

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Ramswell called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Which a moment of silence followed in memory of all that has been affected by Covid-19.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Anthony Ramswell
Kevin Schmidt
Jim Wood, Jr.
Richard Hickey

Members Absent

Mike Parker
Sam Perman
Tom Weidenhamer

Staff

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Michael Burgess PW Director
Webb Deputy City Manager
Krystal Strickland Finance Director
JT Deputy PW Director

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 10, 2020

It was agreed to not approve the minutes at this meeting since some of the members stated they did not have a chance to read them.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Proposed Use of Surtax Funding: Purchase & Sale Agreements of Three Beach Parcels

Deputy City Manager, Webb Warren provided the members with a brief presentation regarding the beach acquisition initiative showing the location of the three properties of interest that face Henderson Beach Road. In the presentation, he showed pictures of what the properties in question look like now and how they will look if the purchases are finalized and the public beach is in place. With the intention for the properties being the gateway to the beach for visitors coming in town from the Mid-Bay Bridge. He also spoke of the project will be in Phases and the initial phase is to purchase the property adjacent to the Shores at Crystal Beach Park's west side which is currently named Crystal Port Townhomes.

He explained the cost of these three parcels together is \$10.6M and how the Trust for Public Lands and the TDD will be assisting in the process and staff is asking the members, since they were appointed by Council as the Half Cent Surtax Distribution Advisory Board, to make a recommendation to City Council to appropriate \$9M from the city and \$13M from the County/TDC for the acquisition of Phase I property located to the west of the Shores of Crystal Beach Park, and then the plan to have two more phases to the east of park.

The City Attorney explained the funding breakdown of \$4.37M. He spoke of how \$2M will come from the General Fund and \$2.37M, Council is hoping will come from the ½ cent sales tax and since their responsibility as the Infrastructure Surtax Advisory Committee is to make a recommendation to City Council. Explaining further that the Trust for Public Lands have partnered with the city and the County and have identified several potential properties to obtain up to possibly 4 phases.

The Chairman asked if there will be public bathrooms and additional parking. According to the Deputy City Manager, at this time they are only in the acquisition process however all of that will be

addressed once they get to the planning stage. And that has been staff's intent to propose extra bathrooms because obviously, if the size of the beach is expanded then there's going to obviously be a lot more folks that show up and there will be a need for more bathrooms.

Motion by Committee member Schmidt, seconded by Committee member Hickey, the members voted 4-0 to recommend City Council utilize the Infrastructure Surtax for the purchase of the three parcel purchase agreements as presented. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

5. DISCUSSION:

A) Items brought forward by Committee Members for Discussion

Chairman Ramswell asked what the status is of the LSV's on Airport Road. Adding this committee made the recommendation to Council to include Airport Road in order to get access across town for the people.

Deputy Fulgham stated the Sheriff's main concern was the amount of speeding on Airport Road however, they came to the agreement to allow them in the right-hand lane only.

In discussion, there was talk of the LSV policy going before the Local Planning Agency on the 20th. As well as the speeding problems and solutions. It was mentioned to bring the speeding trailer back to the area. Deputy Fulgham pointed out that the problem with those is after they have sat in the area for days, people tend to ignore them. The members also discussed the permanent signs that display the speed of the vehicles and how one of those may very well be getting installed with the project.

Deputy Fulgham also mentioned the fact that the traffic crashes are down for this year on Airport Road. And feels that is attributed to the efforts that the City has put in the area as well as making people more aware that there is an issue, which the signs do that; as well as the amount of enforcement that has been put in place too.

Committee member Wood asked about the Edward J Burn Law Enforcement Grants, and if the city could apply for one again.

According to Deputy Fulgham, the City of Destin does no longer has that grant. However, the county does have an aggressive driving grant that they are in the midst of right now which current is on hold, because of Covid. But just last week, we got an approved, to reinstate it. Explaining further they got about \$22,300 in that grant which he handwrote himself, based on the stats from Airport Road and other areas of the County with similar problems.

