



**Agenda
Public Workshop
of the Mary Esther City Council
December 11, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

195 Christobal Road – North, Mary Esther, FL 32569

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **INTRODUCTIONS**
5. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
 - 5.1. **City of Mary Esther Comprehensive Plan Update**
6. **GROUP DISCUSSION**
7. **CLOSING REMARKS**
8. **OTHER COMMENTS**
9. **ADJOURN**

******* PLEASE TURN OFF OR SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES *******

WATCHING AND PARTICIPATION

To watch the meetings virtually, citizens may log onto the city's website (www.cityofmaryesther.com), click the "Public Meetings" section, and select the meeting they would like to watch.

Any citizen who would like to comment on non-agenda items must submit a service request through the city's website, call customer service at (850) 243-3566, or fill out a form at city hall. A form must be completed by 12 pm one week before the day of the meeting. Filling out a form does not guarantee you will be added to the agenda. If a citizen opts to participate virtually, an email will be sent with the Zoom registration link.

NOTES:

- 1) Adjournment with continuation on the following day at 6:00 PM may be called if the meeting proceeds past 10 PM.*
- 2) The City does not keep verbatim minutes as a matter of record. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Mary Esther City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. See Florida Statute 286.0105*
- 3) Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Council meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Council. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council, and the Council is not allowed by law to endorse the religious beliefs or views of this or any other speaker.*

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item 5.1.

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Tyler Reed, Community Development Director

DATE: December 11, 2024

SUBJECT: City of Mary Esther Comprehensive Plan Update

BACKGROUND:

The City of Mary Esther, in collaboration with the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC), is undertaking an update to its Comprehensive Plan, a foundational document that guides the city's long-term growth, development, and policy decisions. Eric Christianson of ECRC will present the proposed updates, which encompass significant changes aimed at ensuring the plan remains relevant and aligned with state requirements and the community's vision.

The updates to the Comprehensive Plan include:

- **Revised Format:** Enhancements to the structure and layout of the document to improve accessibility and usability for city officials, stakeholders, and residents.
- **Goals, Objectives, and Policies:** Revisions to these core components across all elements of the plan, reflecting updated priorities and emerging trends in urban planning, sustainability, and community development.
- **Property Rights Element:** The addition of this new element ensures compliance with recent legislative mandates, affirming the city's commitment to protecting property rights and balancing them with community interests.

These updates are intended to provide a modern framework for decision-making and planning, addressing current challenges and opportunities while laying the groundwork for a resilient, vibrant future for Mary Esther. Through this effort, the city aims to reflect the evolving needs of its residents and businesses while meeting state-mandated requirements for comprehensive planning.

DISCUSSION:

For this update to truly capture the essence of Mary Esther, we need input from our residents and elected officials. Citizens bring invaluable insight into the day-to-day realities of living and working here, while the council provides strategic leadership and alignment with broader municipal goals.

Key areas where feedback is particularly important include:

1. **Revised Goals and Policies:** Are the proposed updates aligned with the community's vision? Are there areas where we need to focus more attention, such as sustainability, economic development, or infrastructure?

2. **New Property Rights Element:** Does this addition address community concerns while balancing individual property rights with broader community objectives?
3. **Prioritization of Objectives:** What elements of the plan should be prioritized to address immediate and long-term needs?

We encourage open dialogue and constructive feedback during this process to ensure the plan represents a shared vision. This is an opportunity for citizens and council members to shape Mary Esther's trajectory, fostering a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive community for generations to come.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated financial impact with the creation of the Comprehensive Plan update.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review and provide feedback on the proposed updates to the Mary Esther Comprehensive Plan and make necessary changes based on council and community input.

ATTACHMENT(S):