

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION**  
**MAY 11, 2026**  
**AT 4:00 PM**  
**COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
**121 SW FLAGLER AVE.**  
**STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

**CITY COMMISSION**

**Mayor Sean Reed**  
**Vice Mayor - Vacant**  
**Commissioner Eula R. Clarke**  
**Commissioner Laura Giobbi**  
**Commissioner Campbell Rich**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**INVOCATION**

Chaplain Edward Skiba, City of Stuart Police Department, gave the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**1. ARTS MOMENT - GERTRUDE WALDEN CHILDREN'S SONG PERFORMANCE**

Thelma Washington, Director of Gertrude Walden, introduced her students who performed "The ABC Song" and "One Small Voice" and received a Certificate of Appreciation.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**2. SAFE BOATING WEEK - MAY 16 – 22, 2026**

Robert Hess, Flotilla Commander USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 59, was presented the Proclamation and all gathered with the Commissioners for a group photo.

**3. PUBLIC WORKS WEEK - MAY 17 – 23, 2026**

Chris Corrado, Member of the American Public Works Association Chapter, was presented the Proclamation and commented on the duties of the City of Stuart Public Works Department.

**4. LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH - MAY 2026**

Pamela Klinger-Milazzo, Lupus Foundation of America Ambassador SE Region, was presented the Proclamation and provided information on the disease.

**5. HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH - MAY 2026**

Jacqui May, Vice Chair of Martin County Historic Preservation Board was presented the Proclamation, thanked the City for their participation in preservation, and announced some of the upcoming events planned for the month.

**6. MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK - MAY 3 – 9, 2026**

Mary Kindel, City Clerk, was presented the Proclamation and thanked the Commission and her staff.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**7. SERVICE AWARDS - MAY 2026**

James Chrulski	Community Services	20 years	Present
Brian Tison	Police Department	5 years	Present

**8. MARTIN COUNTY TRANSIT**

Chris Stephenson and Karen Deigl, of Martin County Transit, presented the new improvements to the Marty bus system, followed by some questions and answers from the Commission.

**9. INNOVATION HUB UPDATE**

Jodi Kugler, Development Director, presented a brief summary review of the latest Martin County Innovation Hub Study and the responsibilities of the City of areas located within Martin County, including the southern portion of the City of Stuart and the Golden Gate redevelopment area.

**10. RECOGNITION OF NEW SRT MEDICS**

Jon Huneycutt, Operations Chief Fire Rescue, introduced staff and reported on the joint program, explaining SRT being the high rush situations, working together as an SRT medic, trained to move into a location and side by side with the Police. Vince Felicione, Fire Chief, presented the new Special Response Team; Leroy Ehret, Anthony Pesaturo, and Drew Edwards. Fire Chief Felicione thanked the Police Chief for working together as this effort had been a plan for many years. Flamur Zenelovic, Police Chief, and Sergeant Tyler Bovee, explained the training for the team members.

Commissioners thanked the team and commented on the comradery between the Fire and Police Departments.

**COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Rich

- Congratulated the Mayor on his new position.
- Reported on his attendance at the Boys and Girls Club Awards Ceremony and thanked the Commissioners for making the effort to reach out to the members of the community.

- Complimented resident, Cody Johnson, on his comments at the Boys and Girls Club Awards Ceremony.

#### Commissioner Giobbi

- Congratulated the Mayor on his new position.
- Commented on Historical Preservation Month and thanked Mrs. Hamilton from the 1895 church for being present with "official garb" of women of the late 18th Century.
- Commented on the Local newspaper.

#### Commissioner Clarke

- Commented on Historic Preservation Month and the Emancipation Day Event scheduled for tomorrow. Thanked all who participated and supported the National Historic Registry application.
- Commented on a photo received from resident Luke Lathem, noting that otters were in the Poppleton Creek area.
- Suggested finding a way to get information to the East Stuart community and asked the City Manager to contact Ms. Brinkley.
- Noted that Commissioner Collins is no longer with the City and suggested to note the language of the Charter to the public about the ascendance to the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

