

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 5, 2021
CITY HALL 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 Gary Jarvis

Councilmember Skip Overdier

Councilmember Rodney Braden

Councilmember Johnny King

Councilmember Prebble Ramswell

Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

Councilmember Dewey Destin

Destin City Staff

City Manager Lance Johnson

Deputy City Manager Webb Warren

Deputy Public Services Director John Hart

Public Information Manager Catherine Card

Finance Director Krystal Strickland

Grants/Project Manager Jeffrey Cozadd

Principal Planner Lauren Witt

Building Official Noelle Bell

Community Dev. Director Louis Zunguze

Code Compliance Manager Joey Forgione

City Clerk Rey Bailey

Public Services Director Michael Burgess

City Engineer Donald Smith

Parks/Recreation Director Lisa Firth

Planner Daniel Butler

IT Manager Matthew Pace

HR Manager Nichole DeVito

Stormwater Manager Traci Goodhart

City Attorney Kyle Bauman

City Land Use Attorney Kimberly Kopp

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., which was then followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Councilmember Overdier, seconded by Councilmember Ramswell, to approve the agenda passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Approval of minutes of March 15, 2021 Council Executive Session

Councilmember Ramswell moved for approval of minutes of March 15, 2021 Council Executive Session; seconded by Councilmember Overdier. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

B) Approval of minutes of February 16, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting

Motion by Councilmember Destin, seconded by Councilmember Ramswell, to approve minutes of February 16, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

2. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) Funding Request from Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation

Ms. Kathy Hippiie, Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation Board member, requested City Council participation in funding coalition to support the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation and activities at the Aquatic Center in Destin. She asked for Council’s approval of a \$25,000 expenditure in 2021 to match contributions being made by the Okaloosa County School Board, Board of County Commissioners and, quite possibly, the City of Fort Walton Beach.

She expressed the Foundation’s gratitude to the City of Destin for its generous support dating back in 2017 when the Council agreed to donate \$50,000 toward their efforts to renovate and re-open the Aquatic Center in Destin. The funding paid for re-surfacing the pools and other necessities to get the facility open. The City also donated \$8,000 to pay for a new electronic scoreboard. They have been able to keep the Aquatic Center in Destin open continuously since 2017, except for a month in 2020 due to the pandemic. Their programs serve large number of people and wide range of demographics.

She stated that the Aquatic Center in Destin is a thriving facility that is providing an essential service to Destin residents and the surrounding community. They have committed to keeping their participation and usage rates low to be available to the entire community. They have revenue from their programs as well as some donations and business sponsorships. However, operating expenses are high. Lifeguards and instructors are the only paid employees. All board members and business management personnel are volunteers. Utilities are costly. Pool equipment and supplies, as well as facility repairs and maintenance, are expensive. Their facility is large, and it is aging. Machinery breaks down, equipment needs to be replaced, and maintenance is ongoing.

She also noted that they have asked the Okaloosa County Commission to consider giving the Foundation some supplemental funding to help defray operations cost and allow them to make improvements and grow their program offering. They asked the County Commission for a mid-year budget amendment for \$100,000. While the commissioners were impressed with their efforts and success in operating their pools and acknowledged that they are serving the community, they wanted them to build a coalition between them and the two cities – Destin and Fort Walton Beach – and the school district whose citizens benefit directly from the use of their aquatic centers. Therefore, they are asking the City of Destin, City of Fort Walton Beach, the Okaloosa County School District, and the Okaloosa County Commission to each commit \$25,000 this year to the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation. In return for this financial support, and in addition to the benefits that many Destin residents are already receiving from the pool, the

Aquatic Center in Destin would be offering a coupon for all the registered attendees of the Destin Day Camp for 50% off for lessons at the Aquatic Center in Destin for the whole summer.

Councilmember Ramswell noted that the Aquatic Center has come so far in such a short amount of time. The pool was struggling before the Foundation was able to take it over, and now there have been a constant flow of activity. It is well run and well managed. They have so much potential they have yet to tap into. The Destin High School is willing to work with them and come up with some ideas for partnership.

Councilmember Braden noted that the City has already given so much money in support of the Foundation. He asked when the Aquatic Center will become sustainable.

Mr. Brad Kale, an Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation Board member, stated the aquatic facility is now sustainable. Their revenue covers its fix cost, building cost, and salary cost for staff. However, they have to raise money in order to improve infrastructure and the facility, which they have done successfully.

Former Council member Parker Destin commented that almost none of the swimming facilities in the United States are owned by private organizations because they are expensive, and they do not make money. There are private pools in large exercise facilities or gymnasiums to bring people in to use those facilities. They are a necessary part of the whole package but not as a standalone amenity. He added that almost every competitive swimming pool in the country is governed by, or a partnership exists with some sort of governmental entities – municipalities or universities – because public money is a necessity to allow them to be viable and solvent. He suggests the City partnering with the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation.

