MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 13, 2023
AT 4:00 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Troy McDonald
Vice Mayor Becky Bruner
Commissioner Eula R. Clarke
Commissioner Christopher Collins
Commissioner Campbell Rich

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Manager, Michael J. Mortell
City Attorney, Lee J. Baggett
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor McDonald, Vice Mayor Bruner, Commissioner Clarke, Commissioner Collins, Commissioner Rich

INVOCATION

Pastor Stanley Allen from Redeemer Lutheran Church and School said the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ARTS MOMENT - LORETTA RUSSELL, SINGING "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

Loretta Russell sang America the Beautiful.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH (NOVEMBER 2023)

Removed Proclamation not presented at this meeting.

3. 23rd ANNUAL BIBLE READING MARATHON (NOVEMBER 11-15, 2023)

Ms. Donna Healton and Dr. Julie Bjornson accepted the Proclamation and gave the history of the Bible Marathon, stated that she and her husband started the Bible Reading 23 years ago; many people come from all over to read 24 hours a day until the entire Bible is read, commented that the train coming through town will be a blessing for the City. Dr. Bjornson read about the current state of the world.

***** 4:23 PM Power outage, meeting paused. *****
***** 4:27 PM Meeting reconvened.*****

4. VETERANS DAY (NOVEMBER 11, 2023)

Paul Nicoletti proudly accepted the Proclamation and commented on behalf of all the veterans that live in our area, thanked the Commission and stated that approximately 10% of the City's workforce has military experience.

5. NURSE PRACTITIONER WEEK (NOVEMBER 12-18, 2023)

Terri Pinder, Nurse Practitioner Council of the Treasure Coast's Immediate Past President received the Proclamation and stated their theme this year is "Nurse Practitioners are Heroes in Healthcare." Reported statistics on Nurse Practitioners and thanked the City for the recognition.

6. APPRENTICESHIP WEEK (NOVEMBER 13-19, 2023)

Brian Bauer, CEO and Colleen Gill, Apprenticeship Navigator of Career Source Research Coast, accepted the Proclamation, explained their program and thanked the Commission.

PRESENTATIONS

7. SERVICE AWARDS - NOVEMBER 2023

Joshua Hoffner	Residential Collection Team	20 Years	Present
Jeffrey Coleman	Commercial Collection	15 Years	Not Present
Andrea High	Turf/Grounds Team	15 Years	Present
James Lane	Utilities & Engineering	10 Years	Present
Christina Weinman	Police-Records Technician	5 Years	Not Present

8. SUPPORT OF VETERANS IN THE WORKPLACE

4:42 PM

Roz Johnson Strong, Human Resources Director, presented a brief presentation, stating there are 32 employees of the City that are military veterans, reviewed the City's commitment to hire veterans, noted the City's policy, and the HR involvement to establish and maintain relationships in the community with employee veterans when possible. Reviewed the City's partnerships and employee volunteerism. Ms. Strong introduced the employee veterans who came forward to accept a certificate and Stuart pin. A group photo was taken.

9. RECYCLING SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Anne Ellig Hawkins, Utilities and Engineering Program Manager, presented a power point on the recycling program with videos of the process from collection, transportation, separation, and bailing to be sold for a new market. Last year, the City recycled approximately 500 lbs. per household each year. Discussions among the Commission included recycling questions.

10. LOSOM UPDATE

Ben Hogarth, Community Affairs Liaison, provided a LOSOM update to the Commission, stating that Lake Okeechobee is currently just under 16 ft and a LOSOM call is coming up.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rich

- Commented that he participated in the Veterans Day Parade and is happy to see the City participate in recognizing our Veterans.

Commissioner Clarke

- Thanked Ben for volunteering at the Stuart Air Show and commented that her son is a pilot. Noted the Air Show sponsor signs posted and felt that the City's official seal should be used in place of the outlined sailfish logo.
- Inquired on Fire Station #3, building progress.
- Thanked Ms. Hilton for coming and accepting the Proclamation for the Bible Marathon.
- Commented that it was good to see the Everglades Giving Day on today's agenda.
- Requested to Pull Items #12 and #14 and asked City Manager Mortell to give the public an overview.

Vice Mayor Bruner

- Commented on the parades and that it is a great City, and an all American City.

Mayor McDonald

- Commented on the Air Show being a success as well as the Veteran's Day parade.
- Commented on being excited about the new Station #3 construction and can't wait for the ribbon cutting.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Michael Mortell

- Commented on Station #3 and it moving forward and on schedule.
- Commented about weekend events, Air Show, Veteran's Day Parade and the Chrysanthemum Ball of Cleveland Hospital, the town was quite busy and because of them, it helped with tourism and it was nice to see everyone.
- Stated that there is only one meeting in December and it is our reorganization meeting.

Mayor McDonald commented on constituents and the staff. Thanked Jodi Nentwick, Director of Development for responding to a request so quickly.

Commissioner Rich commented that the City needs a flag that represents the City.

Commissioner Collins agreed, stating it would bring community pride and differentiate the City from Martin County.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5:36 PM MOTION: Approve
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Non-Agenda Related) (3 Minutes Max.)

1. Ben Hogarth - Federal Hwy; Commented on the City's support of the Stuart Air Show.
2. Robin Cartwright - Hibiscus Avenue; Thanked the Commission for pulling Item 12; emailed the Commission today about the item and questioned the use of tax dollars. Asked a series of questions to the Commission.
3. Candace Callahan - Stuart Main Street Director; Thanked the Commission for participation in this year's Hobgoblins Event, announced upcoming events such as the Chrismas Tree Lighting on November 24th, thanked the Visiting Nurses Association for the donation of the downtown tree, Small Business Saturday on November 25th, and that Main Street is partnering with Stuart Heritage Museum for their open house on December 1st and also partnering with Stuart Police Department for the annual Holiday Night Out on December 6th. Announced that on November 16th there will be Mornings on Main Street at Harbor Chase.

CONSENT CALENDAR

11. APPROVAL OF 10/23/2023 CCM MINUTES (RC)

*****PULLED ITEM 12*****

12. AUTHORIZING TO HIRE CONSULTANT FOR PLANNING/DESIGN OF FUTURE TRAIN STATION (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 97-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO FILE A JOINT RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PUBLISHED BY BRIGHTLINE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13. ILA WITH PALM BEACH COUNTY 800MHZ RADIO SERVICE PUBLIC SAFETY TALK GROUPS (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 110-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE 800MHZ POLICE RADIO SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING TALK GROUPS WITHIN THE SYSTEM; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

***** PULLED ITEM #14*****

14. FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 115-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA RATIFYING THE 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 2024; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

5:44 PM MOTION: Approve, pulling Items 12 and 14.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Christopher Collins
Motion approved unanimously.

12. AUTHORIZING TO HIRE CONSULTANT FOR PLANNING/DESIGN OF FUTURE TRAIN STATION (RC): RESOLUTION NO. 97-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO FILE A JOINT RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PUBLISHED BY BRIGHTLINE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Mortell commented on the plans and provided a brief history update pertaining to the Resolution and provided options for completing and submitting an application. A parking garage component will be included, asked the Commission for approval for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to pursue and move forward with the application. This agenda item authorizes staff to work with Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) for the intention of applying.

Commissioner Clarke commented that she did not see any conflict.

Commissioner Rich commented that he had met with Doctor Kim Delany and she reviewed this item. By hiring the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), we are taking advantage of work that they have already done, and feels it makes sense to work with them.

Commissioner Clarke made a motion to approve.

Commissioner Collins questioned the funding source and asked if the TCRPC were planning to bill the City. City Manager Mortell responded that he is not expecting a bill, but funding may be needed in the future. Various representatives support the train in Stuart and the agenda item is not for funding, but expects the money designated by the County and the TCRPC is going to be sufficient to cover expenses.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Donna Healton - Orange Park; Commented that it would bring unity for the County and City to have an agreement.

6:01 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich
Motion approved unanimously.

14. FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (RC): RESOLUTION NO. 115-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA RATIFYING THE 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 2024; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Mortell briefly provided the background on the City Improvement Projects (CIP) listing.

6:11 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Christopher Collins
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

15. AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE EVERGLADES LAW CENTER, INC. (RC)

RESOLUTION No. 111-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE AN ATTORNEY CLIENT AGREEMENT WITH THE EVERGLADES LAW CENTER, INC. FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA BY FILING AN AMICI CURIAE BRIEF IN THE 11TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE EVERGLADES RESTORATION AND EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA A-2 RESERVOIR AND STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA PROJECT; AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION TO THE EVERGLADES LAW CENTER, LLC; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Attorney Bagget briefly updated the Commission on the Resolution, stated they are identifying the City as being a client. The Commission voted to tender a donation of $10,000 to the Everglades Law Center. Today we are memorializing this agreement and ask the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City Commission.

6:14 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

ADJOURNMENT

6:14 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Troy McDonald, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 27th day of November, 2023.