

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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, October 13, 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
Tom Weidenhamer
Sam Perman

Members Absent

Mike Parker

Staff

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Michael Burgess PW Director
JT Deputy PW Director

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 10, 2020

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting was made by Committee member Wood with Committee member Hickey providing the second. A roll call vote of 6-0 was taken and the motion passed.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Open House – Government Week**

Mr. Burgess informed the members that because of Covid, the city will not have their traditional Open House and luncheon at the Destin Community Center. However, the Public Information Manager, Catherine Card made a series of videos for the public to view and the Shred It truck has been scheduled for citizens to bring their paperwork they want shredded.

- **Post Hurricane Sally Debris Pickup**

Mr. Burgess explained that they have been getting a lot of calls from citizens inquiring when the debris will be picked up. He explained that Waste Management has been making two runs a week than the average Friday pick up. And spoke of how responsive he feels they have been with getting the storm debris picked up. Additionally, there has been a lot of bulk put out and there are areas where people are mixing storm debris with bulk, which is inhibiting pick up instead of helping. There was a brief discussion regarding wood fencing that is not getting picked up. Mr. Burgess stated that he would contact Waste Management and inform them the locations so it will get picked up.

- **Stahlman Avenue/ Hwy. 98 Intersection Study**

Mr. Burgess informed the members that Volkert has finished their study and made presentation to Council three weeks ago. He informed the members where the results are located on the City of Destin's website under Public Services page.

- **Harbor Capacity Status**

Mr. Burgess informed the members that currently the funds are still at the Federal Level, with the Army Corp. of Engineers. And once the funding is made available the study will commence. Adding that they hope it can start this coming Spring.

- **2020 Work Plans**

Mr. Burgess explained these are ongoing and they will continue to work towards them as the current situation permits. However, he does have a draft that he will send out to all. He explained the following items need to be constantly tracked:

- Sidewalks
- Beach signs
- Airport Road median landscaping to keep the view corridors open

- **Term Expirations**

Mr. Burgess explained the members who were appointed by Marler, Destin, Morgan and Menchel terms are expiring and if they want to continue, they need to go online and fill out their applications. Once the election is over they need to reach out to their Councilmember to let them know they want to continue to serve.

- **Beach Access Property Acquisition**

Mr. Burgess explained the property location the City is acquiring with the assistance from Trust for Public Land and the TDC. Adding that the City should be closing on the property in the next couple weeks. He explained the details of the demolition process and how the staging of the materials will be an issue, as there is not any room to stage the debris. Additionally, there are two other properties to the east that are in negotiation process as well.

- **Hwy 98 Landscaping**

Mr. Burgess informed the members that with the new landscaping plan for Highway 98, a lot of the bushes that are currently out there will be removed and replaced with ground cover type plants. Adding that all the large Crepe Myrtles will remain. He also informed the members that at this time, the Christmas Tree lighting and the parade are still on. He spoke of how Council member Marler asked staff to put out a bid for Christmas lighting and subsequently, they only received one bid which, was too expensive so, staff will continue to install the lighting. Adding that he is looking into up-lighting for the trees that have power. And he will of course run the colors by FDOT to make sure they are ok or have any issues.

- **Coleman Lake Spillway**

Mr. Burgess explained the city was approached about raising the level of the lake by a foot and subsequently the HOA hired someone to do that. But currently the city is draining it to look at the wall and repair some of the issues with it along with plant and algae overgrowth.

- **Streetlight Inventory**

This is very close to being complete adding that there are about 1,450 streetlights in the city and there are a handful that they are working to get the billing figured out. He also added that they are going to get quotes on the cost of converting to LED lights. As well as working with Gulf Power to make sure they put up the right type.

- **Zerbe Street/Calhoun Avenue Pedestrian Improvements**

The Bid Committee has an upcoming meeting scheduled to discuss and make a recommendation to Council.

- **Harbor Pump**

The pump will be pulled out this winter for necessary repairs.

- **Cross Street/Calhoun Avenue Drainage Project**

This project is slated to begin next month and should be finished by the end of the year.

- **Adopt-a-Street Program**

Mr. Burgess explained that the interest in this program has been slacking and staff is in the process of redesigning it. He explained further that the City Manager suggested including parks and areas of the city to get more interest, as well as intersections. The suggestion to also reinstitute the Saturday morning meetings for safety briefings and then everyone would go out to their respective areas to work on cleaning them up. The City would provide the safety equipment to the volunteers.

- **Milling & Resurfacing**

Mr. Burgess explained that Council gave staff the authorization to mill and resurface all of Melvin Street and Indian Bayou from Country Club to the three way stop. Additionally, both are on schedule for long line striping as well. Also, Holly Street, Winton Court, and Twin Lakes Lane, all the way to Cord Grass will be milled and resurfaced. And Sibert Avenue will get restriped. Benning Drive will get addressed in the upcoming year.

- **Renewal and Replacement**

Mr. Burgess explained that Council has budgeted \$1.3M for items that have been overlooked for years and need replacing in facilities as well as vehicles. He also spoke of funds that have been appropriated for much needed upgrades for the Recreation Department for city parks. As well as a couple parking lots will get milled and repaved and some drainage improvements.

5. DISCUSSION:

- **Committee member Hickey** - Asked that staff pay better attention to the line of sight issues at various intersections and report the ones that need to be trimmed up.
- **Committee member Perman** – Reported that early voting starts October 19th through October 31st from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Then of course November 3, 2020 is Election Day.
- **Committee member Schmidt** – Spoke of how there is still funds available in the ½ cent sales tax that can still be petitioned for through this committee.
- **Chairman Ramswell** – Spoke of encountering three different incidents where people were driving golf carts on Hwy 98. He said that two of them stated they were not aware and the third one asked him to go away. He feels that the proper information is not getting distributed properly to the rentals and tourists.

Mr. Burgess explained that the LSV Ordinance was sent back to the Local Planning Agency with by Council with their request to have several streets removed; Airport Road, Indian Bayou Trail, the section that connects Gulf Shore Drive to Hwy 98. Then after the LPA level it will come back to City Council for first and second reading again.

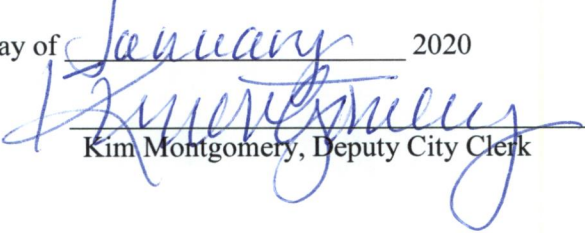
➤ **Public Comment:**

None

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 12th day of January 2020

Anthony Ramswell, Chairman



Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk