

**DeFuniak Springs City Council  
Workshop Meeting Minutes  
Council Chambers  
January 12, 2026**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Bob Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Bob Campbell; Councilmember Todd Bierbaum (Seat 1); Councilmember Josh Sconiers (Seat 2); Mayor Pro-Tempore Amy Heavilin (Seat 3); Councilmember Glen Harrison (Seat 4); Councilmember Danny Cosson (Seat 5).

Absent:

Also, present were City Manager Koby Townsend, City Attorney Clay Adkinson and City Clerk Rafael Ali.

**2. AIRPORT UPDATE**

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order.

Mr. Townsend stated that he would allow Tim Parson, with Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, to come forward to speak on legislative matters. Mr. Townsend also stated that Garver would present on the project side.

Mr. Townsend stated that the expectation is to add an item to approve the 90% design plan.

Mr. Parson stated that the 60-day legislative session has begun and that many issues will be published, noting that numerous bills are being presented. He stated that the Lieutenant Governor is running for Governor and that Governor DeSantis is term-limited. Mr. Parson noted that property tax is a major issue this session. He further stated that congressional redistricting has been announced and that Congressman Dunn passed his bills last week. He noted that there will be a couple of stops for Senate and Presidential approval and that approximately \$2.3 million will be associated with the project.

Mr. Cosson thanked Mr. Parson.

Mr. Kevin Koney, with Barge, stated that the FAA has agreed to streamline the Environmental Assessment (EA) and that the review should take approximately 30 days. He stated that he wished this had occurred earlier.

Mr. Matt Seryneck, a Garver representative, stated that the project is currently at 90% design. Mr. Seryneck provided an overview of the project and presented the project budget. He stated that the total project construction cost is \$9.2 million, noting that the original \$10.7 million

estimate was reduced. Mr. Seryneck explained that the 90% construction cost estimate is \$11 million, resulting in an approximate \$2 million funding deficit.

Mr. Seryneck explained the current project challenges. He stated that FDOT suggested using their funds to address airport issues and that the FAA recommended removing trees in the area. He explained FDOT requirements and noted that a hump on the runway is a violation. He stated that when taking a point at 0.5 feet, the hump obstructs the line of sight.

Mr. Seryneck stated that the hump must be lowered; however, lowering it risks impacting surrounding areas. He explained that shaving the hump would require closing a large portion of the runway. Instead, he proposed raising the west end of the runway, which would shift the declaration to the west end and meet FAA profile grading criteria.

Mr. Seryneck stated that two conditions were reviewed and explained that without a full-length taxiway, the criteria shifts from half-length to full-length. He noted that, based on the budget, the City must determine how to obtain an extension with the available funds. He stated that FDOT has agreed with the plan and will allow the airport to remain open during construction.

Mr. Seryneck stated that the project includes runway widening and removal of Gene Hurley. He explained that the County surveyed the area and that Andrew completed a legal survey, but it was never plotted. Mr. Seryneck stated that Garver is working with the County to obtain approval. He stated that the project ordinance includes the runway extension, which would require back-taxiing. If an additional \$2 million is obtained, the taxiway will be extended and the full project completed.

Mr. Seryneck stated that this is the project being put forward and that it is required for construction. He noted that stormwater runoff was permitted under different regulations and that some infield areas will need to be excavated deeper to accommodate runoff. He stated that earthwork and ground disturbance will be required as part of the project.

Mr. Seryneck asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Heavilin asked about the current length of the runway. Mr. Seryneck responded that the runway is currently 4,200 feet and will be extended to 5,000 feet, stating that, at a minimum, the project positions the airport for future expansion.

Mrs. Heavilin asked if the City currently has enough funding for the project. Mr. Seryneck answered no.

Mr. Bierbaum asked if runway widening would still occur. Mr. Seryneck answered yes, stating that the runway will be widened to ensure future expansion capability.

Mr. Bierbaum asked whether the project includes new lighting. Mr. Seryneck answered yes and explained what lighting improvements are included.

