

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX CHAMBERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 - 5:30 PM**

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

Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 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  
Curtis Smith  
John Green  
Andrea Ansley  
Tammy Weidenhamer

**Members Absent**

Tom Weidenhamer

**Staff**

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk  
Joe Bodi, Deputy Public Works Director

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion to approve the agenda with no changes was made by Committee member Green, with Committee member Ansley providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

➤ **March 10, 2026**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 meeting was made by Committee member Ansley with Committee member Green providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A) Monica Wallace - DWU General Manager**

- Monica Wallace, General Manager of Destin Water Users, addressed concerns regarding a dip/depression on Gulf Shore Drive near the entrance to Sandpiper Cove.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that Destin Water Users has a large gravity sewer main in the area.
- She explained their staff had videotaped the sewer line during the winter and found:
  - No visible leaks.

- No cracks.
- No evidence of sand infiltration.
- No indication that the sewer pipe was undermining the roadway base.
- Ground penetrating radars were also used in the area.
- Mrs. Wallace reported that the Destin Water Users pipe is approximately six feet deep and 24 inches in diameter.
- The radar appeared to show other pipes above the Destin Water Users line, but ownership of those utilities was unknown.
- It was discussed that the city could submit an 811 locate request to identify utilities in the area.
- Committee members discussed whether the dip could worsen before planned repaving work, which was believed to be scheduled around August.
- Mrs. Wallace explained the difference between pressure pipe failures and gravity sewer issues:
  - Pressure pipes tend to create visible bubbling or washouts.
  - Gravity sewer issues tend to cause sinking rather than pressurized washouts.
- The committee discussed possible causes, including:
  - Stormwater infrastructure.
  - Sand movement.
  - Directional drilling.
  - Utility boring near communications boxes.
  - Abandoned or unidentified pipes.
- It was mentioned that many similar roadway depressions investigated in the past were caused by directional drilling.
- This particular depression has become noticeable enough that drivers are slowing down or changing lanes to avoid it.
- Concern was expressed for motorcycles, e-bikes, and other vulnerable road users.
- Mr. Bodi agreed to handle the 811 locate process.

➤ **Discussion: Kelly Plantation Water Tower**

- Mrs. Wallace confirmed that Destin Water Users is constructing the new water tower in Kelly Plantation.
- She stated that the tower will be painted but will not include a decorative mural.
- She explained that Destin Water Users needs additional storage and capacity to bring more water from its well field in Freeport.
- This is expected to be the last elevated water tower for Destin Water Users.

**B) E-Bike Ordinance**

- The committee briefly discussed the proposed e-bike ordinance.
- Chairman Wood stated he has reviewed and acknowledged the proposed ordinance and that the Sheriff's Office has as well, but no comments have been received.
- The members discussed converting the ordinance into City of Destin ordinance language and that it would also need to be reviewed by the City Attorney.
- After which, it would be brought back to this committee for further review and recommendation to Council.

- Additional discussions included adding or clarifying language related to riders not leaving a place of safety.
- The need for a more detailed definition of electric bicycles.
- Concerns discussed:
  - Multiple e-bikes riding abreast.
  - Riders performing wheelies in the roadway and on sidewalks.
  - Ability to enforce unsafe riding behavior.

**Motion by Committee member Wood, seconded by Committee member Bell to have staff create the e-Bike ordinance and bring it back, when it's ready, for their review. The motion passed 6-0.**

**C) Kelly St Commons Dr Restriping Quotes**

Mr. Bodi presented an item regarding the restriping of Kelly Street and the City-owned portion of Commons Drive, and reported the following:

- The project would include long-line striping.
- The striping work would also include the roundabout.
- He referenced FDOT maintenance rating standards for roadway striping.
  - FDOT standards require 90 percent of the length and width of each line to be reflected and functioning as intended.
  - Staff noted that sand on local roadways contributes to wear and tear on roadway striping.
- The funding for the work was included in the current year's budget.

Mr. Bodi stated that with the Committee's recommendation for approval, staff will engage the city's continuing services contractor for the striping work. The recommendation would be forwarded to City Council for final approval and execution of the work.

The members discussed the timing of the work, noting that the work should likely be scheduled after the summer season to reduce impacts during the busy season. As well as being done during early morning hours to minimize traffic impacts.

**Motion was made by Committee member Bell and seconded by Committee member Weidenhamer to recommend approval of the striping work and forward the item to City Council. The motion passed 6-0.**

**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 Stormwater/Floodplain Public Comments.

➤ **STAFF UPDATES:**

- Mr. Bodi reviewed the city project map with the following items reported as complete and expected to fall off the next update map:
  - Dredging.
  - Outfall project.
  - Threadgill field improvements.
- Rapid flashing beacons for Benning, Maltezo, Azalea, and Melvin were approved by City Council and are in the purchase order process.
- A second set of rapid flashing beacons for Beach Drive near Sandpiper Circle and 101 Matthew Boulevard were also approved by City Council and are in the purchase order process.
- A work order was created to upgrade the Beach Drive/Sandpiper Cove crosswalk to FDOT mid-block standards.
- The stop sign alignment at both beach parking areas near Grand Caribbean Condos had been checked and adjusted.

❖ **School Zone and Crosswalk Safety Improvements**

- Staff presented a conceptual plan for changes near the school zone and crosswalk.
- Proposed improvements included:
  - Relocating sidewalk alignment.
  - Adjusting curb lines.
  - Adding roadside swales.
  - Reducing pedestrian distance to cross by approximately 25 to 30 feet.
  - Reducing pedestrian-vehicle conflict time by approximately 10 seconds.
- Committee members supported moving the school zone markings farther south of the intersection to improve safety.
- Discussions included traffic from Spring Lake Drive, Beach Drive, and nearby intersections.
- Staff confirmed that the crosswalk upgrade would include ADA improvements and FDOT mid-block standards.

**Motion by Committee member Smith, seconded by Committee member Bell to accept the conceptual plan as presented and move forward with the plan as discussed. The motion passed 6-0.**

➤ **Member Comments**

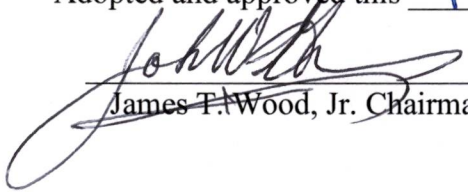
- Chairman Wood stated that he has met with the School Board and the new Elementary School layout is expected to provide significantly more internal vehicle stacking on school property which will reduce vehicle stacking on public streets once finished.
- Mr. Bodi mentioned the sidewalk requirements and indicated that due to topography, only one sidewalk is expected, likely on the north side.
- Mr. Bodi reported that the Harbor Pump had experienced a primer pump failure, causing additional related issues.

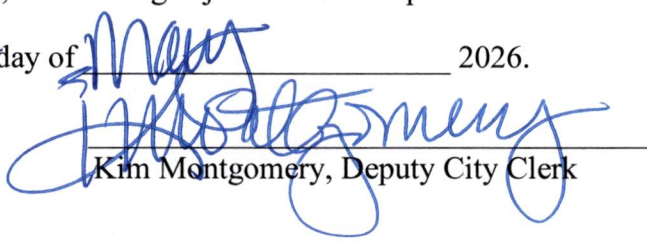
- Repairs were underway, and the pump was expected to be operational again soon.
- Committee member Bell mentioned her concern about a sign at Durango blocking visibility onto Gulf Shore Drive.
  - Mr. Bodi reported that they have reviewed this and stated that visibility is adequate when drivers stop at the stop bar, though visibility is blocked if drivers pull forward past the crosswalk.
- Committee member Bell then asked about the status of the Destin Bridge Committee.
  - Members stated they had not received formal updates despite appointments to the committee.
    - Chairman Wood indicated he would make a phone call and to see what the status is and report back.
- Committee member Smith raised concern about the saw palmetto vegetation on Scenic Gulf Drive near Crab Trap that is growing into travel lanes where cars are hitting them going by and they are blocking sight distance between pedestrians and drivers at the median area.
- Mr. Bodi stated that he would refer this issue to the appropriate parties.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 12th day of May 2026.

  
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 James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman

  
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 Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk