

**REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2026
ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

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

Destin City Council

Mayor Bobby Wagner
Mayor Pro-Tem Teresa Herbert
Councilmember Jim Bagby
Councilmember Rodney Braden

Councilmember Dewey Destin
Councilmember Chatham Morgan
Councilmember Sandy Trammell
Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

Destin City Staff

City Manager Larry Jones
Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Firth
Public Information Director Tamara Young
Public Works Director Michael Burgess
Community Development Director Tina Deater
Projects and Grants Manager Jeff Cozadd
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp

City Clerk Rey Bailey (Outgoing)
City Clerk Lisa Wallace (Incoming)
City Engineer Robert Tomesek
Finance Director Krystal Strickland
IT Director Andy Peters
Principal Planner Daniel Butler
Senior Planner Jesse Hernandez

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Pastor Darius Arnold of Faith Coast Church and Academy, gave the invocation, 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. Motion passed 7-0.

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

- A. Resolution 26-09 - Recognizing Rey Bailey for 26 Years of Service and Dedication to the City of Destin

Mayor Wagner presented retiring City Clerk, Rey Bailey, with a Resolution recognizing his years of service the City of Destin.

- B. Florida League of Cities John Land Years of Service Award to Dewey Destin – 25 years

Mayor Wagner presented Councilmember Destin with the Florida League of Cities John Land Years of Service Award.

C. Proclamation - Miss Destin 2026 - Kaylynn Hayles

Mayor Wagner presented Miss Kaylynn Hales with a Proclamation honoring her as Miss Destin 2026.

D. Proclamation - National Safe Boating Week

Mayor Wagner presented BC Bobby Anderson from Destin Fire Rescue, Captain Jason Fulghum from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Senior Chief Joshua Menges from the Station Destin Coast Guard, and Lieutenant Jarrod Molnar from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with a Proclamation recognizing National Safe Boating Week.

D. Arbor Day Reading – Arantza Ramos

Miss Arantza Ramos read a piece she had written about Arbor Day later in the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roxy Wilson of 614 Legion Drive, expressed concerns regarding the new road being constructed behind her property, noting that her home is the closest to the roadway among nearby residences. She stated that she has lived there since 1978 and described her backyard as a personal haven where her grandchildren play and swim. Ms. Wilson presented visual aids showing the proximity of the roadway and construction equipment to her backyard fence. She requested consideration for stronger protective barriers than a standard vinyl fence, expressing concern that an out-of-control vehicle could enter her property. She also voiced concerns about future traffic noise and vehicle lights impacting her quality of life and asked the Council to consider additional buffering or wall construction to better protect nearby residents.

Alan Osborne commended City Clerk Rey Bailey for 48 years of public service, noting the rarity and significance of such long-term service. He then addressed concerns about government accountability, public trust, and outside political influence, urging local officials to stand up for residents and maintain transparency and integrity in decision-making. He encouraged elected officials to continue advocating for the community and criticized county leadership for avoiding accountability on ongoing issues.

Rob Valatin, a Holiday Isle resident and board member of the Holiday Isle Improvement Association, requested an update regarding the state-acquired land on Holiday Isle and the status of meetings with state and county representatives. He expressed opposition to proposals that would require the City to provide free parking citywide to Okaloosa County residents in exchange for county cooperation. Mr. Valatin encouraged the Council to continue negotiations with the County regarding management of the property and thanked the Council for its efforts to preserve the area and maintain conservation goals.

Joe Fitzpatrick, 3879 Indian Trail, provided a presentation regarding the ongoing drainage study and temporary easement on Indian Trail. He reviewed the historical topography and development of the area, explaining how infrastructure improvements, subdivisions, stormwater systems, and roadway projects have increased stormwater conveyance toward the existing culvert

system. Mr. Fitzpatrick cited City stormwater documentation indicating significant flow volumes and erosion concerns affecting nearby properties, including land loss and expanding wetlands. He stated that the drainage issues have been extensively documented and requested a progress update on the study, including work completed during the first two weeks and expectations for the remainder of the study period.

Josh Douly, representing Autoworks Towing and Recovery, spoke about the proposed towing fee resolution. He explained that the requested rate increases were intended to address rising operational costs, including fuel, insurance, labor, property taxes, and overall cost of living increases since the last rate adjustment in 2022. Mr. Douly stated that the proposed rates were structured to be clear and straightforward for the public and emphasized the demanding nature of towing services, including emergency response work during adverse conditions.

