

**REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 3, 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 Pro-Tem Terésa Hebert
Councilmember Rodney Braden
Councilmember Dewey Destin

Councilmember Chatham Morgan
Councilmember John Stephens

Destin City Staff

City Manager Larry Jones
Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Firth
Public Information Director Tamara Young
Public Works Director Michael Burgess
Principal Planner Daniel Butler
Projects and Grants Manager Jeff Cozadd
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp

City Clerk Lisa Wallace
Community Development Director Tina Deater
City Engineer Robert Tomesek
Finance Director Krystal Strickland
Andy Peters, IT Director

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Terésa Hebert 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 Hebert stated that she would like to withdraw Item 5.D, Ordinance 26-07-LC – Signs, from the agenda.

Councilmember Hebert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stephens, to remove item 5.D and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

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

There were no proclamations, recognitions, special presentations, or announcements.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ricky Lynn Grant stated that he is experiencing homelessness and requested additional public beach accesses, particularly between high-rise developments, to improve pedestrian access. He also commented on sign regulations, tax and business-related difficulties, and his interest in using the Community Center's basketball facilities.

Steve Farris suggested adding signs at existing pedestrian crossings directing bicyclists and e-cyclists to dismount and walk them across. Pastor Farris cited safety concerns involving bikes and e-bikes traveling at high speeds and a previous collision near the church, noting that signage could be a low-cost safety improvement.

Ben White expressed opposition to expanding Pine Street or converting it into a through street. He stated that the area provides a safe place for children to play and that the proposed change would negatively affect nearby families' quality of life.

There being no further comments, the public comment period was closed.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2026 City Council Budget Workshop #2

B. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2026 Special City Council Meeting

C. Approval of Minutes of July 20, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting

Councilmember Stephens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

A. Undergrounding Update - Substantial Completion

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to remove the \$100,000 hold and impose \$31,500 in liquidated damages to ADS. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Resolution 26-20, City Council Procedures

Councilmember Stephens made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-20. There being no second, the motion failed.

C. Appointment to Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC)

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stephens, to appoint Terésa Hebert to serve as the primary Board member to the ECRC. The motion passed 5-0.

D. Mobility Plan Update

Councilmember Hebert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to remove Pine Street from the Mobility Plan and to have further discussions at a later meeting or next meeting to consider any other changes or additional removals. The motion passed 5-0.

E. Budget Workshop Date - Reschedule

Councilmember Hebert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to move the 3rd budget workshop from August 10 to Monday, August 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. The motion passed 5-0.

F. Update on State-Acquired Land in Holiday Isle Adjacent to City's Norriego Point Park

City Attorney Kopp reported that the City notified the State of its dispute with Okaloosa County and formally initiated a collaborative conflict-resolution process with the County. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection declined direct participation but requested updates. The City and County are coordinating an initial public conflict-assessment meeting, tentatively scheduled for August 19. If unresolved, a subsequent joint meeting of both governing bodies will be held.

City Manager Jones reported that he met with the County Administrator for a cordial and productive preliminary discussion regarding the park. They identified four primary issues: control and management, development and amenities, jurisdiction, and the process for reaching a resolution. The City expressed its interest in leasing or managing the property and coordinating its development with the adjacent 14-acre parcel. The County Administrator agreed to seek direction from the Board of County Commissioners regarding a potential negotiated settlement. Dr. Jones emphasized that the process is intended to be cooperative and establish a clear path toward resolution.

Councilmember Braden asked whether the attorney submitting the public records request was required to identify the client represented. The City Attorney explained that requesters are not required to disclose their identity but agreed to inquire, while confirming the City would comply with public records law. Councilmember Braden also questioned the need to negotiate with the County. Staff clarified that no litigation exists; the conflict-resolution process is intended to address the State's proposed lease to the County, advance the Council's direction to preserve the property for conservation, and obtain a response to the City's prior request to lease and manage the park.

G. Draft Minutes of Standing Boards & Committees - **Informational only**

H. Announcements

Public Information Director Young announced that 12 of Destin's 13 sea turtle nests were lost during Tropical Storm Bertha. She encouraged residents, visitors, and beachfront property owners to reduce white lighting, use red, amber, or orange lights, direct exterior fixtures downward, and close curtains after dark. Free red-light flashlights are available at City Hall. She also announced that the Planters Nutmobile will visit Destin in August, with details to be posted on the City's social media pages.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Second 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.
- B. Second 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.
- C. Second 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.

The City Attorney read Ordinances 26-16-LC, 26-17-CC, 26-18-PC by title and then presented them to the city council on second reading.

Mayor Pro Tem Hebert opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinances. Hearing none, she closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for their discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Stephens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve Ordinance 26-16-LC on second and final reading. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember Stephens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve Ordinance 26-17-CC on second and final reading. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember Stephens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve Ordinance 26-18-PC on second and final reading. The motion passed 5-0.

- D. First reading of Ordinance 26-07-LC - 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.

This item was withdrawn from the agenda under agenda approval.

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

A. Councilmember Braden

Councilmember Braden asked if it would be worthwhile to send something to the state with regard to E-bikes and potential legislation. City Attorney Kopp reported that the LPA has a proposed ordinance that would need to come before council but they were asked to hold it until the LDC rewrite was complete; however, it could possibly be brought before council within the next meeting or two.

B. Councilmember Stephens

C. Councilmember Destin

D. Councilmember Trammell

E. Councilmember Hebert

F. Councilmember Morgan

G. Councilmember Schmidt

H. Mayor Wagner

I. City Attorney

City Attorney Kopp asked if Council would be amenable to extending the LDC rewrite and effective date until 2027.

Councilmember Destin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hebert, to extend the rewrite and effective date until 2027 with Councilmember Hebert as the legislative sponsor. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Kopp indicated an ordinance would be forthcoming.

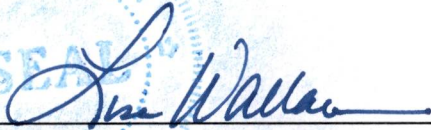
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Hebert called for any comments from the public. There being none offered, the public comments period was closed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

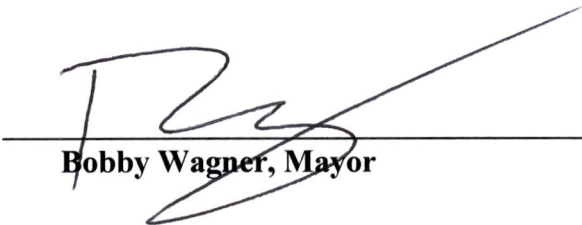
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

ATTEST:



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

Lisa Wallace, City Clerk



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

Bobby Wagner, Mayor