



~ Draft Minutes ~

## City of Fort Walton Beach Special Meeting of the City Council of Fort Walton Beach

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

5:00 PM

107 Miracle Strip Parkway  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

### CALL TO ORDER

5:00 PM Meeting was called to order on November 14, 2017 at Council Chamber, 107 Miracle Strip Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dick Rynearson	Mayor	Present	
Nic Allegretto	Council Member	Present	
Mike Holmes	Council Member	Present	
Amy Jamieson	Council Member	Present	
Diane Keller	Council Member	Present	
John Mead	Council Member	Present	
David Schmidt	Council Member	Present	
Scott Smith	Council Member	Present	

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The vote on the motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Amy Jamieson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Diane Keller, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Allegretto, Holmes, Jamieson, Keller, Mead, Schmidt, Smith

### ACTION--DIRECTION—DISCUSSION--Downtown Master Plan Transportation Alternatives

Matrix Design Group, Inc. of Niceville, Florida will present the transportation alternatives along with recommendations for moving forward with implementation and future tasks of the Downtown Master Plan.

The City Manager presented the background on the plans for a Downtown Master Plan and the hiring of Matrix to do the master plan. However, during the process it became apparent that the highest priority for the Downtown Master Plan was the evaluation and development of the transportation network in the area, also taking into consideration the Brooks Bridge Replacement project and the Santa Rosa Sound Alternate Crossing study. As a result, transportation became the main focus of the contract with Matrix.

Matt Schwabb, Program Manager of Matrix, discussed the demographics of the area with the goal of keeping Fort Walton Beach a competitive player in the retail and entertainment market.

Ian Anderson, architect with Matrix, gave an assessment of the downtown area including the importance of a pedestrian-friendly area. Discussion focused on the various transportation alternatives for downtown and the pros and cons of each alternative. Transportation Alternative 2B shifts the entire alignment of U.S. Highway 98 to the north onto First Street SE and reduces the number of signalized intersections on U.S. 98. Existing U.S. 98 can then be converted into a true "Main Street" to accommodate a more pedestrian-friendly atmosphere. The amount of developable area is also increased in the Downtown District. Mr. Anderson advised this is the recommended alternative.

It was noted that what is being presented this evening is conceptual in nature and is for planning purposes only. Mr. Anderson advised there is a lot of work that needs to be considered regarding the mechanics and infrastructure, and the importance of working with the local small businesses.

Chuck Kelly, owner of a business located at the Paradise Point Shopping Center (Publix), expressed some concern regarding how the access to the shopping center will be affected, and the importance of getting the Publix organization involved as the store is an anchor.

Dave Hancock, 113 Brooks Street, received clarification on the ingress/egress of the future bridge at Highway 98 into the Paradise Point Shopping Center.

Crista Machado, President of the Downtown Merchants Association, thanked City Staff and the Council for recognizing the importance of the project and stated that the Association is looking forward to the future of downtown.

Ted Corcoran, President of the Chamber of Commerce, advised that local businesses will definitely be contacted about the plan and that the Chamber is excited about the project.

The vote on the motion to adopt the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan, specifically, the preferred Transportation Alternative 2B, as presented by Matrix Design Group, Inc. of Niceville, Florida, to authorize the City Manager to present the recommendation of the Plan to the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization in December 2017, and to authorize the City Manager to execute a Task Order with Matrix Design Group, Inc. of Niceville, Florida for Continuation of Services for the Downtown Master Plan in the amount of \$120,000, carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Holmes, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amy Jamieson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Allegretto, Holmes, Jamieson, Keller, Mead, Schmidt, Smith

## ADJOURNMENT 5:54 PM