Isle)

The City Attorney explained that on December 10, the State of Florida purchased approximately four acres of privately owned property located entirely within the City of Destin, adjacent to city-owned property including Norriego Point Park and public parking areas. The property is surrounded by conservation and residential zoning. The agenda item included a draft lease between the State and Okaloosa County (not yet signed) and a draft management plan previously discussed at a town hall meeting. The City Attorney asked the council for direction on whether staff should reach out to the State to begin discussions about using the property for conservation purposes and potentially changing the future land use designation and zoning from High Density Residential (HDR) to Conservation. She emphasized that no zoning changes would occur without multiple public hearings and that the immediate request was simply for direction to initiate conversations with the State.

During public comment, Mr. Guy Tadlock, a nearby resident, expressed disappointment with the county's town hall meeting, stating that many residents felt the proposal was being pushed forward without adequate consideration of neighborhood concerns. He described Norriego Point Park as heavily used and valued by residents and worried that the county's proposed marina and commercial intensity would disrupt the character of the surrounding single-family neighborhood, strain parking, and negatively affect the existing park. He urged the council to explore options that would allow the City to manage both properties and preserve the area's character.

Mr. Jeff Shapiro, another resident, also praised the park but suggested practical improvements such as adding more trash receptacles to accommodate increased use. He questioned the need for a marina and suggested that docks could potentially be removed while still allowing public access, emphasizing preservation over commercial expansion.

Councilmember Bagby objected to the initial motion directing staff to take steps toward changing the zoning designation to Conservation. He argued that maintaining the current HDR designation preserved the city's leverage in negotiations with the state and county. If the city unilaterally changed the zoning, he warned, it would give up one of the few tools it had to influence the ultimate use of the property. He stressed the importance of working strategically with the state, particularly the legislative delegation and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to ensure the land remained conservation-focused. He cautioned against taking premature action that could weaken the city's negotiating position.

The council then engaged in a broader discussion about concerns with the county's proposed marina and commercial elements, including potential parking demands and intensification inconsistent with conservation goals. Questions were raised about whether the state had complete information when approving the purchase and whether the city had been adequately included in prior discussions.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to engage the state in a conversation about a Conservation zoning on the piece of park property; seconded by Councilmember Trammell. Motion passed 6-1, with Councilmember Braden dissenting.**

**Councilmember Geile moved to adopt a resolution directing staff to formally request that the Florida Chief Financial Officer conduct an investigation into the State's purchase of the subject property, to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards. Seconded by Councilmember Schmidt.**

Some members of the council characterized the motion as a request for transparency and verification to ensure all information presented to the state was accurate and complete. Others argued that such a resolution would appear accusatory, potentially damage relationships with state officials, and undermine efforts to work cooperatively with DEP and the legislative delegation. It was emphasized that the state had followed its established process, including obtaining appraisals, and that no evidence of wrongdoing had been presented. Supporters of the motion countered that requesting review did not equate to alleging criminal conduct but rather demonstrated accountability to residents seeking clarity.

**Motion failed 3-4 (Council members Schmidt, Geile, and Braden voted “yes”; Council members Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Trammell voted “no”).**

F. Minutes from Committees and Boards (Informational Only)

#### **G. Announcements**

- 1) CRA Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 20th, at 5:30 PM preceding the regular council meeting.
- 2) The Mattie Kelly Pier is closed while work is being done in that area.
- 3) A lot of milling and repaving work being done this month and next. The schedule for Regatta Bay South, Norriego Road, Magnolia and others are posted under News and Information on the city website.
- 4) The city’s annual Visioning Session will take place on Friday, January 23, in the Annex Chambers, starting at 9:00 AM.
- 5) The city has begun issuing annual parking passes to eligible residents today. Passes can be obtained at City Hall, Destin Community Center, or online.
- 6) The Buck Destin basketball court is being resurfaced. The courts will not be available for the next two weeks.7) The city has its instrum ents ready for the potential annexation survey. The consultants hired by the city will start working on it starting tomorrow.

#### **5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. Second reading of Ordinance 26-03-LC - Deleting Section 7.08.00, Regulation of the Subdivision of Land, of the Land Development Code; replacing Section 7.08.00 by creating a new Article 5, Subdivision Regulations, of the Land Development Code.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 26-03-LC by title, and then presented it to the city council on second reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, DELETING SECTION 7.08.00, REGULATION OF THE SUBDIVISION OF LAND, OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; REPLACING SECTION 7.08.00 BY CREATING A NEW ARTICLE 5, SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none the mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for discussion and consideration.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to approve Ordinance No. 26-03-LC on second reading, subject to the following clarifications and conditions:**

- (1) All references within the ordinance to the "collection of stormwater" in residential neighborhoods shall be revised to read "the treatment of stormwater in residential neighborhoods."**
- (2) Water connections shall be required in the same manner and under the same requirements as sewer connections.**

**Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hebert and passed 7-0.**

B. First reading of Ordinance 25-26-LC - an ordinance of the City of Destin, Florida, deleting section 7.13.00. "Nonconforming Uses and Structures" and section 16.08.00. "Nonconforming Signs", of the Land Development Code and creating a new Article 3 "Nonconformities"; amending and updating regulations relating to Nonconformities; creating an exception for structures located within the South Harbor Mixed Use district (SHMU) that are damaged by natural disasters or certain other forces majeure by greater than fifty percent as set forth herein.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 25-26-LC by title, and then presented it to the city council on first reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, DELETING SECTION 7.13.00. "NONCONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES" AND SECTION 16.08.00. "NONCONFORMING SIGNS", OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND CREATING A NEW ARTICLE 3 "NONCONFORMITIES"; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none the mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for discussion and consideration.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to approve proposed Ordinance 25-26-LC on first reading, subject to the following conditions:**

- 1) Any nonconforming structure rebuilt after damage must be limited to what was originally approved by the city, excluding unpermitted additions**
- 2) Nonconforming billboards shall not be repaired or replaced.**
- 3) If the primary structure on a parcel is damaged by more than 50 percent, the entire parcel, including all site elements such as parking and landscaping must be brought into compliance with current regulations, except where the ordinance provides a limited exemption for properties within the South Harbor Mixed Use District.**

**Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell.**

Councilmember Bagby explained that the first amendment would require any rebuilt structure to match what was originally approved by the City, rather than simply what physically existed at the time of destruction. He expressed concern that some properties may have added unapproved auxiliary units, sheds, carports, or other improvements over time, and he did not want the ordinance to allow those unpermitted additions to be rebuilt. His second amendment addressed billboards. He stated that billboards were previously intended to be phased out over time and not repaired or extended through cosmetic upgrades. He wanted to ensure the new ordinance did not conflict with that earlier policy or allow repairs that would effectively prolong their lifespan. His third amendment clarified that if a primary structure on a property is damaged by more than 50%, then – except within the South Harbor Mixed-Use District – the entire parcel should be brought into compliance with current code requirements. He noted that some lots may have multiple nonconforming elements, such as parking or site layout issues, and argued that if the primary structure must be rebuilt, the rest of the property should also be required to comply.

Councilmember Braden voiced opposition to the ordinance. He stated that he had not supported it previously and would not support it now. He questioned the premise of preserving the city's "heritage," arguing that much of Destin's original character had already been lost decades ago. He specifically referenced harbor-area establishments and said he did not believe there were structures remaining that justified special protection. In his view, if buildings were destroyed, they should be rebuilt to current standards rather than preserved in nonconforming status.

Councilmember Destin explained that he had suggested elements of the harbor exemption at the prior meeting. He clarified that his intent was not to protect billboards or nonconforming signs and said he would support removing sign protections from the ordinance. He stated that his goal was to preserve certain traditional harbor structures that still reflect the city's past. He cited past examples, such as buildings destroyed by hurricanes that were not allowed to be rebuilt due to code restrictions, resulting in a permanent loss. He expressed concern that without the exemption, a major storm could eliminate the remaining traditional harbor buildings. At the same time, he emphasized that any rebuilt structure would still have to comply with fire codes, building codes, and life-safety requirements.

Additional discussion among council members focused on what constitutes a historic or traditional structure, whether preservation should be limited to the South Harbor area or applied citywide, and whether aesthetic standards such as an "Old Florida" architectural style should eventually be adopted to guide redevelopment. Questions were also raised about how broadly the protections should apply and whether other elements beyond structures should be considered.

**The motion passed 4-3 (Council members Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Trammell voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt, Geile, and Braden voted "no").**

C. First reading of Ordinance 26-05-LC - Amending Article 8, "Transportation" of the Land Development Code; amending section 8.06.00 "vehicle and parking standards" and section 8.09.00 "multimodal transportation district"; deleting multimodal transportation district (MMTD) and replacing with "parking standards for commercial mixed-use, multifamily and transit oriented development"; amending and removing parking reduction options; removing on-site parking maximums; removing alternative parking options as set forth herein; deleting map 8-4 "multimodal transportation district map.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 26-05-LC by title, and then presented it to the city council on first reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE 8, "TRANSPORTATION", OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AMENDING SECTION 8.06.00 "VEHICLE AND PARKING STANDARDS" AND SECTION 8.09.00 "MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT"; DELETING MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT (MMTD) AND REPLACING WITH "PARKING STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL MIXED-USE, MULTIFAMILY AND TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT"; AMENDING AND REMOVING PARKING REDUCTION OPTIONS; REMOVING ON-SITE PARKING MAXIMUMS; REMOVING ALTERNATIVE PARKING OPTIONS AS SET FORTH HEREIN; DELETING MAP 8-4 MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT MAP"; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none the mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Trammell proposed amending the ordinance to add specific parking requirements for low-speed vehicles (LSVs), noting that they are increasingly prevalent throughout Destin and require smaller, designated spaces. She emphasized the need for the city to be forward-thinking by formally incorporating LSV parking standards into the code.

