MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2025
AT 5:30 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Campbell Rich
Vice Mayor Christopher Collins
Commissioner Eula R. Clarke
Commissioner Laura Giobbi
Commissioner Sean Reed

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

ROLL CALL

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Rich, Vice Mayor Collins, Commissioner Clarke, Commissioner Giobbi

ABSENT: Commissioner Reed

INVOCATION

Pastor Jim Brocious of Stuart Alliance Church gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clarke

- Reminder that there will be a movie for the public called Passing shown at the East Stuart Community Center on March 28th at 5:30 p.m.
- Announced the coordination with Martin County's 100-Year celebration, doing an Emancipation Day event on May 28th.
- Complimented the staff at 10th Street Community Center for their assistance with the March 20th Special Commission Meeting; felt there was good participation.

Mayor Rich

- Reiterated Commissioner Clarke's comments per the Special Commission Meeting and thanked the staff.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mortell

- Reported on remote meetings outside City Hall and the logistics difficulties; working on how to make the recording public as closed captioning is an issue for ADA compliance; but requested to schedule the next 10th Street Special Meeting. The board's consensus is Wednesday, April 16th at 5 p.m.
- Commented that he and the Development Director determined the next presentation for East Stuart Zoning would be a more focused map, breaking down maps with street names, and uses available and proposed.

A Commission discussion included various topics and suggestions in presenting the zoning information.

- Announced awards the Finance Department received, and Finance Director, Louis "Joly" Boglioli, came forward and reported on them being from the Government Finance Officers Association, which includes 125 countries.
- Provided an update on 10th Street and Palm Beach Road traffic counts and the upcoming implementation of Kid Alert warning signs for the area; addressing ideas that will be brought back before the Commission.
- Commented that the sound ordinance will be coming back before the board.
- Commented once again on remote meetings and that City Hall is accessible to the public and all neighborhoods; concerned with setting a precedence in traveling to neighborhoods for meetings. Our public meetings are to be held at City Hall.

Commissioner Clarke inquired about Palm Beach Road and MLK Boulevard. City Manager Mortell responded that it had been monitored and a total of 4 students crossed the road between 4:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Giobbi announced that she felt it was important that they held the meeting in East Stuart; stated that it is about perception.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6:03 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. Kiana Kelly - Stuart; Martin Reads Coordinator of Children's Services Council, thanked Commissioners for past Proclamations and reminded them summer is coming and that is when many learners slip behind, noted that there are various programs available to the community.
2. Nelson Solano - Stuart; He and his neighborhood encourage the City to cooperate with the County for the Brightline station and would like to have access to the train, in favor of a Brightline station.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF 03/10/2025 CCM MINUTES (RC)

2. PORTION OF S.E. STYPMANN RIGHT-OF-WAY ABANDONMENT (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 15-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 36 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION TO ABANDON AND TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE ABANDONMENT OF A 15-FOOT WIDE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN THE CITY OF STUART, BEING THE PORTION OF S.E. STYPMANN BOULEVARD BETWEEN S.E. CORTEZ AND S.E. LAKE CLARE PLACE, AND MORE CLEARLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

3. MOU MUTUAL AID OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE VOLUNTARY COOPERATION COMBINED COUNTY WIDE AGREEMENT (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 23-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MOU COMBINED COUNTYWIDE COOPERATION MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

6:48 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

4. RELEASE OF UNITY OF TITLE - 505 SW FEDERAL HIGHWAY (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 41-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, RELEASING A UNITY OF TITLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 505 SW FEDERAL HIGHWAY, STUART, FLORIDA 34994, LEGAL PARCEL ID NUMBER 05-38-41-000-000-00170-1; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Mortell provided clarification on this item, reporting that this property is for the Polk Hotels that was previously before the board. Authorization to restore the property to the three separate parcels as it was before their application.

6:51 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

5. CODE AMENDMENT TO MERGE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT DUTIES TO THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY (RC):

ORDINANCE No. 2540-2025; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AMENDING PART II, CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE III (BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS), DIVISION 1 AND DIVISION 3 OF THE CITY OF STUART'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Attorney, Lee Baggett, briefly reviewed the Ordinance.

6:53 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Human Resource Director, Roz Johnson Strong, reviewed the sections and directions of the Environmental Attorney Screening Committee, identified the interview process, the binder of information provided to each Commissioner, and the 7 selected short-listed candidates. Discussion included:

- City Hall interviews of all 7 applicants by Commissioners, with the City Manager and City Attorney as placeholders, and Ryanne Cavo as an interviewer, beginning at 9 a.m.

- Commissioners have a consensus that interviews are required in person with the exception of the two out-of-state applicants, and they may interview via Zoom.
- Commissioners come together at 4 p.m.
- Lunch for Commissioners is to be provided by the City.

Commissioners' consensus was to move forward with the process presented; agreed to one day for interviews on April 22nd, beginning at 9 a.m.

City Attorney Baggett confirmed the consensus of the Commissioners to move forward with the 7 applicants proposed by the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

7:06 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Campbell Rich, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 14th day of April, 2025.