Councilmember Schmidt inquired as to the number of residents that utilize the pool for recreational purposes.

According to Ms. Hippie, looking at usage over the past few years, about 50% of their program participants were Destin residents.

Councilmember Ramswell pointed out that firefighters have to use the pool for their public safety training.

Councilmember Schmidt expressed concern this is an unfunded amount that is being requested and they are almost at the end of the budget year. He stated that the school district should be providing more funding since most of the usage involve school related competitions, and that the actual usage by City residents is not quite clear.

Councilmember Destin moved to direct the City Manager to coordinate with the City's Finance Director to identify the appropriate budget account from which to take the \$25,000 they can make available to the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation and bring the information back at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Ramswell provided a second to the motion, which passes 5-1 (Council members King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Schmidt voted "no"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

B) Presentation of the Public Works & Safety Committee's 2021-2022 Work Plan

Mr. Jim Wood, Vice-Chair of the Public Works and Safety Committee presented the committee's 2021-2022 work plan.

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to accept the Public Works / Public Safety Committee 2021-2022 work plan as submitted passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS THAT ARE NOT PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ANY OTHER MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Greg Fisher provided an update on livery operations. He stated they had, quite possibly, the busiest spring break they ever had this year; but there have not been any major incidents. They are running short on employees like most business at this time. They have also recently secured funding of \$6000 for the navigational safety videos. Both residents and visitors would benefit from these videos, including people from out of state who are bringing their boats in this area. He asked the City to put signage down on boat ramps once these videos are produced.

Ms. Marcie Bell, a Destin resident, noted that one of the things that was discussed during a recent Council Visioning Session was code compliance. She stated that the Code Compliance Division is quite overwhelmed, and she urged the Council to provide them some assistance by hiring some middle management personnel that can take charge when the Code Compliance Manager is unavailable.

4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

A) Land Development Code – Update

The City Manager noted that over the past two years, the City has diligently and judiciously undertaken the task of updating and aligning the City's Comprehensive Plan, with the future Land Use Map and the Zoning Map. That task is now complete. The City now needs to update and align the City's Land Development Code with the recent changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The Scope of Work for the updates to the Land Development Code will be drafted by 3TP Ventures, LLC, in collaboration with the City's Land Use Attorney, Community Development staff, and under the direct supervision of the Community Development Director. He asked for Council's approval of the Scope of Work and the contract with 3TP Ventures, LLC to furnish professional planning services to the City.

Councilmember Destin moved to approve the proposed Land Development Code update scope of work and the contract with 3TP Ventures, LLC, to furnish professional planning services to the City in the amount not to exceed \$90,000; seconded by Councilmember Ramswell. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

B) Evaluation of the Impacts of the Cross-Town Connector at Intersection of US 98/Stahlman Ave

City Engineer Donald Smith provided the following information:

Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment

- Council Direction: To evaluate the impacts of the Cross-Town Connector on the intersection of US Hwy 98 and Stahlman Avenue
- Stahlman Intersection Existing Conditions
 - ❖ US Hwy 98
 - 4 lane highway
 - Urban Principal Arterial
 - Speed limit is 35 mph
 - Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT)
 - 44,000 vehicles per day (VPD)
 - ❖ Stahlman Avenue
 - 2-lane highway
 - Urban Major Collector
 - Speed limit is 20 mph
 - AADT is 4000 VPD

A representative of Volkert, Inc. provided the following presentation:

- Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Scope of Services
 - ❖ Existing Conditions Assessment
 - Data Collection
 - Existing Traffic Analysis
 - Safety (Crash Data) Review
 - ❖ Alternative Analysis
 - ❖ Alternatives Meeting Presentation
 - ❖ Local Concerns Meeting (Virtual)
 - ❖ Final Technical Memorandum
- Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Timing Modification Alternative
 - ❖ Modifications include – timing adjustments to accommodate pedestrians within coordination timings
 - ❖ Improvements include reduction in time signal is adjusting back into coordination
 - ❖ Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Build Alternative
 - Recommendations include:
 - Right turn in/right turn out for Zerbe Street
 - Removal of pedestrian crossing north of Zerbe Street
 - Southbound left turn, shared left – Thru, and Right turn movements at US Hwy 98 and Stahlman Avenue
 - Approximately \$350,000 -construction cost
 - Improvement Include

- Potential 50% reduction in crashes at intersection of Stahlman Avenue and Zerbe Street
- Reduction in delays
- Improvements in LOS
- Impact Include
 - Impact stormwater pond for the Community Center
 - Parking at What-A-Burger
 - Replacement of Mast-arms in NW and NE quadrants
 - Right of way west of Stahlman Avenue



- Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Build Alternative
 - ❖ Right-in/right-out at Zerbe Street could have resulted in a 50% reduction of crashes between 2015-2018
- Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Pedestrian Overpass Alternative
 - ❖ 11 vehicle/pedestrian accidents (6/16 to 7/20) in immediate US Hwy 98 corridor
 - ❖ 10 accidents were in vicinity of Stahlman Avenue intersection (2 fatalities)
 - ❖ \$1.5M - \$2 M Construction Cost (w/o ROW)
- Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Other Recommendations
 - ❖ FDOT recommendations for turn lane addition (dedicated right, through and left turn on north and south leg of intersection)
 - ❖ Intersection reconstruction with realignment (requires What-A-Burger acquisition and relocation of Harbor Walk Village Drive Development Order Modification)
 - ❖ Advanced Traffic Management System – Corridor Wide

- Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Pedestrian Underpass Alternative
 - ❖ 11 vehicle/pedestrian accidents (6/16 to 7/20) in immediate US Hwy 98 corridor
 - ❖ 10 accidents were in vicinity of Stahlman Avenue intersection (2 fatalities)
 - ❖ Depth required for construction (14' minimum)
 - ❖ Advantages
 - :Potentially address vehicle/pedestrian conflicts
 - Provide crossing without conflict to US Hwy 8 vehicular traffic
 - ❖ Disadvantages
 - \$3.2 M - \$.8 M construction cost (w/o ROW)
 - Impact to traffic during construction
 - ❖ Stahlman Avenue Pedestrian Low-Cost Pedestrian Safety Recommendations
 - Could be implemented with or without other recommendations
 - Install linear pedestrian barrier and/or low-level landscaping to medians. Deters pedestrians from crossing where drivers do not anticipate pedestrians crossing in travel lanes
 - Update existing lighting at existing signalized intersection crossings and midblock crossings to current AASHTO standards for pedestrian lighting at signalized crossing and midblock crossings
 - Stahlman Avenue Intersection Assessment Impacts of Cross-Town Connector
 - Direct link between Benning Drive and Beach Drive
 - No major impacts anticipated at the intersection of US 98 and Stahlman Avenue
 - Anticipated diverted trip amount similar to existing conditions

Following Volkert's presentation, the City Engineer provided the following additional information:

- Recent studies conducted
 - ❖ 2015 Stantec
 - Study focused on safety enhancements along 3.5 miles stretch of US Hwy 98 through Destin
 - ❖ 2016 Florida Transportation Engineering (FTE)
 - Studied the operation of the signalized intersection at US 98 at Stahlman Avenue to determine if any operational improvement are needed
 - ❖ 2018 Gresham Smith and Partners
 - Updated the study conducted by FTE in 2016
 - ❖ Atkins
 - 2019 Study analyzed the operational and safety conditions of the intersection of US Hwy 98 and Stahlman Avenue
 - PD&E document completed by Atkins for the CTC project

- ❖ 2021 Volkert
 - Identified potential improvements that can be implemented to improve vehicular flow and promote pedestrian safety
- Study Consensus
 - ❖ The crashes reported are greater than the statistical average of similar roads in District 3
 - ❖ Actual field conditions are worse than calculated by modeling software (it is difficult to model actual conditions/variables)
 - ❖ Realignment and widening of Stahlman Avenue is most mentioned improvement to include realignment and dedicated turn lanes for right, thru, and left
 - ❖ Eastbound 98 is often a LOS F in the AM Peak
 - ❖ Westbound 98 is often a LOS F in the PM Peak
 - ❖ Stahlman Avenue is a LOS F in the AM and PM
- Addressing Stahlman Concerns
 - ❖ The concern is that the CTC will generate additional traffic and worsen conditions at the US HWY 98 and Stahlman Avenue intersection
 - ❖ It is unlikely that the completion of the Cross Town Connector with a 2-lane section which will help to maintain current traffic volumes
 - The Cross-Town Connector already exists
 - Council voted to keep this corridor a 2-lane section which will help to maintain current traffic volumes
 - Without improvement to Legion Drive or Azalea Drive, an increase in traffic would not be anticipated
 - Stahlman Avenue LOS is an F
 - During peak times, the limiting factor is not Stahlman Avenue but US Hwy 98 as it is beyond capacity
 - Stahlman Avenue does not have additional capacity at peak times
- Advantages of Completing Cross-Town Connector
 - ❖ Remove traffic from Legion Drive which is a neighborhood street improving the safety and quality of life for that community
 - ❖ Will improve aesthetics and livability and can serve as a focal point for the rejuvenation / redevelopment of the area, especially considering a linear park
 - ❖ Multimodal intersection improvements will increase safety at Benning and Beach Drive intersections
 - ❖ Will improve emergency response times by removing offset intersections
 - ❖ Will improve our overall multimodal transportation system, especially for local residents of Destin
- Conclusions / Options
 - ❖ Do Nothing – not really an option
 - ❖ Short Term Goals (1-2 years) – Make improvements to US Hwy 98 at Stahlman Avenue intersection such as access control, restricting movements, or other improvements that can be made without acquiring additional ROW
 - ❖ Mid Term Goal (5 years) – Pursue potential improvements to US Hwy 98 at Stahlman Avenue intersection including:

- The acquisition of R/W to realign and widen Stahlman Avenue
- Consider an overpass/underpass to improve vehicular flow and to promote pedestrian safety
- ❖ Long Term Goal (10+ years) – The City needs to actively participate in the FDOT PD&E Study to make long-term improvements to the US Hwy 98 Corridor
- Recommendations
 - ❖ Schedule a workshop
 - ❖ Take a proactive, incremental approach
 - ❖ Short Term (1-2 years) investigate and implement measures that can be done to improve the US 98 at Stahlman Avenue intersection without purchasing r/w
 - ❖ Mid-Term (5 years) pursue capacity improvements through the acquisition of additional property
 - ❖ Long-term (10+ years) fully engage FDOT as they move forward with the PD&E Study this summer

Councilmember Destin moved to direct the City Manager to schedule a City Council workshop within the next 30 days to discuss issues relating to the cross-town connector and other factors they can include on the cross-town connector to make it a truly multi-modal section of the road and get the maximum use out of it; and to direct Atkins to delay creating the design until after the workshop. Councilmember Overdier provided a second on the motion.

Mr. Smith asked if they are delaying the creation of the design because of the Linear Park.

Councilmember Destin stated that it is one of the reasons. There are other issues they can discuss during the workshop to make sure the cross-town connector does not turn into a raceway by encourage rapid transit through that road much like US Hwy 98. He continued there are also some traffic calming steps they could consider.

Councilmember Ramswell noted that she first broached the idea of an underpass. At the time they did not think it was possible due to the depth of the water table. They then received a report stating that an underpass is feasible. There was also some discussions about making Zerbe Street one-way heading east and other options that would increase the flow of traffic and facilitate movement in the area. She asked if these issues have been part of the discussions lately.

Mr. Smith noted that most of their discussions focused on the intersection. However, the workshop is a perfect setting to bring those issues back and discussed their pros and cons.

Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

C) Resolution 21-03 - Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Agreement - Crosstown Connector EN615

Grants/Program Manager Jeff Cozadd explained that the City Council directed the redesign of the cross-town connector from a four-lane to a two-lane road section. The design will identify additional properties that will need to be acquired in order to construct the connector. The project was awarded a \$2.7 million in funds from FDOT's Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). The grant is restricted to purchases of right-of-way necessary to construction of the Beach to Benning drive portion of the cross-town connector. The award is split between two state fiscal years, with \$1 million available immediately, and the remaining \$1.7 million to become available after July 1, 2021. Right-of-way acquisition will be required in order to complete the cross-town connector. The TRIP grant funding of \$2.7 million will have a significant positive impact on this project.

Councilmember Overdier moved to adopt Resolution 21-03, authorizing the City Manager to execute the TRIP Agreement with FDOT and amending the City's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget accordingly; to direct the City Manager to deliver all necessary documents to the FDOT; and to allow Atkins' right-of-way acquisition portion of the design project to move forward. Councilmember Ramswell seconded the motion, which passes 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

D) Zerbe/Calhoun Phase 2 Project

The City Engineer presented the following information:

Zerbe Street – Calhoun Avenue Pedestrian Improvements

➤ Background:

- ❖ On April 1, 2019, City Council directed staff to pursue a bid process for an engineering firm to create conceptual drawings and concrete plans for pedestrian improvements and boardwalk extension under the Marler Bridge
- ❖ Funding for Zerbe/Calhoun Pedestrian Improvements was allocated by Council and adequate funding remains to allocate funds for design of Zerbe/Calhoun Pedestrian Improvements Phase II. The services for engineering design for the project include:
 - Pre-Design Services
 - Engineering Services
 - Public Involvement
 - Environmental/Permitting
 - Post Design Services

➤ Options and Impacts

- ❖ The following options exist to procure engineering services to develop plans for the project:
 - Option 1: City staff can do a Request for Proposals (RFP) and select a qualified candidate – Time Impacts = 5-6 months

- Option 2: City staff can utilize existing continuing engineering services contracts and select a qualified candidate – Time Impacts = 1 month to select a firm
- ❖ Options - Process
 - If Council chooses Option 1, City staff would put out an RFP and select a qualified candidate and could possibly give a Notice to Proceed by the end of August
 - If the Council chooses Option 2, the City may select Dewberry, Baskerville-Donovan, or Volkert, the current engineering service providers for the City based on their qualifications. The Notice to Proceed could possibly be given before the end of April 2021

Councilmember Destin asked if option 2 is selected, whether staff would seek proposals from all 3 continuing engineering services providers.

Mr. Smith explained that one of the firms will be selected based on the qualifications they have already submitted with their continuing services contract; and then they will bring that back for Council’s approval.

Councilmember Destin recommends the City obtain a Scope of Services and proposals from all three continuing services consultants – Dewberry, Baskerville-Donovan, and Volkert – for the project, and bring back staff’s recommended contract for Council’s consideration.

Councilmember Overdier moved to approve Option 2 for the Zerbe/Calhoun Pedestrian Improvements Phase II; seconded by Councilmember Destin. Motion passed 6-0 0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

E) Pine Street Safety Concerns

The City Engineer gave the following presentation:

- Background
 - ❖ March 15, 2021 – City council directed staff to come up with proposed solutions to reported racing/speeding on Pine Street between Calhoun Avenue and Sibert Avenue
- Existing Conditions (Pine Street)
 - ❖ 750’ long
 - ❖ 21’ wide
 - ❖ 10.5’ lanes
 - ❖ 25 mph speed limit
 - ❖ Double yellow center line stripe
 - ❖ No sidewalks
 - ❖ No roadside swales
 - ❖ Speed data:
 - 85% speed is approximately 30 mph
 - 19 cars going over 25 mph

- 11 cars going over 30 mph
 - 5 cars going over 35 mph
- Option 1 and Impacts
 - ❖ Option 1: Speed hump and 20 mph speed limit
 - ❖ Impacts:
 - Reduced speed
 - No change in behavior
 - No multimodal component – Reduces multimodal safety
 - Increases emergency response time
 - Leads to more speed humps
- Option 2 and Impacts
 - ❖ Option 2:
 - One way
 - 10' lane width
 - 8' multi-use path
 - ❖ Impacts:
 - Increase multimodal connectivity and safety
 - No impact to emergency response (actually safer)
 - Does not inconvenience those residents who try to do the right thing (almost 9 out of 10 people)
 - Creates healthier, safer neighborhoods
- Recommendation
 - ❖ Option 2 – Traffic Calming Measures
 - ❖ Develop a safety program
 - Data driven
 - Community supported
 - Council approved

Councilmember Ramswell stated that she would rather see more enforcement. They can keep spending money putting traffic calming devices in one place or another, but the more crowded they get and the more traffic that comes in due to tourism, the more over-capacity their streets will become, and people will always find the fastest route to their destination and speed through there.

Councilmember King commented that their priorities should be Destin residents, Destin businesses, and tourism, in that order. But it seems like they put too much emphasis on tourism, making their main roads aesthetically pleasing while their back roads look like drag strips.

Councilmember Schmidt stated he would support neither of the two options at this time as the residents of Pine Street will need to have a voice on the matter before they decide to do any drastic change to that road. He added this is a visioning session type of discussion about how they would impact all the roads in the City of Destin to make them safer for its citizens.

Councilmember Destin moved to ask the Sheriff's Department to pay special attention to speeding on Pine Street in the short term; and in the long term, consider some of the ideas presented by the City Engineer at a workshop later this year. Councilmember Ramswell provided a second to the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt,

King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

F) Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park and Plaza Kayak Launch

The City’s Grants/Project Manager noted that the Florida Community Trust (FCT) has given the City the option of removing the kayak launch from the project completely or installing a kayak facility that is fully compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). It is the opinion of the City Engineer, contractor, and staff that upgrading this component to be fully ADA compliant may not be in the best interest of the City because of safety concerns and available area for the extra necessary features required to make the launch ADA compliant. Okaloosa County was made aware of the options offered by FCT. The County checked with the US Treasury Department, who is funding the project construction through a Restore Act grant and indicated that either option would be acceptable to them.

Councilmember Schmidt moved to authorize the City Manager to request the removal of the kayak launch from the project and take whatever additional steps are necessary for processing the request with the FCT, Okaloosa County and the US. Treasury. Councilmember Braden provided a second to the motion.

Councilmember Ramswell requested a copy of the current management plan and any notes and documentation of conversation with the FCT regarding this issue so that Council can review that information.

Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

G) Paid Parking Pay Station Update

The City’s Information Technology Manager Matthew Pace announced that City staff has been in contact with various vendors concerning options for paid parking stations. Some information is still forthcoming from vendors. Staff wants to be able to provide a comprehensive update to Council and needs more time to collect information. They will bring forth more information as soon as it is available.

H) Council Contingency Account Status Update

The City’s Finance Director provided the following update:

Since 2003, a budget line all “contingency” has been included in the annual adopted budgets for Council. The past ten years, the adopted contingency budget has ranged from \$5,716 to \$46,954. The FY 2021 adopted budget included \$30,000 in the contingency line for Council. They have spent \$26,458 to date, leaving a balance of \$3,542 as follows:

- \$14,750 approved to pay balance owed to UWF Haas Foundation for Economic Harbor Study
- \$1,260 approved to reimburse the Destin fishing Museum for an asbestos study at the museum

- \$10,448 approved to pay balance owed to Baskerville-Donovan for change orders to Norriego Point surveys

Traditionally, the City has also adopted a contingency line for the City Manager of \$20,000. For FY 2020 and FY 2021, this account was budgeted at \$0.

The FY 2021 budget has two additional contingency accounts. One is earmarked for Economic Development in the amount of \$25,000. No expenditures have happened to date. From 2000 to 2019, the City has given nearly \$10,000/year to the "One Okaloosa Economic Development Council" from this account. The second contingency account is earmarked for Health and Human Services in the amount of \$15,000. The City has traditionally spent this amount for special items such as a donation to the Destin Fishing Rodeo Queen scholarship fund. No expenditures have occurred to date.

I) Zerbe-Calhoun Pedestrian Improvements Project, Boardwalk section

According to the City Manager, based on comments received from members of the community, staff has explored the possibility of installing an alternative pedestrian pathway (sidewalk) through Clement Taylor Park in place of an elevated boardwalk and needs Council's direction. There have been some discussions concerning the installation of a sidewalk as an alternative to the elevated boardwalk as shown on the plans provided to Council. Staff is requesting guidance from Council on whether the designated elevated boardwalk, or as an alternative, a sidewalk, be installed at Clement Taylor Park.

Councilmember Destin moved to direct the City Manager to work with the contractor to install a sidewalk section in the interior of the park instead of the elevated boardwalk sections along Calhoun Avenue; seconded by Councilmember Ramswell.

Councilmember Schmidt recommends not adding anything in that area; adding there would be some cost savings by not putting concrete sidewalk through the park.

The City Manager explained this crosswalk is designed to only go halfway through the park from the south end and halfway up to the north end where the driveway is currently located. They would cut across diagonally from that point to meet up with the sidewalk that runs along the eastern end of Calhoun Avenue which would provide the connectivity for children to get to the park.

Councilmember Schmidt noted that the connectivity for children to get to the park already exists as there is sidewalk on the entire eastern side of Calhoun Avenue.

Councilmember Schmidt offered a substitute motion to not install a sidewalk section in the interior of the park; and to install a crosswalk across the fire station location; seconded by Councilmember Braden.

Councilmember Destin asked how much money they could save by putting the concrete sidewalk rather than the boardwalk, and whether staff feels Councilmember Schmidt's proposal would provide the same degree of connectivity and not create any ADA compliance issue.

Mr. Burgess noted that in the proposal that was in the original agenda item report a few weeks back for Council's approval, the boardwalk section was for \$80,000. The sidewalk section would be considerably less than that amount. He would need to consult with the City Engineer and contractor regarding the ADA compliance issue and come back to Council with the information.

Councilmember Destin moved to table this item to the next meeting to allow staff time to obtain some answers on the ADA compliance issue; seconded by Councilmember Ramswell. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

J) Announcements:

- The Destin Water Users is working closely with City staff to coordinate the installation of new reclaim water lines that would require the closure of portions of Airport Road between April 19th and 23rd.
- Groundbreaking ceremony scheduled to be held at Shores at Crystal Beach Park on April 12th at 10:00 AM.
- Due to unavoidable delay in conversion to EnerGov system, staff requests Council delays the reopening of the Annex Facility to full 5-days a week until they get the program up and running.

Councilmember Braden moved to delay the reopening of the Annex Facility to full 5-days a week to the end of April 2012; seconded by Councilmember Destin.

Councilmember Schmidt recommends going back to normal operations immediately, since they already had a long delay, and moving staff around and assign members to provide service to the citizens on a daily basis.

Motion passed 5-1 (Council members King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Schmidt voted "no"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- The City Manager will be away on vacation from April 15th to 25th. Deputy City Manager Webb Warren will be Acting City Manager during that period.

Following this item, the next item discussed was agenda item 7I(1)

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A) Curtis Gwin of Indian Bayou West, LLC is requesting approval of a Major Development Order and Major Subdivision identified as "Indian Bayou West". The project consists of an 86-lot residential subdivision. The proposed project is located at 1 Country Club Drive East (Parcel ID: 00-2S-22-0000-0046-0000). The site consists of approximately 69.16 acres.

The City Attorney sworn in the following individuals for testimony:

- Curtis Gwin
- Ross Binkley
- Lauren Witt
- Daniel Butler
- Noel Bell
- Louis Zunguze

Mr. Curtis Gwin presented the item as outlined in the staff report.

The City Attorney asked whether any member of the Council has had any ex parte communications regarding this proposed project. The Mayor and each member of the Council responded “no.”

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed project. Having none, the Mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the City Council for their discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Ramswell moved for approval of Indian Bayou West, a Major Development Order and Major Subdivision, subject to the conditions of review and approval in the Development Order and Technical Review Committee Report. Councilmember Braden provided a second to the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- B) First reading of Ordinance 21-02-LC - Amending the official Zoning Map as referenced in the Land Development Code, Section 7.12.01(A)2 Zoning Maps to include a change in the zoning designations of the parcels from Low Density Residential - Village (LDR-V) to Residential, Office and Institutional-Village Residential (ROI-VR)

The City Attorney read proposed ordinance by title, and then presented it to the City Council on first reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AS REFERENCED IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, SECTION 7.12.01(A)2 ZONING MAPS TO INCLUDE A CHANGE IN THE ZONING DESIGNATIONS OF THE PARCELS DESCRIBED AND GENERALLY DEPICTED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL - VILLAGE (LDR-V) TO RESIDENTIAL, OFFICE AND INSTITUTIONAL-VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL (ROI-VR); PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR JURISDICTION; PROVIDING FOR ZONING MAP AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Parcel ID Numbers: 00-2S-22-3091-000J-0200 & 00-2S-22-3091-000J-0190)

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none, the Mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the City Council for their discussion and consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Destin, seconded by Councilmember Ramswell, to approve proposed Ordinance 21-02-LC on first reading passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- C) First reading of Ordinance 21-04-PC - Amending Comprehensive Plan: 2020, Chapter 1 - Future Land Use Element related to building heights to provide for consistency with the City Charter.

The City Attorney read proposed ordinance by title, and then presented it to the City Council on first reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, AMENDING ITS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: 2020; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR TITLE; PROVIDING FOR JURISDICTION; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 1 - FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT RELATED TO BUILDING HEIGHTS TO PROVIDE FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none, the Mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the City Council for their discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Destin moved for approval of proposed Ordinance 21-04-PC on first reading, and direct staff to submit it to the State Department of Economic Opportunity for review; seconded by Councilmember Ramswell, passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- D) First reading of Ordinance 21-05-PC - Amending Comprehensive Plan: 2020 Chapter 1 - Future Land Use Element, Policy 1-2.1.4 relating to roofing and roof pitch

The City Attorney read proposed ordinance by title, and then presented it to the City Council on first reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, AMENDING ITS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: 2020; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR TITLE; PROVIDING FOR JURISDICTION; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 1 - FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT, POLICY 1-2.1.4 RELATING TO ROOFING AND ROOF PITCH; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none, the Mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the City Council for their discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Destin moved for approval of proposed Ordinance 21-05-PC on first reading, and direct staff to submit it to the State Department of Economic Opportunity for review; seconded by Councilmember Ramswell. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- E) First reading of Ordinance 21-06-LC - Amending Article 7 of the Land Development Code - Land Use, Type, Density, Intensity, Zoning and Regulatory Controls; amending Table 7-2 - Table of Allowable Uses to include police protection and fire protection as a conditional use in all city zoning districts; providing for consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan

The City Attorney read proposed ordinance by title, and then presented it to the City Council on first reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 7 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE “LAND USE, TYPE, DENSITY, INTENSITY, ZONING AND REGULATORY CONTROLS”; AMENDING TABLE 7-2 “TABLE OF ALLOWABLE USES” TO INCLUDE POLICE PROTECTION AND FIRE PROTECTION AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN ALL CITY ZONING DISTRICTS”; PROVIDING FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none, the Mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the City Council for their discussion and consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Ramswell, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve proposed Ordinance 21-06-LC on first reading passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- F) First reading of Ordinance 21-07-LC - Relating to preserving the historic Zerbe-Calhoun area within the City of Destin; amending Article 7 of the Land Development Code - Land Use, Type, Density, Intensity, Zoning and Regulatory Controls to create a Zerbe-Calhoun historic district overlay.

The City Attorney read proposed ordinance by title, and then presented it to the City Council on first reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA RELATING TO PRESERVING THE HISTORIC ZERBE-CALHOUN AREA WITHIN THE CITY OF DESTIN; AMENDING ARTICLE 7 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, "LAND USE, TYPE, DENSITY, INTENSITY, ZONING AND REGULATORY CONTROLS" TO CREATE A ZERBE-CALHOUN HISTORIC DISTRICT OVERLAY; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR BOUNDARIES OF THE ZERBE-CALHOUN HISTORIC OVERLAY; ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR DESIGNATION OF STRUCTURES AND SITES SIGNIFICANT TO THE HISTORY OF THE ZERBE-CALHOUN HISTORIC OVERLAY AREA; ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION OF STRUCTURES AND SITES SIGNIFICANT TO THE HISTORY OF THE ZERBE-CALHOUN AREA; ESTABLISHING A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS; AUTHORIZING CODE WAIVERS; PROVIDING FOR APPEALS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; 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

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Having none, the Mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the City Council for their discussion and consideration.

Councilmember Ramswell moved to approve proposed Ordinance 21-07-LC on first reading; seconded by Councilmember Destin. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) FY21 Renewal & Replacement, Public Works, F250 4x4
- B) Removal and Replacement of Boardwalks behind AJ's and Galati's Project
- C) Immanuel Anglican Church and the Destin Week of Blessings Committee request to waive parking fees at Marler Parking Lot for the 2021 Blessing of the Fleet
- D) Destin Fire Control District Exercises at Shore at Crystal Beach Demo Parcel

The City Manager requested that Agenda Item 6A be pulled for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Braden, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to pull Consent Agenda 6A and approve Consent Agenda 6B thru 6D passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

The City Manager noted that the recommended motion for Consent Agenda item 6A indicates an amount of \$29,791 for the vehicle cost. The correct amount is \$32,290.

Motion by Councilmember Destin, seconded by Councilmember Ramswell, to approve Consent Agenda 6A, authorizing the City Manager to purchase the vehicle from Duval Ford in the amount of \$32,290 passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

7. COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL, LAND USE ATTORNEY AND CITY ATTORNEY

- A) Councilmember Braden
- B) Councilmember Ramswell
 - 1) Funds for Watersports Safety Videos

Mr. John Stephens, a livery operator, announced that the livery coalition is in the process of creating safety watersports safety. The fees from coalition members are being used to create these videos, but they are also requesting donations from other businesses and organizations. Each video costs approximately \$8,000 to create. They are planning on creating 3 different videos. They will be made available to everyone including posting on social media.

Councilmember Schmidt moved to direct the City Manager to work with the Finance Director to find \$8,000 to contribute towards the water sports safety videos; seconded by Councilmember Ramswell. Motion passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- 2) Norriego Point Update

Councilmember Ramswell requested an update on the Norriego Point project.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Pierce Barrett, the FDEP Project Manager, has indicated to him that construction of Norriego Point Phase 3 Recreation Improvement Project will get underway after Labor Day this year. They are crafting a bid document to put this project out to bid.

- C) Councilmember Destin
- D) Councilmember Overdier
- E) Councilmember Hebert
- F) Councilmember King

- 1) Nomination/ Appointment of Mr. Jim Bagby to the Board of Adjustment

Motion by Councilmember King, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to appoint Mr. Jim Bagby to the Board of Adjustment passed 5-1 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, and Ramswell, voted “yes”; Councilmember Braden voted “no”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

- G) Councilmember Schmidt

- 1) Project Management Protocols

According to Councilmember Schmidt, the City needs to have someone that oversees projects, large or small, to ensure job efficiency, avoid any confusion, and ensure that even the

minutest details are not being overlooked. Since the City is already understaffed, recommend Council authorizes the City Manager to start looking into hiring a construction management firm or a continuing services contract for construction manager that will have the project oversight responsibility.

Councilmember Destin will draw on his experience as the County Schoolboard liaison to a construction management team and work with the City Manager in finding a firm interested in entering into an agreement with the City.

2) City COVID-19 Response

3) Cemetery Plots

Councilmember Schmidt asked staff to compare the Destin cemeteries with other municipality and privately run cemeteries in terms of the number of residents and the number of available cemetery plots and provide information to Council.

4) Airport Road/US Hwy 98 Turn Lane Notice

A short video of the turn lane was shown. Councilmember Schmidt identified the safety issues involving the turn lane. He asked staff to continue working with FDOT in determining the appropriate solutions to the safety issues that exist in the turn lane.

5) Nomination/Appointment of Mr. Harvey Hurst to the Harbor & Waterways Board

Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember King, to appoint Mr. Harvey Hurst to the Harbor & Waterways Board passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted “yes”; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

H) Mayor Jarvis

I) Land Use Attorney

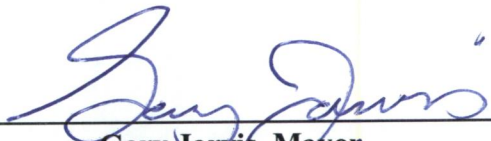
1) Harbor Capacity Study Steering Committee recommendation to widen and move the harbor channel - Request authorization from City Council

Harbor Capacity Study Steering Committee Chairman Jim Green informed the Council of the Committee’s recommendation for Council to direct staff to initiate the process of gathering the necessary information for the application process for widening and relocating the harbor channel. He stated that they are lacking in boat slips in the harbor – both commercial and transient - as much as they are lacking in parking spaces. They feel the harbor channel is too narrow due to the growth they had on the harbor, and that it has become very tedious for everybody. Widening the channel and moving it to the middle of the harbor will provide a better flow out of the harbor.

Motion by Councilmember Destin, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to authorize the City Land Use Attorney to contact the appropriate federal authorities to determine the process involved in widening and moving the harbor channel passed 6-0 (Council members Schmidt, King, Overdier, Destin, Ramswell, and Braden voted "yes"; Councilmember Hebert was absent from the meeting).

2) City Attorney

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.



Gary Jarvis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rey Bailey, City Clerk