



Prebble Q Ramswell

Positive Change By and For the People. Florida's Future Begins With Us!



THE RAMSWELL REVIEW

A monthly newsletter from Destin City Councilmember Prebble Q Ramswell

Summer 2017

Ch-ch-ch-changes... Turning Visions Into Reality

Top stories in this newsletter



Challenges	Solutions
Making sure emergency services can get to people. Ropes, opening, corridor consistently across the area to allow easy travel for response. These also fluctuate and slow response. Reduce obstacles that divert services and reduce areas where people can go. Established corridor key. TOD important. Vision obscured with lifesaving stations.	a. a safety corridor b. a maintenance corridor c. well-marked and established that corridor exists (avoids accidents) d. specify the purpose and uses in that area (County ordinances have this and Walton County) e. TOD and water's edge f. event / accident

**RUMOR
MILL**

*Special
Announcement*

▶ **Destin High School**

▶ **Comp Plan/LDC Changes**

▶ **Destin News**

▶ **Ramswell 2018**

▶ **Destin High School**



**THE DESTIN HIGH SCHOOL
PROJECT**



Here are a few key facts to consider:

- Destin high school students must travel across two bridges to attend school, bridges which close in inclement weather preventing the students from either getting home or back to school; the Mid-Bay Bridge also requires a \$4 toll- \$8 a day just to get to and from school.
- Sharp, steady increases in enrollment at Destin schools from 1st to 8th grade
- A 34% increase in 3rd grade alone between 2012-13 and 2016-17
- Destin Elementary School (DES) has the highest population of any elementary school in the county and school-wide assemblies are nearly impossible because no one location can house all students at the same time. Students attend class in portables, some of which have been in place longer than 20 years
- DES and Destin Middle School (DMS) both exceed state-determined capacity and cannot accept waivers. In fact, eleven schools in Okaloosa County are above capacity; both high schools that Destin feeds into are overcrowded and deteriorating
- At Niceville High School (which is also over capacity), in order to ensure all students have a lunch period, administrators are forced to cut into instructional time to create additional lunch shifts. At DMS, 8th graders do not have lunch until almost 1:30pm in order to accommodate the number of students.
- There are regular floods inside Niceville High due to deterioration of the HVAC and plumbing systems.

The time is now to address these needs. Building a Destin High school doesn't just help Destin students, it helps the entire county's students obtain an education in an environment that is not only safe, but conducive to learning.

▶ **Comp Plan/LDC Changes**

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Feedback from the June 5th Workshop

The City has held several workshops during the past few months to hear the public's concerns and the issues they feel need attention. The workshops covered many topics but the focus was on comprehensive plan/land development code (LDC) changes and beach issues. Here are few of the items discussed:

- **Comp Plan/LDC:** short-term rental and commercial use of a residence; height restrictions— removing tier references and limiting heights to levels more similar to former Tier One; lack of council overview; occupancy standards; wedding houses; infrastructure; possible architectural standards; working with county to ensure consistent ordinances in unannexed areas (i.e. signage, heights)
- **Code Enforcement:** dire need of actual enforcement (legal teeth) and more personnel; parking and noise issues; harbor issues
- **Beach Issues:** 20' rule validity; options of claiming all beach as public from toe of dune; public trust doctrine; ordinances on umbrellas/sizes; need for cooperation; beach cleaning; need for TDC funds to support needs such as public safety

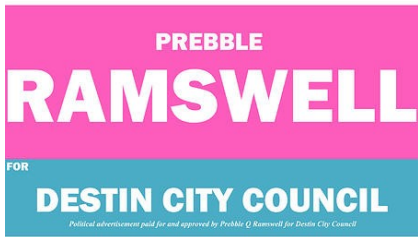
This is only a brief summary of items discussed and is not comprehensive. These issues are being addressed by city staff and the council and will be appearing on future agendas for discussion and possible action.

▶ **Destin News**

**RUMOR
MILL**

- * *The Destin Airport Compatibility Committee has been dissolved.* Actually the BCC voted to dissolve the committee and sought Destin's sign-off. We have reinitiated these discussions because we feel it is critical for us to have a say. What occurs at the airport affects our residents and we should remain involved.
- * *Port of Destin? Official Waterway?* These are some options that the city is looking into so that we may better manage activity and issues in the water. Such a designation would allow us to oversee, enact, and enforce.
- * *Isn't that what the recently passed bill does?* No. HB 7043 gives the county jurisdiction over commercial vessels operating in its waterways, among other things.
- * *The city is allowing commercial activity on private property.* The city does not allow such activities unless there is a noted exception. In fact, council on 7/17 approved, on 1st reading, an ordinance specifically related to commercial activity in city parks.

▶ **Ramswell 2018**



*Special
Announcement*

It is difficult to believe it has been nearly four years since you all placed your faith in me and elected me to city council. Many of you have been reaching out and asking me to run for council again. I am honored that you continue to believe in me and the work I do for Destin. Therefore, I will officially announce on Aug. 1st that I will be seeking reelection for a seat on the 2018-2022 Destin City Council. I will faithfully serve this community and promise to tackle the issues head-on and with the research you have come to expect.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you once again. Campaign fundraising will begin August 1st with marketing and outreach efforts soon to follow. As always, feel free to contact me at prebble@prebbleramswell.com with comments, donations for the campaign, or any issue you would like to discuss.

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Thank you for subscribing to my monthly newsletter, *the Ramswell Review*. It is my goal to improve communication between the city and its citizens, and act as a conduit of information on issues that affect our community and future.

I value your input and insight and am always available to you. I recognize that we each offer a unique and valuable perspective on the issues and believe everyone in this community's opinion carries weight. I believe in positive change— by and for the people. Florida's future begins with us.

I look forward to a two-way relationship with the community knowing that we all have the same goal of a beautiful, successful city centered on family values.

Prebble



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I always welcome your feedback and input. However, please be sure to direct any correspondence related to city business to my city email address pramswell@cityofdestin.com. All such correspondence shall be considered a public record pursuant to Florida's open records laws.

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Destin City Council or the views or opinions of any other Councilmember. This newsletter is not an official record nor a transcript of the matters presented to, or the decisions made by, the City Council and should not be interpreted as such.

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