

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
APRIL 13, 2026
AT 4:00 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

Interim City Manager, Roz Johnson Strong
City Attorney, Lee J. Baggett
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

Moment of Silence

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ARTS MOMENT - HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MARTIN COUNTY AND THE SOROPTIMIST OF STUART VIDEO PRESENTATION

Marie Kennedy and Jessica Robinson provided a brief description and the role of Soroptimist International of Stuart and presented a video on the history of the House of Refuge.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK - APRIL 12–18, 2026

Captain Michael Gerwan, Tammy Champion, and Stuart Dispatch team, accepted the Proclamation. Captain Gerwan provided background on the Telecommunications division.

3. DONATE LIFE MONTH - APRIL 2026

Tara Mohevetz, Member of LifeLink, accepted the Proclamation, shared a personal story, and provided information on the need of life-saving organ transplants.

4. SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH - APRIL 2026

Jessica Bright, CEO of The Inner Truth Project, accepted the Proclamation and provided statistics on sexual assault and spoke about their programs.

5. STAMP OUT HUNGER DAY - MAY 9, 2026

Rob Ranieri, CEO of House of Hope, accepted the Proclamation and stated the process of the "Stamp Out Hunger" drive. Thanked the community and Commission.

6. FLORIDA EMANCIPATION DAY - MAY 20, 2026

Lloyd Jones, Martin County Black Heritage Initiatives, and Mark Cowles, Coordinator of Executive Initiatives at Spectrum, accepted the Proclamation. Mr. Jones provided historical facts and announced their upcoming event at Gazebo Park on Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thanked the Commissioners for the recognition.

PRESENTATIONS

7. OB AND CLEVELAND CLINIC TRANSPORTS BY DR. SCHEPPKE, MD

Dr. Kenneth Scheppke, MD, Emergency Medicine Specialist and Fire Rescue Medical Director, provided a presentation explaining the Stuart Fire Rescue Medical Leadership: Structure & Independence.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rich

- Announced his attendance at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Gala and stated that Frederick James, Community Redevelopment Board Member, received special recognition for Outstanding Outreach and Involvement.
- Commented on his meeting with the Florida League of Cities (FLC) grant consultant, who informed the City about the "Safe Streets for All" grant opportunity and requested the Board's consensus to proceed with the application. The Board approved unanimously.

Commissioner Giobbi

- Thanked Mr. James Chruski, Community Services Director, for his updates on the legislative bills.
- Thanked Chris Vacarro for the invite to the "Kickoff of the Capital Campaign for the Hope Now Center" held on April 1.
- Asked the Commission for a consensus to provide a Proclamation to a WWII Veteran, Robert Crecco, who will be receiving one of the highest honors, the Legion of Honor, for his contribution to the Liberation of France, on April 27th, 2026.

Commissioner Clarke

- Commended Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Director, for her work.

- Expressed her concerns for safety and is happy to move forward with grants to help with the traffic.
- Announced the national historical designation of East Stuart's application is scheduled to be reviewed on May 7th.
- Commented on Emancipation Day Proclamation and the history of Spectrum School.
- Announced that May 1st is Law Day at Gazebo Park.
- Announced that Saint Monica's Episcopal Church Law day service is at 10 a.m. on May 3rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Joe Flanagan - Stuart; Stated he is the former parade coordinator and supports that Veterans Day is a celebration and Memorial Day is a solemn occasion. In favor of having a ceremony at the City of Stuart Amphitheater.

Vice Mayor Reed

- Requested an update on Doug Bomeisler, 228 SE ILA Street. [City Attorney Baggett provided background and historical context.]
- Commented on updates regarding the Stancavich and Rudge cases. [City Attorney Baggett noted that both parties have active lawsuits against the City and advised against public discussion of these matters.]
- Commented on the City of Stuart's loss of \$125,000 due to a payment processing error. Proposed obtaining a consensus to brief the commissioners before delivering a public presentation.[Consensus was agreed upon unanimously.]

Mayor Collins

- Presented Chuck Quinn's recommendations regarding Memorial Day observances. The board unanimously agreed that the City, through the Community Services Department, will assume responsibility for these activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Joe Flanagan - Stuart; Stated he is the former parade coordinator and supports that Veterans Day is a celebration and Memorial Day is a solemn occasion. In favor of having a ceremony at the City of Stuart Amphitheater.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

Interim City Manager

- Happy Birthday to Eula Clarke.
- Thanked the leadership team for putting a very successful Employee Appreciation week together.
- Announced for the 3rd year in a row, the City received the highest level "Gold" member for the Cigna Workplace Wellness Award and the Bell Seal Platinum Level for

Workplace Mental Health from Mental Health America.

- Announced the City received 2nd place in the nation as one of the "Best Coastal Small Towns".

New staff members, Kate Ambrosini, Finance Director, and Anthony Cooling, Budget and Procurement Manager, introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5:55 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Sean Reed

Motion approved unanimously.

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

1. David Kehlman - Stuart; Asked for a review of the Enterprise contract for fire vehicles, stated that the old Wendy's site is rat-infested and an eye sore, thanked Vice Mayor Reed, Commissioner Rich, and Ruth Holmes for speaking to him about Poppleton Creek.
2. William Rudge - Stuart; Commented on his case and provided background.
3. Caryn Hall Yost Rudge - Stuart; Commented about her case and asked for justice.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

8. APPROVAL OF 03/23/2026 CCM MINUTES (RC)

9. UTILITY SERVICE AGREEMENT ASSIGNMENT — 3551 S. KANNER HIGHWAY (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 25-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE CITY'S CONSENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF THAT CERTAIN UTILITY SERVICE AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 28, 2019, BY AND BETWEEN CERTUS STU OWNER, LLC, AND THE CITY OF STUART; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONSENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10. CHILDREN SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAM (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 26-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY FOR THE YOUTH

CRIME PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAM COUNSELOR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027; AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL GRANT IF APPROVED; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF STUART AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

11. FPL EASEMENT ON GUY DAVIS COMMUNITY PARK (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 27-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AND FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT FOR RELOCATION OF UTILITY POLES AT GUY DAVIS COMMUNITY PARK; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

6:06 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi

SECONDED BY: Sean Reed

Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

12. POLK STREET HOTELS, INC. (AKA FAIRFIELD INN HOTEL) AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS (REZONE) (QUASI-JUDICIAL) (RC):

ORDINANCE No. 2537-2025; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY'S OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REZONE A 0.33-ACRE PARCEL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 255 SW 6TH STREET FROM THE URBAN WATERFRONT ZONING DESIGNATION TO THE URBAN HIGHWAY ZONING DESIGNATION; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Attorney Lee Baggett explained if a specific date is publicly announced, there will be no need for re-advertising or sending mailers to local residents. However, if the date is left uncertain, the advertising and mailer costs would need to be repeated. Despite this, the request is to continue the second reading to an uncertain date, so a motion will be needed to proceed with that.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Julie Siegele - Stuart; Expressed concerns, light, noise, landscaping buffer and

requested that the dumpster be located as far away as possible.

6:07 PM MOTION: Move this applicant's request to a date uncertain.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich

Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

- 13. WAL-MART EXTERIOR REBRAND - MAJOR COMMERCIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT (QUASI-JUDICIAL) (RC):**

ORDINANCE No. 2551-2026: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, APPROVING A MAJOR AMENDMENT TO THE WAL-MART COMMERCIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (CPUD), PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE ADOPTED RESOLUTION NUMBER 28-2011 TO AUTHORIZE MODIFICATIONS TO THE APPROVED UNIFIED SIGNAGE PLAN, INSTALL A NEW CANOPY AND PAINT THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioners disclosed their ex parte communications.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, swore in two (2) people: Mechelle Arbuzow, City of Stuart Planner II, and Christine Brooks, HFA Architect and Engineering.

Mechelle Arbuzow, Planner II, presented the item.

Christine Brooks, applicant's representative, provided a packet to the Commission including project details.

The Commissioner's discussed the signage and color palettes. Mayor Collins suggested the use of a coastal color scheme similar to the Jupiter, Florida location.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Kylie Micciche - Stuart; Commented very much in favor of the coastal color scheme similar to Jupiter Walmart.

6:49 PM MOTION: Transmit to Second Reading.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Christopher Collins

Motion approved unanimously.

*****RECESS 6:54 PM*****

*****RECONVENED 7:06 PM*****

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

14. CENTRAL PARKWAY BLINKING LIGHT

Jodi Kugler, Development Director, presented on the Central Parkway blinking light and showed pictures that depicted different times throughout the day, provided the history, and a traffic and crash report on Central Parkway provided to them by Police Chief Flamur Zenelovic.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Barbara Grass - Stuart; Asked who approved the light and who maintains the light. (Jodi Kugler responded that the engineer approved, and the developer is responsible for maintenance.)

ADJOURNMENT

7:17 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Christopher Collins, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 27th day of April, 2026.