Stan Nicolov also addressed the proposed towing rates. He referenced prior rate studies conducted by Okaloosa County and stated that the primary consideration should be whether operating costs in Destin justify higher towing rates than surrounding communities such as Fort Walton Beach, Crestview, and Niceville. He thanked the Council and staff for their service and encouraged consideration of the higher costs associated with doing business in Destin.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Corpus Christi Catholic Church Eucharistic Procession Request
- B. Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting

Councilmember Bagby made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- A. Update on State-Acquired Land in Holiday Isle Adjacent to City's Norriego Point Park and Resolution 2026-13 for Protection of Shorebirds

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve Resolution 26-13 for Protection of Shorebirds. The motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bagby, to invite the county to join the city in supporting Resolution 26-13. The motion passed 7-0.

- B. 2026 Fourth of July Fireworks
- C. Additional Fireworks or Drone show to enhance our Firework show on July 4.

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to initiate a contract for council's consideration for a drone show in lieu of a fireworks show for the Fourth of July celebration. The motion passed with 4-3 with Councilmembers Hebert, Schmidt, Braden and Trammell voting "yes" and Councilmembers Destin, Bagby and Morgan voting "no".

- D. Comprehensive Plan EAR - Inspire Placemaking Collective Work Authorization

Councilmember Bagby made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve and authorize the City Manager to execute the revised contract with Inspire. The motion passed 7-0.

E. Crab Island Dolphin Tours Request

Councilmember Morgan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve the hardship exemption for Crab Island Tours on the condition that past fees owed are paid and that boats continue to have licensed captains. The motion passed 7-0.

F. Resolution 26-10 - Amendment to the Schedule of Fees, Section 4 (34450X), Parking Facilities User Fees

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve Resolution 26-10 amending the schedule of fees for the Terra Cotta parking area through the end of September. The motion passed 7-0.

G. Resolution 26-11 - Naming Procedures for City Parks

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve Resolution 26-11 with an amendment to require the recommendations to be initiated or sponsored by a City Councilmember. The motion passed 7-0.

H. Renewal & Replacement - Resurfacing and Striping 18 streets

Councilmember Hebert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagby, to approve the resurfacing and striping as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

I. Crosstown Connector Fencing/Barrier options

Councilmember Morgan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to direct staff to bring back another proposal that includes the following options: a sound barrier and/or a guardrail and/or a concrete barrier between 624 Legion Ct. to 612 Legion Dr. with the additional options of eliminating non-native trees and adding a podocarpus hedge. The motion passed with Councilmembers Schmidt, Morgan, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Trammell voting "yes" and Councilmember Braden voting "no".

J. Resolution 26-12 Tow Truck Fees

Councilmember Bagby made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve Resolution 26-12, Tow Truck Fees. The motion passed 7-0.

K. Capital Project Status - Informational Only

L. Operations Financial Report - Informational Only

M. TDC Monthly Report - Informational Only

N. Minutes of Standing Boards and Committees (Informational Only)

O. Announcements

City Manager Jones announced that the undergrounding utility contractor had not achieved substantial completion by the scheduled deadline and was expected to request a 115-day extension at the next Council meeting. He explained that Florida Power & Light had entered into an agreement with the contractor for additional corrective work related to design issues identified in late 2024. He noted that the contract includes liquidated damages of \$1,500 per day and stated that representatives from FPL may contact Council members regarding the matter.

Dr. Jones also reported on a recent contractor town hall meeting attended by local contractors and City staff, where permitting processes and online systems were discussed. He stated

that attendees provided positive feedback regarding the City's permitting process and staff responsiveness and emphasized the City's ongoing efforts to improve customer service and efficiency.

Lastly, Dr. Jones announced that the City is moving forward with permitting and due diligence activities for the property located at 446 Calhoun and that additional updates would be provided in the near future.

Public Information Director Young announced that the American Legion will host its annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25, at 11:00 a.m. at Destin Cemetery on Stahlman Avenue and invited the public to attend.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. First Reading of Ordinance 26-06-LC - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, RENUMBERING THE EXISTING ARTICLE 11 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AS ARTICLE 7; CHANGING THE NAME OF EXISTING "ARTICLE 11 COASTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION" TO "ARTICLE 7 - RESOURCE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, RESILIENCY, AND SUSTAINABILITY"; ADDING THE FOLLOWING EXISTING SECTIONS OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO "ARTICLE 7 - RESOURCE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, RESILIENCY, AND SUSTAINABILITY": SECTION 7.05.00 - PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, SECTION 7.17.04 - OUTDOOR LIGHTING STANDARDS FOR THE MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ZONE, AND SECTION 7.20.00 - SMALL-SCALE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GENERATION REGULATIONS; 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 City Attorney read Ordinance 26-06-LC by title stating that the ordinance was tabled at the last meeting and would need to be placed back on the table for further consideration.

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bagby, to remove Ordinance 26-06-LC from the table. The motion passed 7-0.

The Mayor called for any comments from the public. There being none offered, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, to approve first reading of Ordinance 26-06-LC with no changes to the current NPEB structure (leave as is) in order to allow time for further study and a plan moving forward on enforcement.

Councilmember Bagby made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve LPA Proposal #1 (non-homesteaded residential boat slips \$50/yr. and commercial \$100/yr. The motion failed 3-4 with Councilmembers Bagby, Trammell, and Hebert voting "yes" and Councilmembers Destin, Schmidt, Braden and Morgan voting "no".

Mayor Wagner then called for the vote on the original motion. The motion passed 6-1 with Councilmembers Schmidt, Morgan, Hebert, Bagby, Destin, and Trammell voting “yes” and Councilmember Braden voting “no”.

City Attorney Kopp requested that first reading of Ordinances 26-16-LC, 26-17-CC, and 26-18-PC be done together because they all relate to the definition of “beach”. She then read the three ordinances by title only and presented them to the council for first reading.

B. First reading of Ordinance 26-16-LC

First reading of Ordinance 26-16-LC - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA AMENDING ARTICLE 3 “DEFINITIONS” AND ARTICLE 11 “COASTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION” OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF “BEACH” FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS SET FORTH WITHIN THE CITY CHARTER; 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.

C. First reading of Ordinance 26-17-CC

First reading of Ordinance 26-17-CC - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF “BEACH” FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS SET FORTH WITHIN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

D. First reading of Ordinance 26-18-PC

First reading of Ordinance 26-18-PC - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 13 “GLOSSARY” OF THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF “BEACH” FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS SET FORTH WITHIN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Wagner called for any comments from the public for each of these ordinances. There being none offered, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve first reading of Ordinance numbers 26-16-LC, 26-17-CC, and 26-18-PC relating to the definition of “Beach”. The motion passed 7-0.

E. Second reading of Ordinance 25-13-PC

City Attorney Kopp read Ordinance 25-13-PC by title only and presented it to the council for second reading.

Second reading of Ordinance 25-13-PC - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, MAKING TRANSPORTATION-RELATED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 1 – FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT, CHAPTER 2 – TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT, CHAPTER 9 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT, CHAPTER 12 - ADMINISTRATION, AND CHAPTER 13 - GLOSSARY, OF THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; DELETING THE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES RELATING TO THE CITY MOBILITY PLAN AND CITY MOBILITY FEES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR A BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mayor Wagner called for any comments from the public. There being none offered, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve second reading of Ordinance 25-13-PC. The motion passed 7-0.

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

A. Councilmember Braden

Councilmember Braden asked about a process for inspecting sidewalks. Councilmember Trammell reported that members of the Public Works and Safety Committee do review sidewalks and each member is assigned to a section.

B. Councilmember Trammell

C. Councilmember Destin

Councilmember Destin requested that staff talk to the underground utility contractor and FPL about adding some outlets on Harbor Blvd. for potential Christmas lights or other uses.

D. Councilmember Bagby

F. Councilmember Hebert

Councilmember Hebert requested that the City Manager attend the upcoming League of Cities meeting in August.

F. Councilmember Morgan

G. Councilmember Schmidt

Councilmember Schmidt asked about a Waste Management can issue at Gulf Breeze Court. Staff reported that it has been worked out. He also asked an education flyer for the public that was sent out and if there was any feedback.

- H. Mayor Wagner
 - 1) Sunset Parking Fee Hours

Mayor Wagner expressed appreciation that Councilmember Destin would be the legislative sponsor for proposed \$5.00/hour parking fees City-wide.

- I. City Attorney

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Fitzpatrick urged the Council to move toward a resolution regarding the Indian Trail drainage issues, expressing concern that additional studies and third-party reviews would further delay action. He stated that the drainage impacts are affecting private property and prospective property sales and asserted that stormwater runoff from upstream development and existing culvert infrastructure is causing ongoing erosion and property damage. Mr. Fitzpatrick referenced prior subdivision approvals and permitting history related to the area and emphasized that, in his view, the available documentation already demonstrates the source and impact of the drainage issues.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.



Bobby Wagner, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Wallace, City Clerk