### **COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER**

#### City Manager Giardino

- Commented positively on staff and looks forward to getting to know more about the community.
- Announced the City was honored at the Environmental Stewardship Awards for the Oyster Bed Program and a surprise award to Milton Leggett, Public Works Director, for Lifetime Achievement.
- Reported a successful meeting with the Martin County Administrator, Don Donaldson.
- Thanked Misti Guertin for coordinating the meet and greet with staff last Friday and was grateful for the opportunity to meet so many of the staff members.
- Commented on the Fire Interlocal Agreement complimented the training facility agreement and the professionalism of our highly qualified and highly proficient staff.
- Expressed though new to the City, he feels deeply connected with staff and citizens, sees the City in a strong place, and is committed to working together on the mission.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**5:23 PM MOTION: Approval of Consent Calendar, pulling Item #12.**

**MOVED BY: Eula Clarke**

**SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

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

1. Mark Brechbill - Stuart; Commented on the fixing of the railroad crossings and is thankful for the life-saving efforts.
2. Robin Cartwright - Stuart; Commented on the importance of updating information on your Drivers Licenses as is reminded on the Supervisor of Elections website.
3. Olga Hamilton - Stuart; Congratulated the City Manager and Mayor; commented on the historic church and invited the public to come visit.
4. Robert Hamilton - Stuart; Thanked Mayor Reed for keeping his campaign promises along with Commissioner Giobbi and thanked City Manager Giardino for his service. Requested a meeting between the City Manager and Mayor Reed in hopes to resolve issues; noted there is no lawsuit filed.
5. Shirley Brennan, Esq. - Ponce Inlet, FL; Commented on the positive impression of Mr. Giardino, looks forward to resolving the Hamilton issue to prevent a lawsuit.
6. Deb Harsh - Jensen Beach; Commented on Preservation Month and asked that we include (Potsdam) 1895 church next year.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

11. APPROVAL OF 4/27/2026 CCM MINUTES (RC)

**\*\*\* ITEM #12 PULLED \*\*\***

12. STUART HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER RATIFICATION (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 32-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, RATIFYING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER JENNIE DAVIS ON THE STUART HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM FROM MAY 21, 2026, THROUGH MAY 21, 2030; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13. FACSIMILE SIGNATURE BANK UPDATE (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 38-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FACSIMILE SIGNATURES ON CHECKS ISSUED BY THE CITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**5:37 PM MOTION: Approve, pulling Item #12.**

**MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi**

**SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**\*\*\* PULLED ITEM #12 FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR\*\*\***

**12. STUART HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER RATIFICATION (RC):**

RESOLUTION No. 32-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA RATIFYING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER JENNIE DAVIS ON THE STUART HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM FROM MAY 21, 2026, THROUGH MAY 21, 2030; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, provided an explanation on the election of appointees to the Stuart Housing Authority Board.

Commissioner Clarke reviewed the reasons she requested the item be pulled from the Consent Calendar, noting the relationship between the City and the Stuart Housing Authority and to bring recognition to the members of the community.

Commissioner Giobbi commented on having the City Commission reach out to the Housing Authority to provide more affordable housing for residents in Stuart.

Commissioner Rich commented on additional members, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Dougherty, to provide information and be added to one of our agendas.

**5:42 PM MOTION: Approve.**

**MOVED BY: Eula Clarke**

**SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**COMMISSION ACTION**

**14. FIRE RESCUE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (RC):**

RESOLUTION No. 37-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STUART ("CITY") AND MARTIN COUNTY ("COUNTY") FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Vince Felicione, Fire Chief, reported on the updated Interlocal Agreement, the improved relationship with the County and noted that no money is to be exchanged for the agreement between entities.

**5:47 PM MOTION: Approve.**

**MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi**

**SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

**\*\*\* 5:48 PM RECESS \*\*\***

**\*\*\* 5:59 PM RECONVENE \*\*\***

## **ORDINANCE SECOND READING**

### **15. (CONTINUED TO A DATE CERTAIN OF MAY 26, 2026 - CITY COMMISSION MEETING)**

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

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.

City Attorney Baggett explained that the Ordinance remained on the agenda because the City Clerk advised it, avoiding the need to readvertise.

## **ORDINANCE FIRST READING**

### **16. CHARTER AMENDMENT- SALE OR LONG TERM LEASE OF CITY PROPERTY CONTAINING RECREATIONAL BALLFIELDS MUST BE APPROVED BY REFERENDUM VOTE (RC):**

ORDINANCE No. 2553-2026; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA APPROVING BALLOT LANGUAGE AND DIRECTING THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO PLACE A REFERENDUM ON THE AUGUST 18, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE SALE OR LONG-TERM LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY CONTAINING RECREATIONAL BALLFIELDS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, reviewed the Ordinance, noting it was requested by former Mayor Collins and stated the referendum requirements. He outlined the following three methods available to amend the City Charter; 1) an initiative by voters, 2) Charter Advisory Board that meets every 10 years (again in 2030), and 3) Commission can amend the Charter by referendum. Mr. Baggett stated that Florida Statute prohibits the use of a referendum for any type of development order. His opinion was that Charter amendment language should not include a single parcel of land, but should be more broad.

Commissioners' discussion included the change of language to address uses other than ballfields, the ten-year lease term, the current four (4) person Commission, and the timeframe to have the language ready for the ballot in August.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Joseph Cooper - Stuart; Feels the City should slow down and look further into the ballparks and ensure that all players have access to these parks, and it is premature to push it to a referendum.
2. Will Laughlin - Stuart; Commented on the discussion of research, questioned the history of the ballfields.

City Attorney Baggett informed the Commission that this Ordinance does not have anything to do with the right to sell, and he reviewed the property background.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED:

3. Missy Harris - Stuart; Commented on a past meeting on this topic and asked that we not allow our parks to be developed.
4. Gwendalyne Hall Brinkley - Stuart; Commented that this process is moving too quickly, the citizens need additional information.

City Manager stated he can work with Martin County and believed a white paper/analysis could be done prior to the next meeting.

5. Mark Brechbill - Stuart; Commented on the history and referred to the RFP done, encouraged educating the community and feels the language the City Attorney is presenting is unworkable.
6. Robin Cartwright - Stuart; Recommended the motion be withdrawn and tabled until the next meeting, suggests an opportunity for a community discussion on what can and cannot be done on the property.

**6:13 PM MOTION: Approve to move Ordinance 2553-2026 to Second Reading.  
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi  
SECONDED BY: ---  
MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

6:14 PM Mayor Reed passed the gavel to Commissioner Clarke.

**6:15 PM MOTION: Approve to move Ordinance 2553-2026 to Second Reading.  
MOVED BY: Sean Reed  
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi  
6:52 PM: Mayor Reed withdrew his motion.**

**6:52 PM MOTION: Motion to move to date certain on May 26th, giving City Manager time to do the white paper.  
MOVED BY: Sean Reed  
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi  
VOTE: MOTION FAILED 2/2.  
YES: Laura Giobbi, Sean Reed  
NO: Eula Clarke, Campbell Rich**

6:55 PM Commissioner Clarke passed the gavel back to Mayor Reed.

## **DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

### **17. GROUP III COMMISSIONER VACANCY DISCUSSION**

City Attorney Baggett reviewed the following options:

- Do nothing and leave space open.
- Vote in a new Vice Mayor.
- Appoint a fifth (5th) Board Member.

Commissioner Giobbi would like to appoint a person to the Commission, then look at the opportunities to select a Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Clarke felt the Board did not need to bring in a fifth (5th) temporary Commissioner, prefers to wait until the seat is filled by an elected official.

**7:03 PM MOTION: Appoint Commissioner Clarke as Vice Mayor.  
MOVED BY: Campbell Rich  
SECONDED BY: ----  
MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**7:03 PM MOTION: Appoint Commissioner Rich as Vice Mayor.  
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke  
SECONDED BY: ---  
MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**7:07 PM MOTION: Approve Commissioner Giobbi to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).  
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi  
SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich  
Motion approved unanimously.**

**7:09 PM MOTION: Approve Commissioner Clarke to serve on the Stuart Main Street (SMS).  
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi  
SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich  
Motion approved unanimously.**

Commissioners' discussed the vacancy of Group III seat on the Board, past practices, keeping it vacant until August election, how it affects the vote, and advisory board members being considered.

The Board consensus was to bring back discussion to next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

7:20 PM

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sean Reed, Mayor**

**Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission  
Meeting this 26th day of May, 2026.**