

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
JUNE 9, 2025
AT 4:00 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

4:00 PM

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

INVOCATION

Major Deanne Jones, Corps Officer from the Salvation Army, gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS

1. GARDEN WEEK - JUNE 1-7, 2025

Mary Neal, President of the Garden Club of Stuart, Inc, accepted the Proclamation, thanked the Commissioners, and spoke about the Garden Club.

2. FAITH & FAMILY MONTH - JUNE 2025

Missy Harris, resident of Stuart, accepted the Proclamation and spoke on Faith and Family.

3. HONORING MASON MEROLA WITH PRESIDENTS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Mason Merola, recipient of the Volunteer Service Award, accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Commission for the recognition.

PRESENTATIONS

4. SERVICE AWARD - JUNE 2025

Sergio Pecori Public Works 25 years Present

5. STUART HOUSING AUTHORITY

Rosetta Washington, Director of Fort Pierce and Stuart Housing Authority, introduced Heidi Laboy, Programs Manager for Stuart, and provided some statistics on public housing, Section 8 vouchers, board member assignments, and audits.

Rhonda Corrodus, Deputy Executive Director, further explained fair cloth by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Commissioners continued questions and answers with the staff from the Housing Authority.

6. STEM OPPORTUNITIES, WOLF-PACK CUBESAT DEVELOPMENT TEAM FROM STUDENTS AT SOUTH FORK HIGHSCHOOL

Kevin Simmons, Wolfpack CubeSat Development Team, presented their program and the different launches they have done. Mr. Simmons introduced students who presented new projects being worked on.

7. 10TH STREET TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

Jodi Kugler, Development Director, presented the item.

Chief of Police, Flamur Zenelovic, provided statistics and different tactics for the future.

Commissioners participated in a discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jennifer Qadir - Stuart; Commented on the traffic and ways to slow it down and provided suggestions for the Housing Authority.
2. Joe Longobardi - Stuart; Asked for stop signs on 7th and 9th Streets.
3. Tara Auith - Stuart; Commented she likes the research that was done, but the cut-through roads are the major problem (Dolphin/SE Kruger).
4. Frank McChrystal - Stuart; Stated if we are making these changes, we need to ensure that it's not alleviating traffic on one street and burdening others, and perhaps assess the houses that are on that street that would like these changes.

Commissioner Reed expressed he agrees with the four-way stops and the painted sidewalks.

Vice Mayor Collins commented that he is in favor of tree planting, enforcing traffic, and signs at intersections. In the long term, he believes that chicanes will work but is worried about the cost and the location of them, stated there needs to be more comprehensive studies done to see where they can go. Asked City Manager Mortell if he knew the estimated price for planting trees.

City Manager Mortell stated that he would put a plan together with different fees, prices, and locations to bring back to an August meeting.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Giobbi

- Thanked the public for their attendance at the meetings.
- Commented on the historical event, Celebrating Preservation, held on May 30th.
- Read statement and stated she spoke to her attorney with regard to the comments that were made about her by Mayor Rich and the not-so-friendly neighbor, can be considered slander. She wanted to state for the record that she is not a communist and not anti-business.

Commissioner Clarke

- Stated she missed the Celebrating Preservation event on the 30th but wanted to express it was a wonderful event and hopes it continues to be done every year.
- Commented on the event for former Chief Tumminelli that took place at Saint Monica's Church on June 8th.
- Complimented City Manager, Mike Mortell, and City Attorney, Lee Baggett, for their hard work.

Vice Mayor Collins

- Thanked Candace Callahan, Stuart Main Street, for the event that she orchestrated "Saving Stuart" and complimented Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch as the moderator.

Mayor Rich

- Thanked Candace for putting on the "Saving Stuart" event.
- Stated he spoke to Andres Duany and shared information from his conversation.
- Happy to announce that he met with Senator Darryl Rousan, who is also Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and shared conversation regarding funding.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mortell

- Commented on his attendance to Dave Peters Memorial and Chief Tumminelli's retirement party and how nice and well-attended the events were.
- Announced the July 4th activities are coming up and all are looking forward to it; Martin County is contributing and the City is guaranteed a spectacular event.
- Updated briefly on lease modifications for the Wells Fargo building and City Hall moving in 2028.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6:38 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. Kimberly McHardy - Stuart; Commented on the Emancipation Event that occurred in May. She stated that only two out of five (5) Commissioners were in attendance.
2. Frank McChrystal - Stuart; Continued to speak on the 10th street calming and what can be done.

CONSENT CALENDAR

8. APPROVAL OF 05/12/2025 CCM MINUTES AND 05/27/2025 CCM MINUTES

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

6:46 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Christopher Collins

SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi

Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

9. LICENSE AGREEMENT RENEWAL #3 - HOUSE OF HOPE COMMUNITY GARDEN (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 59-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE LICENSE AGREEMENT RENEWAL NO. 3 BETWEEN THE CITY OF STUART AND HOUSE OF HOPE FOR THE OPERATION OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY AT 520 SE FLORIDA STREET; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, explained the details in the license agreement.

Rob Raineiri, CEO of House of Hope, stated he is looking forward to the next three (3) years and thanked Milton Leggett and his team.

6:51 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Christopher Collins

SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke

Motion approved unanimously.

10. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR STUART MAIN STREET TO APPLY FOR A GRANT TO UPDATE DESIGN GUIDELINES (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 61-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR STUART MAIN STREET TO APPLY FOR A GRANT TO UPDATE DESIGN GUIDELINES CONSISTENT WITH THE DOWNTOWN NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION AREA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Jordan Pinkston, CRA Program Manager, presented the item and staff requested a letter of support.

Candace Callahan, Executive Director of Main Street, stated that she is applying for the grant that aligns with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) goals.

Vice Mayor Collins asked who compensates Jodi Reilly an Independent Events Services Professional, who works for Stuart Main Street? Ms. Callahan responded that she is compensated by Stuart Main Street and is very instrumental in obtaining grants.

7:02 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Christopher Collins
Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

None.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

None.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

7:02 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Campbell Rich, Mayor

**Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission
Meeting this 23rd day of June, 2025.**