

**REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 15, 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	Councilmember Dewey Destin
Mayor Pro-Tem Terésa Hebert	Councilmember Chatham Morgan
Councilmember Jim Bagby	Councilmember Sandy Trammell
Councilmember Rodney Braden	Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

Destin City Staff

City Manager Larry Jones	City Clerk Lisa Wallace
Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Firth	Sharon Gardner, Records Mgt. Specialist
Public Information Director Tamara Young	City Engineer Robert Tomesek
Public Works Director Michael Burgess	Finance Director Krystal Strickland
Community Development Director Tina Deater	Andy Peters, IT Director
Projects and Grants Manager Jeff Cozadd	HR Director, Jamie Haynes
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp	

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Pastor Steve Farris of First Baptist Church of Destin 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.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ricky Lyn Grant spoke regarding the concept of “highest and best use” of property and discussed potential future commercial and mixed-use development opportunities. He referenced interests in specialty retail, office space, residential development, and real estate investment. Mr. Grant also discussed evaluating potential development sites, business planning, and marketing efforts, including the use of social media.

Mike Leech spoke in support of the proposed street name change from Pine Street to Blue Marlin Court. He expressed concerns about a previously discussed concept of extending Pine Street through adjacent properties to connect with Stallman Avenue, stating that such a connection could

increase traffic, create congestion, and pose safety risks for children in the area. Mr. Leech urged the Council to approve the street name change and retain the roadway as a cul-de-sac.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Destin Boathouse & Oyster Bar Forrest Day 5k
- C. Resolution 26-17 Financial Institution Signature Authority
- D. Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2026 City Council Budget Workshop #1

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, Seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve consent agenda items A, C, D & E. The motion passed 7-0.

- B. BECI CEI Proposal - Community Center Roof

Councilmember Bagby made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve the BECI CEI proposal as submitted. 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

City Attorney Kipp reported there were no county or state meetings since the previous Council meeting and, therefore, no significant new legislative updates. Information presented at the prior meeting was included in the agenda for public reference. Staff noted that a more detailed legislative update would be provided at the July 6 meeting and offered to answer any questions.

- B. 4th of July Fireworks and Drone Show

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to authorize \$10,000 from contracted services and to approve the fireworks and drone show as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

- C. Utility Underground Update

Councilmember Morgan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to direct staff to withhold \$31,500 in liquidated damages due to ADS and instruct the City Manager to continue to negotiate a mitigation plan for Council's consideration. No vote was taken.

Councilmember Destin made a substitution motion, seconded by Mr. Bagby, to withhold \$100,000 until the city is satisfied that the action is correct by obtaining an explanation from the consultants on how they came to their conclusion and by having Attorney Schef Wright review and provide an analysis of that explanation. The motion passed 7-0.

- D. FDOT Joint Participation Agreement, US98/SR30 Median Improvements

Councilmember Braden made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve the JPA for landscape and median improvements with reimbursement funding not to

exceed \$600,000 and to authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents and approve a \$600,000 amendment to FY26 budget accordingly. The motion passed 7-0.

E. R&R FY 26 - Airport Road striping

Councilmember Hebert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Braden, to authorize the City Manager to issue a purchase order for the city's continuous service contractor to execute and complete the resurfacing and striping work for Airport Road. The motion passed 7-0.

F. Options for Agent Broker of Record Contract Extension

Councilmember Bagby made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to authorize staff to issue an RFP for Insurance Agent-Broker of Record services for employee benefits and return to Council with a recommendation for contract award. The motion passed 7-0.

G. Equipment Reallocation – Tractor Trade in for Two Mowers

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded Councilmember Hebert, to approve the equipment trade-in and purchase as requested and direct the City Manager to implement the action. The motion passed 7-0.

H. Council Vacancy as of July 21, 2026

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to readvertise and solicit candidates to fill the council vacancy in addition to contacting the prior applicants to see if they are still interested. No vote was taken.

Councilmember Schmidt made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to utilize the existing application pool in lieu of advertising. The motion passed 7-0.

I. 3879 Indian Trl Drainage

City Engineer, Robert Tomasek, provided Council with a status report on the investigative research that has been performed to date relating to drainage of that property and the surrounding area.

Mayor Wagner gave the property owner an opportunity to speak. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that two 24-inch culverts create higher-velocity discharge than a single larger culvert and referenced photos. He noted that the City's 2004 and 2022 Stormwater Master Plans address impervious surfaces and runoff calculations, and said his analysis estimated approximately 18,000 gallons per minute flowing through the culvert, which he argued differs significantly from historical conditions.

Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Bagby, made a motion to direct staff to take no further action on this matter and to consider the matter closed, passed 5-2, with Councilmembers Bagby, Hebert, Braden, Trammell, and Morgan voting "yes" and Councilmembers Destin and Schmidt voting "no".

J. Capital Project Status – Informational Only

K. Operations Financial Report – Informational Only

L. TDC Monthly Report – Informational Only

City Manager Jones reported that items J, K & L were available in the council packets for their information.

M. Announcements

Public Information Director, Tamara Young, reminded everyone about the July 4 fireworks and drone show, and announced the upcoming Independence Day events, including the annual Independence Bike Parade on July 1 at 4:00 p.m. at Destin Elementary School, with food trucks and related activities planned.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. PZ-2026-39 – Pine Street Renaming Request

Community Development Director, Tina Deater, presented a brief report on this request stating that staff are recommending denial of the request based on the findings outlined in her report.

Councilmember Braden made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to deny the Pine Street Renaming request. No vote was taken.

Mayor Wagner called for any comments from the public.

Michael Leech of 793 Pine Street, spoke in support of renaming a portion of Pine Street to Blue Marlin Court. He stated that he had contacted various agencies and departments and received no objections to the proposed name change. He opposed the concept of creating a continuous roadway connection, citing potential costs and concerns for neighborhood children's safety, and asserted that extending the Blue Marlin Court name would be a simple solution.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Schmidt made a substitute motion to approve the Pine Street Renaming request.

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to table this item, passed 5-2, with Councilmembers Destin, Bagby, Hebert, Trammell and Morgan voting "yes" and Councilmembers Schmidt and Braden voting "no".

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

- A. Councilmember Braden
- B. Councilmember Trammell

Councilmember Trammell expressed concerns about renaming a portion of Pine Street, noting that the roadway remains identified in the City's mobility plan for future connection and extension. The Councilmember stated that changing the street name now and potentially reverting it later would be impractical.

C. Councilmember Destin

Councilmember Destin thanked Representative Maney and Senator Trumbull for opposing efforts that could reduce local government funding, emphasizing the importance of maintaining revenue sources until alternatives are identified. He also requested that the City Attorney Kopp consider potential charter amendments that might benefit the city and report back to council.

D. Councilmember Bagby

Councilmember Bagby made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to provide July 2 & 3 as paid holidays for city employees. The motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Bagby also announced this was his last meeting as Councilmember for the City of Destin and thanked everyone for the opportunity.

D. Councilmember Hebert

F. Councilmember Morgan

E. Councilmember Schmidt

Councilmember Schmidt stated that he will bring back up the Pine Street matter at a future meeting and requested that any missing material be added to the packet.

H. Mayor Wagner

Mayor Wagner stated that he would like council to identify the top priorities and most impactful projects in the mobility study in order to give staff appropriate direction on which projects to pursue.

I. City Attorney

The City Attorney reported that a nonprofit organization and two citizens had filed a lawsuit challenging the proposed property tax measure, alleging the language is biased and misleading. The City Attorney stated that updates would be provided as the case progresses and clarified that no municipalities or counties are parties to the lawsuit.

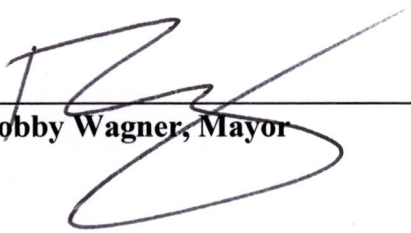
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Stephens expressed appreciation for Mr. Babby's service and stated his intention to remain a candidate for the interim position, noting that he had also qualified for the November election.

Joe Fitzpatrick expressed disappointment with the Council's earlier decision regarding a drainage-related matter, stating that he had presented factual information and supporting evidence concerning stormwater infrastructure and hydrology. He questioned the basis for the Council's decision and maintained that conditions had changed significantly over time.


8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Bobby Wagner, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Wallace, City Clerk

