

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chairman Wood called the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. With the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

James T. Wood, Jr.
Tom Weidenhamer
Richard Hickey
Marcie Bell
John Green

Members Absent

Anthony Ramswell
Sam Perman

Staff

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Michael Burgess PW Director
JT Deputy PW Director
Joey Forgione Code Compliance Manager

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *February 9, 2021*

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting as written, was made by Committee member Weidenhamer with Committee member Hickey providing the second. A roll call vote of 5-0 was taken and the motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Spring Break Beach Update/Okaloosa County Sheriff's Dept. Lt. Jason Fulgham & Capt. Kevin Kirkpatrick**

Capt. Kirkpatrick informed the members of the additional officers they have for the beach patrol as well as an additional boat and water patrol personnel they now have. He informed the members that so far, they have had 41 underage drinking arrests. And currently they have an additional five deputies patrolling the beaches during Spring Break from Noon to Midnight through April 24th.

Code Compliance Manager Joey Forgione explained that he is still needing to hire one more person for his department to help patrol the beaches. And currently, his shift coverage is from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. for Friday through Sunday and then the regular hours of 6 a.m. to midnight during the week. Committee member Hickey asked when they have an after-hours call do, they have a Sheriff's deputy go along for backup. According to Mr. Forgione, they can if they feel they need one but, they know to not go out on a call by themselves at night.

Committee member Weidenhamer asked about the large groups from Tallahassee. According to Deputy Kirkpatrick, there were two arrangements however, they have heard that the one for this spring has been cancelled by the group. Also, they have contacted all the rentals that were involved in an incident last year and advised them of the damage that was caused and to be aware of who they are renting to.

Committee member Bell asked if there is going to be any kind of enforcement for animals on the beach. According to Deputy Kirkpatrick, it all depends on if they are on private property or not.

According to the Code Compliance Manager, the Code of Ordinance says no dogs or animals are allowed on the beaches, however if they are certified service assistance animals then they are allowed. Lt. Fulghum added that they too are bound by the laws and currently if they are told the animal is certified service assistance, then they are bound by law to that statement and cannot ask any more questions or ask for proof. He did state however, if the animal is proven to not be a genuine service animal, they will warn the person first and issue a citation if they are caught a second time.

Committee member Bell spoke of the dangerous situation beach goers encounter every year with the commercial boats that back up and drop anchor so close to people in the water off the jetties near Parcel B. According to Deputy Fulghum until there is an ordinance passed the Sheriff's office cannot do anything about it. Committee member Bell stated she understands but wanted to report it for the record.

Committee member Green reported how there are so many bicyclists that are riding their bikes on the wrong side of the street and if there is anything that can be done. According to Deputy Kirkpatrick, cooperatively they can put out some PSA's to try to encourage the general public on the safety of riding bikes on the roadways.

- **Emergency Management 6" Trash Pumps**

Mr. Burgess spoke of how staff approached Mel Ponder, State Representative about helping the city get much needed funding for two 6" Trash Pump to help assist his staff with pumping flooded roadways and certain areas in the city during and after a heavy rainstorm. And was advised that if the city purchased one, the state would pay for the second one. Also, according to Mr. Burgess, the funding for the ½ cent sales tax should be replenished this late spring and asked the committee if they would be interested in making a motion to support the purchase and either use the allotted 10% sales tax funds when it becomes available in a few months or to recommend to City Council to purchase the pumps now, which are about \$48k a piece. He provided examples of all the situations from the past year's rain and storm events throughout the city that his department used the current ones the city has and how some of those situations, they just were not large enough to handle the amount of water and trash that also gets in the water.

Motion by Committee member Weidenhamer to recommend City Council purchase a 6" trash pumps with Committee member Hickey providing the second.

In discussion Committee member Green suggested a separate motion to recommend City Council direct the planning department to come up with a storm drain systems, exfiltration systems or some kind of other mechanisms, if possible, to help with the flooding in the areas of the city. According to Mr. Burgess, the problems that he mentioned are caused by poorly designed closed drainage systems in older subdivisions that were built 20-30 years ago.

Committee member Bell suggested amending the motion to add, "When the funds become available and presenting this to Council by the April 5th Council Agenda." Committee member

Weidenhamer agreed to amend his motion to add by **the April 5th City Council Meeting. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 5-0.**

- **2021 Work Plan Draft**

Mr. Burgess explained to the members that the districts have been updated from their conversation at their last month's meeting and the lines have been adjusted on the area map for each member's assigned areas. Reminding them what they need to look for is non-working streetlights and other issues of concern. To make sure everything stays in order and is safe and/or to report what they see may need immediate attention by calling it in to the Public Works Department.

The members briefly discussed when their Work Plans should be presented to City Council.

Motion by Committee member Bell to present to the City Council the Public Works/Public Safety Committee's approved and signed 2021 work plans on April 5, 2021. With Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. A roll call vote of 5-0 was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Public Works/Emergency Management Update**

- **Operational Update - Beach Drive**

- All bicycle lanes will be installed up to Mattie Kelly Pier, around to Calhoun Ave, through Cross back to Sibert Ave.
- All the thermoplastic striping will then be laid once the curing process is finished.
- Restripe Main Street from Highway 98 to Kelly.

