

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE:

Vice Chairman Green called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, July 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

John Green
Tom Weidenhamer
Marcie Bell
Andrea Ansley
Curtis Smith (in at 5:35)
Tammy Weidenhamer

Members Absent

James T. Wood, Jr.

Staff Present:

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Green asked if there was any changed needed to the agenda, with none he approved the agenda as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **May 12, 2026**

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting as written was made by Committee member Tom Weidenhamer, with Tammy Weidenhamer providing the second. The motion passed 5-0. Committee member Smith was not present for the vote.

➤ **June 9, 2026**

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026 meeting was made by Committee member Bell with Committee member Ansley providing the second. The motion passed 5-0. Committee member Smith was not present for the vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

❖ **Addition of Clipper Cove to 2026 Road Resurfacing Program**

Mr. Bodi reported that additional funding had been identified within the FY2026 resurfacing budget and Clipper Cove can be resurfaced. Staff is asking for a motion to request City Council to direct staff to add the project to the FY-2026 resurfacing project.

- Existing resurfacing projects approved several months earlier remain in progress.
- Work on the current resurfacing package is expected to begin toward the end of July.
- Clipper Cove would likely begin after the summer season, approximately late August or later.

➤ **Additional Streets Identified for Resurfacing**

- Holiday Isle streets
- Misty Way
- Airport Road (second half)
- Several Keller Gardens streets
- Additional Crystal Beach streets

Motion by Committee member Bell, seconded by Committee member Tom Weidenhamer to recommend City Council approval to add Clipper Cove to the FY-2026 Resurfacing Plan. The motion passed 6-0.

➤ **Project Updates**

Public Works Director Joe Bodi provided the members with the following project updates:

❖ **Tarpon Street Park**

- Reported that Project No. 8 (Tarpon Street Park) would be complete the following morning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for 7:30 a.m., before temperatures became too excessive.

❖ **Pickleball Courts**

- Reported that Project No. 12 (Pickleball Courts) had been completed.
- Noted construction progressed quickly once work began.

❖ **Highway 98 Landscaping**

- Staff reported an oak tree had been knocked over within the new Highway 98 median landscaping project.
- FDOT remains responsible for the project and is expected to transfer it to the city in approximately two weeks.
- Staff hopes all deficiencies are addressed before completion of the transfer.
- Committee members discussed citizen concerns regarding landscaping maintenance in the median.
- Staff stated the city continues monitoring the conditions, but major work remains that is FDOT's responsibility until project acceptance.

❖ **Palm Street Traffic Signal Project**

- Staff reported FDOT is preparing to bid construction of a traffic signal at Palm Street and U.S. Highway 98.

- Construction will significantly impact the landscaped median between the new signal and the Drury Hotel development.

➤ **Committee member Discussion & Questions**

- The members discussed access to the Drury Hotel.
- Mr. Bodi explained:
 - Hotel access will be provided from Highway 98.
 - An additional connection will utilize Foxtail Drive through the adjacent townhouse development.
 - The Drury and Wyndham parking lots will not be connected.
- Committee asked whether the existing pedestrian crossing signal near the original Chick-fil-A would remain.
- Staff indicated it is expected to remain because it is sufficiently separated from the new traffic signal.

❖ **Traffic Study Update - Gulf Shore Drive Speed Study**

- Staff presented results of a traffic study conducted June 17–24, 2026 near Gulf Breeze Court and Gulf Winds Court.

❖ **Findings:**

- More than 16,000 vehicle trips were recorded during the study period.
- Average vehicle speeds were approximately 4 mph below the posted speed limit.
- Staff concluded excessive speeding was not identified.

❖ **Committee member Discussion**

- Members noted the study period included the Juneteenth holiday weekend and unusually heavy traffic.
- One member commented that traffic conditions resembled July Fourth weekend.
- Committee praised the City's July Fourth traffic management efforts, including:
 - Traffic control before vehicles entered two-lane roadways.
 - Use of cones and directional signage.
 - Reduced congestion compared to previous years.
- Members agreed that increased pedestrian activity is likely contributed to lower travel speeds.

❖ **Additional Traffic Studies**

- A committee member asked whether a traffic study was underway on Main Street north of the stop sign.
- Staff responded another consultant is performing studies through the Planning and Community Development Department.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS:

❖ **Committee member Bell** – spoke of the previously discussed request for a sidewalk along the west side of Durango Road.

- Mr. Bodi reported that Engineering reviewed the request and identified significant challenges:
 - Numerous parked vehicles within the right-of-way.
 - Utility infrastructure and water meters.
 - Concern that placing a sidewalk immediately behind parked vehicles could create a false sense of pedestrian safety and could potentially open up liability issues if a sidewalk were to be installed along the west side of Durango.
- Members discussed how it has been observed that pedestrians already walk within the roadway because no sidewalk exists.
- Several condominium and townhouse developments generate regular pedestrian traffic.
- Alternative suggestions include:
 - A striped pedestrian lane.
 - Pavement markings, similar to bike lanes or shared roadway markings.
- Staff agreed to forward the committee's additional suggestions to Engineering for further evaluation and report back.

❖ **Annexation Discussion**

The possible annexation efforts involving bringing in the unincorporated Okaloosa County parcels into the city was briefly discussed.

- Mr. Bodi explained that currently Public Works is not directly involved in annexation planning.
- Mayor is expected to conduct neighborhood and HOA meetings regarding the proposal.
- Additional information provided included:
 - First Reading scheduled for July 20, 2026 City Council meeting.
 - Second Reading scheduled for August 3, 2026 City Council meeting.
 - If approved, the proposal would proceed to referendum during the November General Election.
 - Timing is necessary to meet election deadlines for ballot placement.
- Committee discussed the infrastructure implications should annexation occur, including roadway maintenance responsibilities.
- Staff acknowledged Public Works is evaluating the long-term maintenance impacts associated with potential annexation.

❖ **Committee member Smith** – Four Prong Lake Outfall

- The additional state appropriations have increased available funding.
- Approximately \$2 million in state funding has now been secured.
- Total project estimate is approximately \$3.5 million.

Committee member Smith expressed optimism the project may proceed pending final

engineering design and cost estimates.

7. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

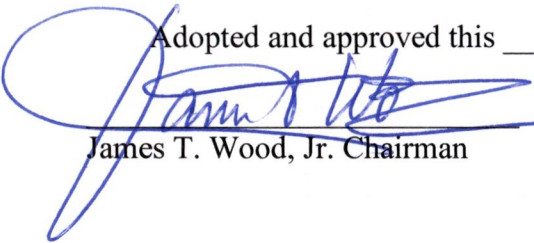
➤ **Stormwater/Floodplain Public Comments**

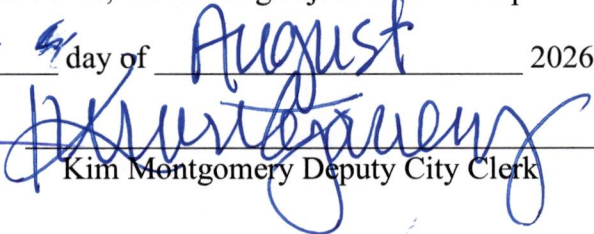
Vice Chairman Green opened the floor for public comments on this item. With no one coming forward, he closed the public discussion on the Stormwater/Floodplain Public Comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 11th day of August 2026.


James T. Wood, Jr. Chairman


Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk