MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
JUNE 23, 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

5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Rich, Vice Mayor Collins, Commissioner Giobbi, and Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Clarke (late, arrived at 5:38 PM)

INVOCATION

Pastor James Brocious, Stuart Alliance Church, gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS

1. WELLS FARGO BUILDING DISCUSSION AND UPDATE

Mike Mortell, City Manager, provided a brief update on the status of the Wells Fargo Building, reviewed the existing leases, and noted his recent communications with tenants and realtors on future timelines. He recommended the opportunity to put together a package of the plan details. The tentative planning is for City Hall to fully relocate in the Spring of 2028. The Commission participated in a brief discussion and agreed to have information brought back at a July Commission Meeting.

*Commissioner Clarke arrived at 5:38 PM.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Giobbi

- Commented on her attendance at the Juneteenth Event and the special birthday celebration of 101-year old, Ertha E. Bryant.
- Commented on her positive impression of the student club, Blue Cube/Aerospace/Wolfpack, from South Fork High School who presented at the last Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Clarke

- Expressed apology for being late.
- Commented on attendance at the Juneteenth Event and on the date being a national holiday; inquired about making it a City holiday. [City Manager Mortell suggested this be proposed at the annual meeting in which the Commission adopts the annual calendar.]
- Congratulated the oldest living person in East Stuart in honor of her 101st birthday in July, Ms. Ertha E. Bryant.
- Complimented the Community Services and East 10th Street Recreation Center staff and emphasized the department's importance in the community.
- Reported that Cleveland Clinic had a community outreach event in Port Salerno where education was provided to the public on how to use their resources to obtain different services.

Vice Mayor Collins

- Inquired about the status of the Skate Park design and requested an update at a future meeting.
- Commented on pollen collapse and consideration of bringing forward a "No Kill" Ordinance. [City Manager Mortell recommended bringing back the topic as a D&D; referenced FS 586.]

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Clay Sherer - Stuart; Commented on honey bees and infestation options, requested education on the subject to public.

6:00 PM MOTION: Motion to bring back an Ordinance to regulate the destruction of bees.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
VOTE: 4/1 motion passed.
YES: Eula Clarke, Christopher Collins, Laura Giobbi, Sean Reed
NO: Campbell Rich

Vice Mayor Collins continued:

- Commented on Brightline and having a D&D to review the parking, was concerned about traffic and would like a review at upcoming meeting.

Mayor Rich

- Commented on his attendance at the Juneteenth event and noted it is a federal holiday and would be in favor of adding it as a City holiday.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mortell

- Commented on Willoughby Extension, announced the upcoming Federal Department Of Transportation (FDOT) Public Meetings, June 25th, virtual meeting, June 26th, in-person meeting at the East 10th Street Community Services Building.
- Reported on the upcoming Fourth of July event that will incorporate the Centennial celebration of Martin County, invited Commissioners, City and County employees, along with their families, to the Flagler Center.
- Reported that Chief Zenelovic informed him of the Florida Police Chiefs Association recognition of Records Manager, Kimberly Allen-Hearn, for Civilian Employee of the Year. [Chief Zenelovic came forward and offered a statement and congratulations to Ms. Hearn.]
- Announced City of Stuart was recognized as one of the "Top Ten Prettiest Downtown Strips" from WorldAtlas.com.
- Volunteered a future presentation on the Willoughby Extension and commented on some of the details discussed.

Commissioner Reed commented that he serves on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and stated his thoughts and advice to the residents, suggested they reach out to the MPO Board Members.

Commissioners and City Manager Mortell continued a discussion on the Willoughby Extension.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6:20 PM MOTION: Approve pulling Item #3 from Consent Calendar.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

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

1. Thomas Edwards - Stuart; Provided a photo in reference to his comment on the intersection of Luckhardt St. and Federal Hwy.
2. Clay Sherer - Stuart; Commented on the tree planning program, would like to see it offered city-wide and not only within the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA); willing to volunteer.
3. Helen McBride - Stuart; Stated she was here for past discussions about Willoughby Blvd. and the plans for future development have existed for a long time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. APPROVAL OF 06/09/2025 CCM MINUTES (RC)

***** PULLED ITEM #3 *****

3. TITLE VI POLICY UPDATE (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 62-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PROGRAM PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

6:32 PM MOTION: Approve pulling Item #3 from Consent Calendar.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

***** ITEM #3 PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR *****

3. TITLE VI POLICY UPDATE (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 62-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PROGRAM PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Lee Bagget, City Attorney, reviewed the Resolution explaining the grant funds from the FDOT.

Kevin Smith provided a brief summary, stated the Local Agency Program (LAP) requires an update for the Joan Jefferson and Colorado improvements such as sidewalks and drainage. It is required to update this policy every three (3) years.

6:41 PM MOTION: Approve Resolution 62-2025 as printed and providing that there is a condition that if the City Attorney goes through the pages that he went through and says that this particular chart that has a specific ethnicity does not need to be included in this new updated City-wide Resolution that can go for everything at this three (3) year update point, and if it can't be taken out then this will go forward.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Sean Reed (withdrawn at 7:05)
MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

7:06 PM MOTION: Move to remove chart from this policy.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
VOTE: 3/2 passed.
YES: Christopher Collins, Laura Giobbi, Sean Reed
NO: Campbell Rich, Eula Clarke

COMMISSION ACTION

4. APPOINTMENT OF BDB REPRESENTATIVE (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 55-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BDB) OF MARTIN COUNTY, INC. FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Mortell provided a brief background of the Business Development Board (BDB) representative for the City.

Wyatt Knight, applicant, answered questions of the Commission.

7:09 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

5. AUTHORIZING USES FOR THE HALF-CENT SALES SURTAX / PARK INVENTORY (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 57-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO PURSUE QUALIFYING FIXED CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND OUTLAY PROJECTS UTILIZING PROCEEDS FROM THE HALF-CENT INFRASTRUCTURE SALES SURTAX APPROVED BY THE VOTERS OF MARTIN COUNTY IN THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Mortell briefly reviewed the purpose of the Resolution and introduced Jim Chrulski, Community Services Director, who presented on Stuart's parks and green space.

Vice Mayor Collins stated that this Resolution and presentation were not what he was looking for; he hoped for more of an audit to determine where there is opportunity and where improvements/investments can be made.

Commissioner Clarke commented on a past discussion of a metal pedestrian bridge to connect/cross over 14th Street to Monterey Road, and perhaps the City could work with the County on such a project and inquired about another past discussion on an underwater art/park project.

Commissioner Reed expressed concerns about the grant opportunities, the costs, and how to prioritize the residents' desires.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Tracy Griffith - Stuart; Owner of property at SW Channel Avenue and SW 6th Street, commented on the drainage in his neighborhood.
2. Frank McChrystal - Stuart; Commented on the park presentation, what is most important to our community and would like the ballfields and tennis courts, etc. to

be tied together.
3. Clay Scherer - Stuart; Consider asking City staff to put a plan together for a tree program to establish an urban canopy.
4. Helen McBride - Stuart; City right-of-way clarification.
5. Frank McChrystal - Stuart; Commented on spending money on the needs and not wants.

7:52 PM MOTION: Move the Resolution and give Mike the ability to start headhunting land to buy and prioritize green space north of the bridge to be a trail head at Haney Creek.
AMENDED MOTION: To also include expanding the existing tree-planting program city-wide, look at turning that 2-acres into a park and trail head on US 1, and also expanding the existing tree-planting program city-wide as two objectives to spend the half-cent sales tax on, but the primary would be acquiring land as per the language on the ballot.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously. (8:28 PM)

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

Commissioner Reed requested clarification from the City Attorney on addressing the public per the public comment. A brief discussion took place among the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

8:32 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk **Campbell Rich, Mayor**

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