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

- Is ongoing and the area at Dalton Threadgill Little League Park and should be wrapping up with just a few punch lists items still to go.

- **Median Irrigation Work**

- This project is getting started to repair the irrigation systems along Highway 98.

- **Water Quality Monitoring**

- The Harbor and beach areas water quality is monitored by CBA and the beaches are monitored by the Health Department. Adding that they are going to start focusing on bacteria that can exist in saltwater environments.

- **Harbor Pump**

- Has been turned back on to run 6 hours a day at 2 a.m. and immediately found out there is another problem with it, after running it 2-hours a week all winter with no issues. Also, the door to pump housing is warping from the salty conditions. It's still running on the 2-hour schedule, and the pump is scheduled to be

inspected. Also, staff is considering purchasing another pump to have on hand as a backup. So that and some needed adjustments to the pump house can be made since \$330k has been set aside in the budget for this year.

- **City Auction**

- The City had an online auction, and everything sold that has been sitting in the yard or in storage for years, as well as a lot of other old equipment.

- **Leonard Destin Park** – The beach sand has been replaced.
- **Juanita Avenue** – Had sidewalk repairs done.
- **Beach Drive** – Access Road/Driveway to Destin Elementary School (DES) ballfields has been repaved.
- **Zerbe/Calhoun Pedestrian Improvements** – Project is underway.
- **Harbor Pump** – As discussed earlier, an inspection is scheduled to investigate what is going wrong.
- **City Hall Fire Alarm Inspection** – There is not a monitored fire alarm system at City Hall or fire pulls so, these will be installed.
- **New Generator for Public Services Building** – The old one will be removed and installed at the Sheriff's Dept. substation on Stahlman Ave.
- **Governor's Hurricane Conference** – Has been cancelled again this year.
- **Flashing yellow signals at DES** – Have been adjusted to come on at 7:40 a.m. and go off at 8:40 a.m. and then again in the afternoon they will come on at 2:40 p.m. and goes off at 3:20 p.m.
- **Legion Drive** – New thermoplastic crosswalks are scheduled to be put down in the early morning hours on 3/10/21.
- **No U-Turn Signage** – May need to be installed at Airport Road and Quail Lane.
- **Status of Airport Road Curve** – The report is in the construction office of District 3 and should be installed sometime this spring.

6. DISCUSSION:

- **Vice Chairman Wood** – Asked if the flashing yellow light at Kelly that was supposed to be replaced by the manufacturer has been received yet. According to Mr. Burgess, he will contact the manufacturer and find out the status and let them all know by an email. He also asked about the status of the Streetsweeper. According to Mr. Burgess, it is still at the repair shop in Tallahassee. But should be back soon.

- **Committee member Bell** – Reported that the parallel handicap space icons are worn on Gulfshore Drive and need to be replaced. She also suggested dollar signs painted too to alert folks that the parking spaces are not free. Mr. Burgess spoke of how there have been reports of cell tower issues and a local number has been established to assist people in paying for the pay-to-park spaces. Committee member Bell also reported a huge hole in the concrete by DWU lift station on Gulfshore Drive and Durango. And lastly, questioned why the sidewalk was replaced at Coleman Lake. According to JT, there was a cavity forming under the sidewalk that was discovered and it had to be removed, leveled with sand, and then the sidewalk had to be repoured.

- **Committee member Green** – Reported that the feeder streets to Main Street's stop signs are positioned too far from the stop bar and need to be reassessed and repositioned. He also asked how to get information on the number of accidents that involved bicycles. Lt. Fulghum provided him with the contact number for their records department. And lastly, Committee member Green asked if the ROW near Bambi could be bushhogged to clear a path to the water.

Committee member Bell mentioned that she attended the last month's Parks & Recreation Committee meeting, and this subject was discussed, and staff may need to get with them first as that was something that was discussed.

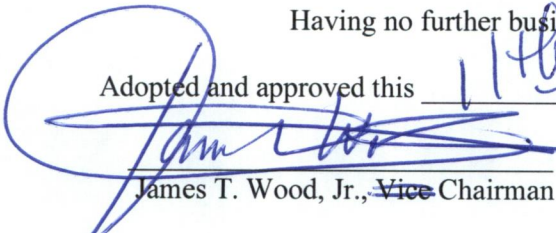
- **Committee member Hickey** – Nothing to report
- **Committee member Weidenhamer** – Nothing to report.

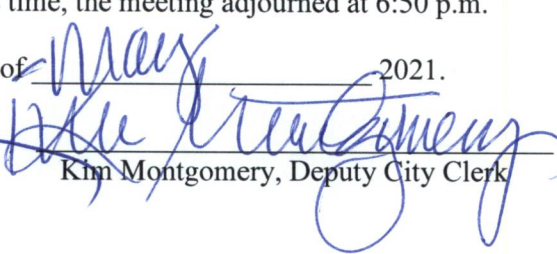
➤ **Public Comment:**

None

Having no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Adopted and approved this 11th day of May, 2021.


James T. Wood, Jr., Vice Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk