

**REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
JULY 6, 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 Terésa Hebert
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 Lisa Wallace
Daniel Butler, Principal Planner
City Engineer Robert Tomesek
Finance Director Krystal Strickland
James Lauria, Systems Administrator
HR Director, Jamie Haynes
Jesse Hernandez, Senior Planner

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

Councilmember Schmidt added "Consideration of Removing the Renaming of Pine Street from the Table" and Councilmember Hebert added "Discussion of Traffic After Fireworks".

Motion by Councilmember Hebert, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

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

Mayor Wagner presented members of the Parks and Recreation Committee with a Proclamation in recognition of Parks and Recreation Month.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ricky Lyn Grant commented on efforts to clear a felony record and restore civil rights and stated that he is pursuing a real estate broker license and made general comments about future personal and business goals, healthcare needs, taxes, and aspirations related to business, family, and professional opportunities.

Mike Caroway with Acentria Insurance thanked the City for the opportunity to work with the City of Destin on its employee benefits program over the past several years. He stated that Acentria Insurance is headquartered in Destin, employs more than 35 people, and remains active in the local community. He expressed appreciation for the relationship with the City and stated that they would assist with making any transition as smooth as possible. He also stated that he hopes to have another opportunity to work with the City in the future.

Brad Kibble stated that he has lived in Destin for 24 years and wanted to submit a proposal in response to the Insurance Broker RFP because of his support for the City and interest in keeping the insurance work local. He explained that Liberty Insurance Brokers provides both health insurance and property and casualty insurance, and although the company did not originate in Destin, its employees have worked in the area for many years. He emphasized the importance of using a local agent and commended Mike Caroway for offering to assist the City through the transition regardless of the outcome.

Sabu Williams, President of the NAACP Okaloosa County Branch, appeared with First Vice President Lewis Jennings to formally invite the City of Destin to join the NAACP in recognizing civil rights attorney Charles "Chuck" Morgan Jr. Mr. Williams highlighted Attorney Morgan's national impact during the civil rights era, including his courageous public remarks following the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham and his work on landmark cases involving voting rights, equal protection, and civil liberties. He also noted Attorney Morgan's connection to Destin, where he lived until his passing in 2009, and referenced the Morgan family's continued contributions to the community through Harbor Docks and local public service. Mr. Williams presented a certificate of outstanding service in honor of Attorney Morgan and requested that the City join the NAACP in uplifting his legacy as part of Destin's history and community spirit.

Alan Osborne commented on the importance of good people standing up against injustice and expressed appreciation for the prior recognition of Charles "Chuck" Morgan Jr. and the Morgan family's role in the community. He stated that Harbor Docks has long been part of Destin's identity and praised the Chatham Morgan family for treating people based on work ethic rather than background or status. He then raised concerns about traffic and parking conditions over the weekend, stating that City parking was overwhelmed, private properties were being used for parking, and Gulf Shore Drive was not functioning safely. He expressed concern that emergency access could have been severely limited and stated that the conditions were unsafe. Mr. Osborne also referenced concerns about fairness in government.

Harold Staples, representing the Destin Fisherman's Cooperative stated that he has lived in Destin for more than 50 years and that the Cooperative has been in business for approximately 40 years selling diesel fuel. He expressed concern about outside fuel trucks coming into the area and taking business away from local marinas. He stated that HarborWalk Marina, Destin Marina, Blue Water Bay, and the Destin Fisherman's Cooperative are in agreement that the City should consider ways to help address the issue and protect local businesses.

Wesley Poole stated that he had provided handouts to the Council and briefly commented on potential uses for BP funds, including ideas such as an AI facility or an opera house/concert hall. He stated that he would be willing to contribute an 18-rank mechanical action pipe organ if the City pursued an opera house.

Rob Valiton, a resident of Norriego Road and officer of the Holiday Isle Improvement Association, stated that he attended the meeting primarily to hear the update on the state-acquired land so he could report back to the association's members. He expressed appreciation for recent parking-related efforts at Norriego Point, the City park, and along Gulf Shore Drive. He stated that, while the improvements were not perfect, the association had received positive feedback regarding the U-turn, signage, and related measures.