Councilmember Destin raised questions about the scope and purpose of the multi-modal transportation district, recalling that it was once concentrated around the harbor but learning that it now encompasses nearly the entire city. He argued that if the multi-modal district is effectively citywide, then granting parking credits tied to multi-modal provisions is self-defeating, particularly if the city no longer intends to meaningfully implement a multi-modal framework. He also questioned eliminating shared parking agreements outright, suggesting that legitimate arrangements – such as businesses with differing hours of operation – might still be appropriate.

The mayor echoed concerns about unintended consequences in removing multi-modal credits and shared parking provisions wholesale. He noted that developments had recently made extensive use of multi-modal credits despite limited practical multi-modal infrastructure and expressed concern that the broad applicability of the district could lead to excessive reductions in parking. At the same time, he cautioned that eliminating parking maximums while increasing minimums could unintentionally create large expanses of asphalt. He emphasized the importance of balancing adequate parking with open space protections and ensuring any shared parking agreements are enforceable rather than operating on an informal honor system.

The discussion expanded to transportation planning more broadly, including identifying and mapping transit stops within the city, coordinating with county transportation updates, and potentially encouraging tourism-focused transportation solutions – such as shuttles serving resorts, the harbor, and destinations like Henderson Beach State Park – to reduce congestion caused by visitors unfamiliar with local roads. Council members also stressed the need for clear definitions and enforcement mechanisms if shared parking were to remain, and consideration of how open space regulations interact with parking requirements.

The Community Development Director summarized several proposed changes based on tonight's discussion: Ensuring LSV parking requirements are properly incorporated and consistent with recently adopted standards; reconsidering whether eliminating shared parking entirely is appropriate and, if retained, how to define and enforce it; evaluating concerns about parking minimums and maximums, including whether increases beyond minimum requirements should require conditional approval based on demonstrated need; and examining broader transportation

elements while potentially separating more aspirational tourism transportation ideas from the immediate ordinance revisions.

**Councilmember Hebert moved to direct staff to bring back the ordinance with considerations referenced by the Community Development Director. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 7-0.**

**6. COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY ATTORNEY**

A. Councilmember Braden

Councilmember Braden asked for an update on the community center repairs, noting that funds had previously been spent to assess the building's issues. Staff responded that draft inspection requirements and bid documents are being completed for roof, windows, and siding repairs. A more specific timeline will be provided soon.

Councilmember Braden asked about enforcement of the city's leash law after a resident reported being told by the county that no such law exists. It was noted that the county may not enforce such matters if no county ordinance exists. Staff clarified that the City of Destin does have a leash ordinance. Enforcement is handled through a contract with PAWS for animal control. If an issue occurs within city limits, residents should contact code compliance or the Sheriff's Office, depending on whether it is a loose animal/public safety issue or a standard code violation.

- B. Councilmember Trammell
- C. Councilmember Destin
- D. Councilmember Bagby
- E. Councilmember Hebert

Councilmember Hebert requested to attend the upcoming legislative delegation meetings in Tallahassee alongside city leadership and the lobbyist. She also expressed interest in setting up meetings with legislators regarding city projects. Other members indicated that council members may attend at their discretion.

- F. Councilmember Geile
- G. Councilmember Schmidt

Councilmember Schmidt asked about the schedule for restriping Kelly Street and Benning Drive. Staff explained that Benning Drive had already been resurfaced and restriped in prior years. Kelly Street needs restriping, and a quote has been received. Discussion included potentially narrowing lane widths during restriping and possibly adding painted bike lanes to help slow traffic and improve safety.

H. Mayor Wagner

I. City Attorney

- 1) City Manager Contract - Anniversary of Agreement

**Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to move this item to the next council meeting passed 7-0.**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Alan Osborne urged the council to pursue further investigation into a recent land transaction involving state funding, arguing that citizens have a duty to question government decisions. He expressed concern about potential overpayment and whether full disclosures were made during the process. He encouraged council members not to avoid difficult questions out of fear of political consequences.

Ms. Marcie Bell referenced documentation related to a Florida Forever application submitted in 2025 concerning the same property. She stated that public records, including letters from county and city officials, indicate prior awareness and support of aspects of the project. She encouraged the council and public to review the documents for clarity on the timeline and involvement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM**



**ATTEST:**

**Rey Bailey, City Clerk**

**Bobby Wagner, Mayor**