Mr. Bierbaum asked for a recommendation regarding the taxiway. Mr. Seryneck stated that the taxiway should be extended if funding is available.

Mr. Cosson asked whether the project sets the airport up for the future. Mr. Seryneck answered yes.

Mr. Cosson asked whether bids could be released in approximately 30 days.

Mr. Townsend stated that bidding is unrelated to completion of the EA. He further stated that if EA approval is not received, staff will address the issue at that time.

Mr. Cosson asked whether completion of that step would satisfy Barge's requirements.

Mr. Cosson asked if Garver would serve as the project manager if construction moves forward. Mr. Seryneck stated that he would serve as project manager and that a Garver employee would be onsite full-time.

Mr. Harrison asked about the project scope base bid amount. Mr. Seryneck stated it was \$8.7 million.

Mr. Townsend stated that staff hopes to identify a funding mechanism for runway lighting. Mrs. Heavilin asked what type of lighting was being discussed, and Mr. Townsend stated it was runway lighting. Mrs. Heavilin asked about taxiway lighting costs, and Mr. Townsend stated he was unsure.

Mr. Bierbaum asked about seal coating and the condition of the existing asphalt. Mr. Seryneck stated that the runway cannot currently be milled and that seal coating helps protect the runway and extend its life.

Mr. David Gordon, a Garver representative, stated that the runway appears to be in overall good condition. Mr. Bierbaum asked whether approximately 15 years of life remains. Mr. Seryneck stated the estimated remaining life is 5 to 10 years.

Mr. Cosson asked what type of aircraft the runway is engineered to service. Mr. Seryneck stated it is designed for Group II aircraft. Mr. Cosson asked whether military aircraft use the airport. Mr. Kent stated that very few do, primarily helicopters.

Mr. Townsend stated that the City is considering a taxiway overlay and that within 5 to 10 years, the runway will require re-milling.

Mr. Cosson asked whether the airport is intended to remain a primary general aviation airport. Mr. Seryneck stated that significant additional work would be required to accommodate larger aircraft.

Mayor Campbell asked how Destin Airport compares. Mr. Seryneck stated that Destin is designed as a Group III or IV airport.

Mr. Seryneck discussed project phasing with Council. Garver representatives stated that the goal is to minimize airport closures while maximizing contractor efficiency. They explained that new roads must be constructed before old roads are demolished.

Mr. Gordon stated that the tie-in portion of construction includes a 30-day runway closure. Night construction is possible but would increase costs. He stated that the final step will be FAA flight testing to ensure all equipment functions properly.

Mayor Campbell asked whether runway widening is the final step. Garver representatives answered yes, stating that new runway markings will be applied at the end of construction.

Mrs. Heavilin asked about the status of the airport renaming. Mr. Townsend stated that staff is reviewing funding and older information related to the submittal.

Mr. Harrison asked about the project timeline. Mr. Seryneck stated that the project is on schedule and anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. He stated that the design is relatively straightforward. Bid plans will be released next week, with award anticipated in March.

Mr. Bierbaum asked whether the City would receive 100% plans and as-built drawings upon project completion. Mr. Seryneck stated the City will receive those following the bidding phase.

Mr. Bierbaum asked about liquidated damages for schedule delays. Mr. Seryneck stated that liquidated damages are not included.

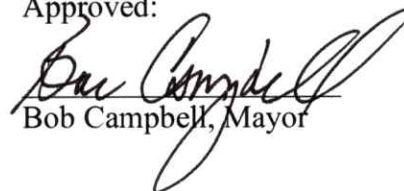
Mayor Campbell asked whether the airport project was being approached in a piecemeal fashion. Mr. Seryneck answered no.

Mr. Parson stated that staff is monitoring all grant sources and contracts.


### 3. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned 6:11 PM.

Approved:

  
Bob Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Minutes taken by Rafael Ali  
City Clerk  
*Proper notice having been duly given*