- **Status of Stahlman Avenue** – Mr. Burgess explained that the traffic count has been performed with the Counties model being applied. And the Engineering Firm, Volkert will host an online forum for the public where they will be able to read the information and provide comment. Items considered are a possible pedestrian overpass and other at grade improvements.

- **Green block building adjacent to the Marler Bridge with graffiti** - According to Mr. Burgess, he just recently spoke to the Code Compliance Manager, Joey Forgione about that very issue. And staff has started an enforcement action for the owners, who are in Germany. Additionally, the city's legal counsel is in discussions and negotiations with their legal counsel to have the building removed. And in

the meantime, because it's dilapidated, Mr. Forgione is going to approach our council to see if they would give authorization to paint over all that graffiti. Adding however, this may be a long drawn-out process.

- **Committee member Perman** – Emailed in her concerns in her area. She inquired about the status of the overgrown palms in Crystal Beach.

- **Airport Road Curve** – Committee member Schmidt asked about the status of the Airport Road Curve Improvements. According to Mr. Burgess, FDOT is in control of the project and as soon as he finds out what their schedule is, he will share the information with them. Adding that the plans are at the 60% approval. Committee member Schmidt asked about the speed signage that operated by a solar panel. According to Mr. Burgess, they are included the plans. Committee member Schmidt stated if the plans change and they're not included, he would like to go back to Council to try to get them purchased and installed.

- **Airport Road Stripping** – Mr. Burgess explained that he and Mr. Wood did go out to the location and inspected it. They did find some chippings in a few areas, and he will check on the status of the workorder and report back his findings. Mr. Wood added that it's actually in relatively good shape and he can't see spending the money just to make it "pretty."

Mr. Burgess also spoke of how when they were out at the location they noticed that the crosswalk timing was off and contacted the County Traffic Engineer and sure enough, it was under timed and needed adjusting, which has been taken care of.

- **Speed Limit Signs** – Committee member Hickey Would like to see more speed limit signs in neighborhoods. He also mentioned the view corridor at Woodward/Luke is blocked with overgrown foliage and feels that the Code Compliance staff should be more proactive reporting these issues that need attention, seeing that they are out there all the time.

Mr. Burgess reminded the members that when they are out driving and see something that needs attention regardless if it is in their assigned area or not, to please call it in to staff the day they see it. He then introduced everyone to JT, the Deputy Public Services Director, who reported that he drives different quadrants every Friday morning and makes notes of items that need attention and schedules them with his crew. Adding that they try to be as diligent as possible to keep the foliage trimmed back.

Shell Gas Station Sign - Committee member Wood brought up the sign at the Shell Gas Station on the corner of Airport Road and Main Street. Mr. Burgess mentioned that it is on private property however he will speak with Mr. Forgione about the sign and will send a letter to the management of the property.

Golf Carts on Hwy 98/Safety Issue - Chairman Ramswell reported seeing a lot of golf carts on Highway 98 this summer that do not have any tags or upgraded to LSV's and spoke of how dangerous and concerning it is. And how he fears that someone may get hurt bad or worse if nothing is done.

Deputy Fulgham mentioned that he would make sure this is put on their rotation and mentioned how there are so many people that still do not know the difference between an LSV and a golf cart.

The Chairman also mentioned the issue with all the grocery carts that are starting to accumulate at the apartments across from the Annex and how he plans to speak to the City Manager about the issue.

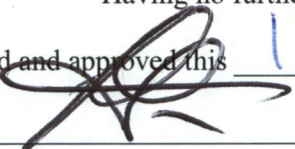
He wished Committee member Schmidt good luck with his campaign and God Bless the members and everyone suffering from the virus.

➤ **Public Comment:**

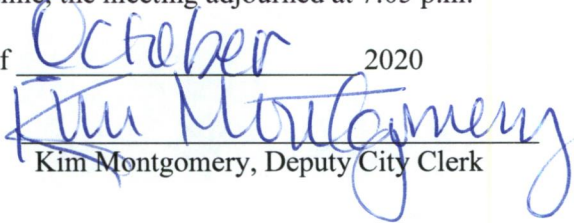
None

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 13th day of October 2020



Anthony Ramswell, Chairman



Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk