

**Escambia County Tourist Development Council Meeting
Escambia County Board of County Commissioners
Chambers 221 Palafox Place
Pensacola, Florida 32502
June 17, 2025
2:05 p.m. CT**

Call to Order & Welcome – Chair David Bear

Roll Call – Phillip Miller

Public Forum – Time will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker

Review and Approval - Chair David Bear

- April 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- May 20, 2025, Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

Status of Funds Available – Stephan Hall, County OMB

Action

- Approval of Proposed Annual Budget - Chair David Bear
- Approval to rollover the remaining 2024 Appropriations into 2025 for both Visit Pensacola and ACE – Stephan Hall, County OMB

Other Business

- Pensacola Beach Gateway Project

Closing Remarks – TDC Members

Adjourn

**Escambia County Tourist Development Council Meeting
Escambia County Board of County Commissioners Chambers
221 Palafox Place
Pensacola, Florida 325020
April 15, 2025**

Present: James Reeves – Present
Ashlee Hofberger – Present
Shirley Cronley– Present
David Bear – Present
Charles Bare– Present
Jennifer Brahier- Present
Brad Mullenix-Present
Jason Nicholson-Present
Danielle Cooper-Present

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: Phillip Miller

REGULAR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair David Bear called the Tourist Development Council Meeting to order at 3:00pm.

2. Did we have a quorum?

Yes, a quorum was established.

3. Was this meeting properly advertised?

The Tourist Development Council Meeting was published in the Pensacola News Journal on April 11, 2025.

4. Public Forum

The Council heard comments from James Simpkins, Pensacola Yacht Club, to request \$129,000 for the 2025 Sailing and Regatta Program. Possible topic on next TDC meeting.

5. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- Approve the minutes of the Tourist Development Council Meeting held February 18, 2025, and March 13, 2025.

Motion: Approve February 18, 2025, and March 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
Made by: James Reeves Second by: Jennifer Brahier
Disposition: Passed 7 -1

6. Status of Funds Available – Stephan Hall, County OMB

- FY 2025 Collections (including interest) through March: \$7,429,502
- FY 2024 Collections through March: \$7,587,004
- Year-over-Year Change: Decrease of \$157,502
- FY 2025 Budget: \$20.5 million
- Percentage of Budget Collected by March 2025: 36.24%
- Total Expenditures through March 2025: Approximately \$8.14 million
- Current TDC Cash Balance (as of March 2025): \$28.6 million

7. UWF Football Stadium Complex – Dave Scott and Dr. Martha Saunders, UWF Requested \$2,000,000

- Total estimated cost of stadium: \$45 million
- Funding source is \$25M internal university loan, \$10M private gift and \$5M from community partners.
- UWF requesting \$2M in TDT
- Return on investment claimed by UWF: \$26.6 million annually
- Seating capacity of stadium: 10,000

Motion: To Approve the Request for \$2,000,000
Made by: James Reeves Second by: Charles Bare
Disposition: Passed 8 - 0

8. John R. Jones Stadium Complex – Michael Rhodes, Escambia County Parks and Recreation Requested \$25,000,000

- Turf installation for 20 fields: \$20M
- Concessions/Façade upgrades: \$5M
- County looking at financial bonding options using TDT funds to support \$25M request
- Usage stats: Hosted over 110 tournaments in 2023

- Projected revenue from events: Over \$4.5 million annual economic impact
- Expected benefits: Extended field life, reduced maintenance and utilities cost, increased tourism and overnight stays

Motion: To Approve the Request for \$25,000,000
Made by: Jason Nicholson
Second by: Shirley Cronley
Disposition: Passed 7 - 1

9. Beach Renourishment – Mike Burns, Santa Rosa Island Authority, Requested \$9.200,000

- Requesting \$9.2M for 8.1 miles of Pensacola beach renourishment
- Renourishment would run Nov 1, 2025, through Memorial Day 2026.
- 1.8M cu yards of sand for Pensacola beach
- Santa Rosa Island Authority has \$26.8M of \$36M needed for beach renourishment

Motion: To (1) allocate \$2M in current funds already committed, (2) Amend the current TDC reserve policy to increase the annual reserves from \$500,000/year to \$1M/year for beach renourishment, and (3) pledge additional TDC reserve to be repaid to Escambia County at \$1M/year until \$5.2M interest free loan repaid
Made by: Jason Nicholson
Second by: Charles Bare
Disposition: Passed 8 -1

10. Pensacola Beach Gateway Project, Councilwoman Ashlee Hofberger Requested \$2,500,000

- Demolish existing toll booth plaza and replace with new improved toll by plate and welcome plaza
- In addition to the current TDC request, project funded through \$1.5M State funding, \$600,000 from TDC previously allocated, District 4 is committing \$1.1M from LOST, and \$1.3M from toll revenue

Motion: To approve \$2.5M for Pensacola Beach Gateway Project
Made by: James Reeves
Second by: Ashlee Hofberger
Disposition: Passed 9 - 0

Additional Business and Closing Remarks

- Agenda item “Letter to FL Dept of Revenue regarding Gen Chappie James Memorial” discussion dropped by Charles Bare

Next Meeting Scheduled May 20, 2025

Meeting Adjourned 6:37pm

**Escambia County Tourist Development Council Meeting
Escambia County Board of County Commissioners Chambers
221 Palafox Place
Pensacola, Florida 325020
May 20, 2025**

Present: Mitesh Patel – Present
James Reeves – Present
Ashlee Hofberger – Present
Shirley Cronley– Present
David Bear – Present
Charles Bare– Present
Jennifer Brahier- Present
Brad Mullenix-Present
Jason Nicholson-Present
Danielle Cooper-Present
Phillip Miller – Present

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: Phillip Miller

REGULAR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair David Bear called the Tourist Development Council Meeting to order at 3:04pm.

2. Did we have a quorum?

Yes, a quorum was established.

3. Was this meeting properly advertised?

The Tourist Development Council Meeting was published in the Pensacola News Journal on May 15, 2025.

4. Public Forum

There were no public comment

5. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- N/A

6. Status of Funds Available – Jeremy Paquiligan, County OMB

- FY 2025 Collections (including interest) through April: \$9,387,350
- FY 2024 Collections through April: \$9,615,769
- Year-over-Year Change: Decrease of \$228,419
- FY 2025 Budget: \$20.5 million
- Percentage of Budget Collected through April 2025: 45.79%
- Total Expenditures through April 2025: Approximately \$10.25M
- Current TDT Cash Balance (as of April 2025): \$28.49 million
- Source of TDT collections decrease:
 - Decreased interest earnings (\$217K)
 - TDT collections are down (\$11K)

7. FY2026 Proposed TDT Budget – Chairman David Bear

- Discussion regarding concern amongst council members for receiving applications/budget workshop backup information very late and without ample time to review
- County OMB staff spent considerable time coordinating with applicants to ensure application completeness, leading to delayed distribution of application package to Council

Motion: (1) To postpone the budget workshop meeting to afford Council members time to review applications, (2) To schedule a special meeting before June Council meeting and (3) To disqualify currently incomplete applications for FY2026 funds
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Made by: Jason Nicholson

Second by: Charles Bare

Disposition: Passed 9 - 0

8. Additional Business and Closing Remarks

- Stephan Hall, Escambia County OMB, updated TDT debt issuance bank loan to \$25.1M (\$25M bank loan + \$100K Cost of issuance fee).

9. Next Meeting Scheduled June 17, 2025

10. Meeting Adjourned 3:43pm