Steve Mansion, a former City Council member and retired federal investigator, addressed the Council regarding Item 4D (regarding Prebble Ramswell) under the City Manager's Report. He commended the current Council and staff, stating that they are functioning effectively and working in the best interests of the citizens of Destin. Mr. Mansion spoke in support of the Council's actions regarding the state purchase of the 4.4-acre property at Norriego Point and stated that the issue has unified the Council and community. He then provided background concerning prior events involving former Councilmember Dr. Prebble Ramswell and private citizen Gene Earley, asserting that both raised questions related to the property and were targeted because of their involvement. He referenced public records issues, arrest-related concerns, and volunteer protection statutes, and stated his belief that Dr. Ramswell and Mr. Earley were not appropriately supported. Mr. Mansion urged the Council to remain strong, continue acting in the best interests of the City, and approved of the direction being taken under Item 4D.

Gene Earley of Fort Walton Beach stated that he has a long history of military and law enforcement service and that he has volunteered for the City of Destin and with other local government entities throughout the county. Mr. Earley said he became involved because of his concern for the community and Norriego Point, and he expressed his belief that former Councilmember Dr. Prebble Ramswell was treated unfairly and "railroaded." He stated that he prevailed in the lawsuit filed against him and asserted that the lawsuit was used to obtain records related to Dr. Ramswell. He further stated that Dr. Ramswell cared deeply about Destin, its residents, schools, and local issues, and that she deserved recognition for her service rather than criticism. Mr. Earley urged the Council to stand up for what he believes is right and to recognize Dr. Ramswell's efforts on behalf of the City.

Captain Jim Green, President of the Charter Boat Association and Chair of the Harbor and Waterways Board, spoke in support of Captain Harold Staples' concerns regarding outside fuel trucks operating in the harbor area. He stated that the fuel trucks create potential liability and safety concerns, including the use of long fuel hoses stretched across docks with significant amounts of diesel fuel in the lines. He noted that other communities, including Orange Beach and possibly Gulf Breeze, have taken action to restrict or ban similar operations. Captain Green also emphasized that local marina and fuel businesses employ local residents, provide services to both the boating community and the public, and have made substantial investments in waterfront property, infrastructure, insurance, maintenance, and permitting. He expressed concern that outside fuel trucks are undercutting local businesses without making the same community investment and requested that the Council direct staff to review what actions the City may be able to take to address the issue and protect local businesses.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Amendment One to Subaward Agreement No. 2024-R12 between Okaloosa County and City of Destin, Clement Taylor Park Renovation Project.

B. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve consent agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

A. Appointment of Interim City Council Member

Councilmember Braden made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to appoint John Stephens as Interim City Councilmember. The motion passed 5-0, with Councilmembers Braden, Trammell, Hebert, Morgan, Schmit voting "yes" and Councilmember Destin abstaining.

Mr. Stephens was immediately sworn-in and took his seat at the dais.

B. Appointment of Voting Delegate for ~~National~~ *Florida* League of Cities Annual Business Meeting

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stephens, to appoint Councilmember Hebert as the voting delegate for the 2026 Florida League of Cities Annual Business meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

C. Update on State-Acquired Land in Holiday Isle Adjacent to City's Norriego Point Park; and consideration of Resolution 2026-16 in Support of Home Rule and City Land Use Authority

City Attorney Kopp announced that the Home Rule Resolution has been moved to the July 20, 2026 Council agenda. She then gave an update on the status of the State-acquired land in Holiday Isle and Councilmembers discussed next-steps.

Councilmember Braden made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to file an ethics complaint against Mr. Palmer and to notify the state of the lack of formal or official commitment from the Board of County Commissioners. No vote was taken.

Councilmember Destin made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to defer any ethics violation complaints or other actions until such time as further negotiations can be had with the County to include the offer of parking for the Gulf front parks (including Norriego) only. The motion passed 4-3 with Councilmembers Destin, Hebert, Trammell and Morgan voting "yes" and Councilmembers Stephens, Schmidt, and Braden voting "no".

D. Request of Prebble Ramswell for Reimbursement of Legal Expenses and Reinstatement to City Council Through November 2022; Consideration of Resolution 26-18.

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stephens, to approve Dr. Ramswell's request for reimbursement of legal expenses in the amount of \$12,750. The motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve Resolution 2026-18, including the recommended changes from the City attorney, requesting the Governor reinstate Dr. Ramswell's second city councilmember term through November 2022 and direct City Clerk to transmit the Resolution to the Governor. The motion passed 7-0.

E. RFP 26-04-HR INSURANCE AGENT – BROKER OF RECORD

Councilmember Braden made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to award the bid for RFP 26-04-HR for Insurance Agent Broker of Record to First Line Employee Benefits and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract. The motion passed 4-3 with Councilmembers Hebert, Braden, Trammell, and Morgan voting "yes" and Councilmembers Destin, Stephens, and Schmidt voting "no".

F. Citywide Stormwater GIS Mapping Project, authorization to execute a Task Order

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to authorize the City Manager to execute the Task Order for the Citywide Stormwater Infrastructure GIS Mapping Project with the Donovan-Hill Group. The motion passed 7-0.

G. CRA Board Meeting-Informational Only

H. Draft Minutes of Standing Boards & Committees - Informational Only

I. Announcements

Dr. Jones reported that the Governor signed a state budget including \$3 million in appropriations for Stallman intersection improvements, Four Prong Lake, and the Crosstown Connector. He also recognized and expressed appreciation to everyone for all the hard work over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Dr. Young announced that the pickleball courts are open. She also announced two public hearings on the proposed annexation of unincorporated properties in Okaloosa County, scheduled for July 20 and August 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Annex adding that affected property owners and occupants had been notified. The annual Big Truck Day will be held July 31 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Community Center parking lot and is free to all ages. An Evaluation and Appraisal Review workshop for the Comprehensive Plan will be held August 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex. A related public survey is available on the City's website homepage.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. First Reading Ordinance No. 26-07-LC relating to the renumbering and renaming of Land Development Code Article 16 - "Signs" to a new Article 8 – "Sign Regulations". AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, RENUMBERING AND RENAMING ARTICLE 16 "SIGNS," OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO A NEW ARTICLE 8 "SIGN REGULATIONS"; MODIFYING, AMENDING AND UPDATING CITY SIGN REGULATIONS AS PROVIDED HEREIN; 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 No. 26-07-LC by title, and then turned it over to Principal Planner, Daniel Butler, to provide an explanation of the proposed changes.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments. Having none, the Mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to council for consideration.

Councilmember Morgan stated he was okay with gas stations having electronic signs and also requested that deed transfers or sales of properties that do not also include a change in use should be excluded from application of the ordinance.

Councilmember Trammell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to approve first reading of Ordinance 26-07-LC and include the recommendations made by Councilmember Morgan on second reading. No vote was taken.

Councilmember Destin made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to move this item to the August 3 meeting, and to include Councilmember Morgan's proposed changes, and to notify business owners about the proposed changes. The motion passed 6-1 with Councilmembers Destin, Stephens, Hebert, Schmidt, Trammell, and Morgan voting "yes" and Councilmember Braden voting "no".

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

- A. Councilmember Braden
- B. Councilmember Trammell
- C. Councilmember Destin

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, to add consideration of the removal of Pine Street from the mobility study list to the next Council meeting agenda, passed 6-1 with Councilmembers Destin, Stephens, Hebert, Schmidt, Braden, and Morgan voting "yes" and Councilmember Trammell voting "no".

- D. Councilmember Stephens
- E. Councilmember Hebert
 - 1) Pickleball
- F. Councilmember Morgan

Councilmember Morgan requested that an agenda item be added to the next council meeting agenda to address FEMA flood regulations and to consider the City's available options to maintain its current rating.

- G. Councilmember Schmidt

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to remove Pine Street Renaming from the table. The motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to advertise for a public hearing to reconsider renaming Pine Street at the September 7 meeting, passed 7-0. [Note: September 7 is Labor Day so the meeting will be held on the 8th.]

H. Mayor Wagner

I. City Attorney - Update on City of Destin v. Marler, Gregory et al (Code Compliance Lien Foreclosure)

The City Attorney provided an update on the City of Destin v. Gregory Marlor code compliance lien foreclosure, advising that the judge had signed the final judgment of foreclosure and the property sale was scheduled for October 27, absent further action by the Council.

Councilmember Hebert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Braden, to proceed with abatement of the property. The motion passed 7-0.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alan Osborne expressed concerns regarding alleged political influence, law enforcement inaction, and the City's handling of the State-owned property matter under discussion. He criticized delays in addressing the issue, alleged conflicts of interest among certain officials, questioned proposed parking arrangements, and urged the Council to pursue an investigation and take a stronger position on behalf of residents.

Gene Earley thanked former City Clerk Rey Bailey and City Attorney Kopp for their integrity, responsiveness, and service to the public. He then expressed concern that county and state officials were delaying or attempting to prevent the City from acquiring 50 Gulf Shore Drive, questioned the effect of a requested Attorney General opinion on municipal home rule, and urged the Council to proceed cautiously in its negotiations.

Marcie Bell described meeting with Deputy County Administrator Craig Coffey on August 27 to discuss public access on Holiday Isle, including Parcel B. She stated that Mr. Coffey said the County knew little about a proposed park property but acknowledged seeing project drawings. After later learning of related discussion at an August 19 County Commission meeting, she obtained correspondence and a Florida Forever application containing park drawings and a January 15 letter signed by Coffey which contradicted Mr. Coffey's earlier statements and said this discovery prompted continued involvement and opposition to the County's actions concerning the City of Destin.

Steve Mansion praised the Council, City Attorney, and City Manager for working together despite disagreements and encouraged them to remain unified while addressing difficult issues. He congratulated the OCSO Captain on an anticipated promotion to Major. He also defended the use of public records, emphasizing that the documents presented contain facts originating from other sources. The speaker concluded by commending the City's leadership team and encouraging its members to continue supporting one another.

8. ADJOURNMENT

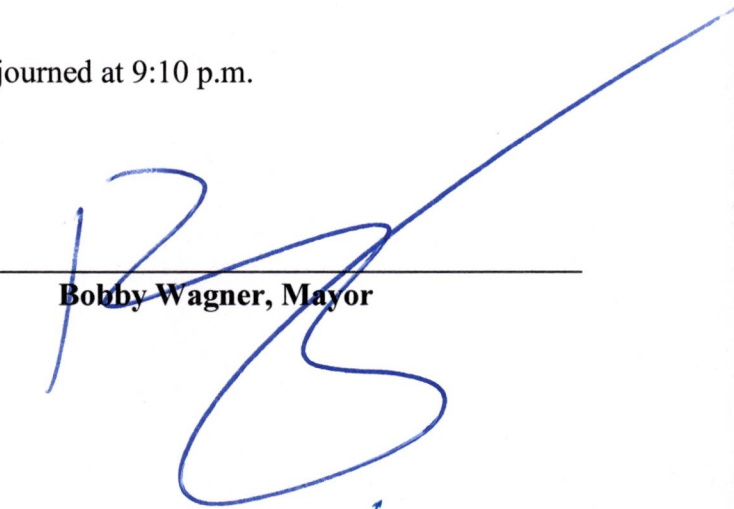
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Wallace', is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Wallace, City Clerk



A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bobby Wagner', is written over a horizontal line.

Bobby Wagner, Mayor

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME <u>DESTIN Dewey E</u>		NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE <u>DESTIN COUNCIL</u>	
MAILING ADDRESS <u>777 Spring Lake</u>		THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF:	
CITY <u>DESTIN</u>	COUNTY <u>OKMUSA</u>	☒ CITY ☐ COUNTY ☐ OTHER LOCAL AGENCY	
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED <u>7/6/26</u>		NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION: <u>DESTIN CITY COUNCIL</u>	
		MY POSITION IS: ☒ ELECTIVE ☐ APPOINTIVE	

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies equally to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing the reverse side and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which inures to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also is prohibited from knowingly voting on a measure which inures to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you otherwise may participate in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on other side)