MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
JULY 13, 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

4:30 PM

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

INVOCATION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ARTS MOMENT - WILBERT SIMPSON, LOCAL ARTIST

Wilbert Simpson, Artist, presented two pieces of original art and explained their meaning.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. PARKS & RECREATION MONTH - JULY 2026

Mike Redstone, Recreation Division Manager, and Jessica Tharp, Community Services Program Leader, presented a brief PowerPoint presentation which showed many of the programs and events they build to enhance the community.

PRESENTATIONS

3. SERVICE AWARDS - JULY 2026

Karen Chambers-Cuffy	Human Resource	10 years (Not Present)
Joseph Calderone	Police Department	20 years (Not Present)

4. DOGS IN PARK VIDEO

Misti Guertin, Communications & Digital Marketing Manager, introduced the Dogs in the Park video, created and promoted by her on behalf of the City as an education piece on the restriction of dogs in areas of Memorial Park, particularly in front of the new Amphitheater.

5. BUDGET SNAPSHOT PRESENTATION

Kate Amberosini, Finance Director, presented the status of the City's FY2026 Budget; reviewing the historical trends, initial millage calculations, budget planning for FY2027 initial estimates, and the TRIM timeline and recommendations. She announced upcoming Budget Workshops as follows:
Budget Workshop #1 on August 10th
Budget Workshop #2 on August 24th
Tentative Millage and Tentative Budget on September 9th
Final Millage and Final Budget on September 14th

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Giobbi

- Thanked all for coming out and attending the meeting and thanked the City taxpayers and those who made the 4th of July events successful. Hopes there will be more golf carts to participate in the golf cart parade in the future.
- Commented on a letter provided by City Environmental Attorney, Ruth Holmes, and requested Commissioners to discuss and approve to be the cosigner of a 2026 petition requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection (EPA) formally adopt a climate trial, toxic standards for surface waters that would apply to Florida. This letter will be on the consent calendar for the July 27, 2026, CCM meeting.
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  Ruth Holmes, Environmental Attorney, came forward and explained that in 2019 the EPA issued recommendations to the states to adopt its new water quality standards for “cyanotoxins”, a suite of toxins emitted from blue-green algae. These standards, if adopted by Florida, would apply to the St. Lucie River. In a subsequent water quality rule review, required by the Clean Water Act, the state of Florida adopted a rule providing for Chlorophyll-a as a “proxy” for a cyanotoxin standard. In 2024, the City co-signed a Center for Biological Diversity (the “Center”) authored Petition to the EPA requesting that the EPA require the state of Florida to adopt the EPA recommendations on cyanotoxin standards for water quality in surface water. The EPA has not acted on the 2024 Petition. The Center has drafted a follow-up letter to the EPA requesting their evaluation of whether the state has complied with Clean Water Act requirements when it adopted the proxy standard in place of an actual cyanotoxin standard and requesting the EPA encourage the state to re-evaluate the use of Chlorophyll-a as a cyanotoxin standard.

  Commissioner Rich recommended the letter be included on the next Commission Meeting’s Consent Calendar.

4:43 PM MOTION: Move that the City of Stuart be a co-signer in the 2026 petition spearheaded by The Center of Biological Diversity and other organizations.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Clarke

- Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) dedicated a plaque to Gazebo Park and honored the 250th birthday celebration of our country. Asked Misti Guertin to commemorate the flags and decorations at the park.
- Thanked Mr. Simpson for his participation in the Arts Moment; asked everyone to keep the Arts Moment alive.
- Commented in reference to a public comment read into the record by the Mayor at a previous meeting, felt the Board should be consistent in the practice regarding written public comments; suggested that either all written comments received be read into the record, or that none be, rather than selectively reading certain comments.
- Commented on residents who live near pocket parks and their comments on the upkeep, noted we are making an inventory of our parks and the information is being addressed.
- Recently attended the Green Market and was happy to see the quality and participation; encouraged promotion of the event and expressed appreciation to Stuart Main Street for their coordination.
- Commented on the Boat Show comments she received asking about the decision regarding the route and is hoping we will continue to support it.

Mayor Reed

- Requested consensus to get their emails online. Commissioners agreed for it to be brought back as a future agenda item.
- Announced that he would like to do another Town Hall next month on government education and sought Board consensus.
- Commented that the Boat Show road closure, seeking a long-term lease so that the boat show will remain in Stuart.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Giardino

- Announced the City's renewed collaboration with the Everglades Foundation to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the call for a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee. He noted the Commission's prior support through Resolution No. 51-2025 and advised that additional information and a request for Commission participation will be presented at the next meeting. He also thanked the Commission, staff, and the environmental attorney for their continued commitment to Everglades restoration and environmental stewardship.
- Commented that the City has a TV star in our midst, Andy Surnhoff, featured this Fall on the German television Police show, will be available via YouTube.

- Complimented Anthony Cooling, Budget and Procurement Manager, and Kate Ambrosini, Finance Director, and thanked them for their hard work on the budget.
- Complimented Jim Chrulski and his staff for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of this country and the celebration of 4th of July.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5:04 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously.

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

1. Bonnie Landry - Stuart; Commented on the City's pocket/neighborhood parks, her daily use of Mangrove Park, and volunteered her dog for future dog videos.
2. Bob Wolfort - Jensen Beach; Commented on the accomplishments of the Hellgate Sea Dragons and announced upcoming events.
3. Derreck Ogden - Stuart; Commented in reference to his past comment on Sailfish Ballfield, noted a past vote.

Commissioner Rich called a Point of Order in reference to the comments Mr. Ogden was making.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, stated his opinion and read from the Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-50; ie, the public comment addressing the Board members individually as opposed to the body as a whole.

3. Derriek Ogden - Stuart; Continued his comments and referenced a specific commissioner's statement. [Commissioner Rich intervened per the commenter using individual names. Attorney Baggett explained further, stating it is ultimately the Commission's decision. Baggett recommended the speaker not make a specific reference and stated that the Chair is the ruling of enforcement. Any member of the Board may appeal his ruling and make a motion.]

PUBLIC COMMENT on 5:23 PM MOTION:

1. Robin Cartwright - Stuart; Referred to the Code of Conduct, noted that when accolades are stated, it is allowed, then criticisms should be too.
2. Tom Whittington - Palm City; Commented that he is thankful for the Commission and hopeful that residents would be civil in their presentation of beliefs.

Commissioner Rich read Sec. 2-50(b) language into the record.

5:23 PM MOTION: Move that the Mayor be required to enforce the rules of decorum with regard to addressing the Commission, and specifically not allowing members of the public to call out in any manner individual Commissioners.

MOVED BY: Campbell Rich
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
VOTE: 2/2, MOTION FAILED. 5:30 PM
YES: Campbell Rich, Eula Clarke
NO: Sean Reed, Laura Giobbi

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC CONTINUED:

3. Derreck Ogden - Stuart; Continued his comment and asked that the City amend subsection C and D and asked that the referendum be brought back that protects Sailfish Park and let the residents have their say.
4. Gail Goldy - Stuart; Announced that tomorrow at 6 p.m. there will be a candidate forum by WeCaremartin.org at the Flagler Center.
5. David Kehlmann - Stuart; Commented on Fire Rescue to add a blue light to their trucks to prevent future accidents and would like to set up a meeting with the City Manager to come out to his property to discuss the mangrove problem on two City-owned properties.
6. Caryn Hall Yost Rudge - Stuart; Commented on public comment guidelines and stated that they will continue to fight against the City and will never give up.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

6. APPROVAL OF 6/22/2026 CCM MINUTES (RC)

*****PULLED ITEM #7 *****

7. BUDGET AMENDMENT #3 TRAM REPLACEMENT (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 47-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET; APPROPRIATING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR TRAM REPLACEMENT DUE TO ACCIDENT OF PREVIOUS TRAM THAT WAS DEEMED A TOTAL LOSS BY INSURER; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

5:42 PM MOTION: Approve pulling Item #7 from the Consent Calendar and moving to the end of the meeting.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

8. ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL STUART BOAT SHOW (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 44-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, APPROVING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL STUART BOAT SHOW FROM 5:30 A.M. ON TUESDAY,

JANUARY 12, 2027, THROUGH 5:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2027, ALONG NW DIXIE HIGHWAY (FORMERLY SR 707) FROM SW ALBANY AVENUE SOUTH OF THE OLD ROOSEVELT BRIDGE TO NW POINSETTIA STREET TO INCLUDE THE FEC RAILROAD CROSSING OFF NW FERN STREET AND NW DIXIE HIGHWAY, NORTH OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER DRAW BRIDGE, SUBJECT TO FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Jim Chrulski, Community Services Director, reviewed the event and provided a few slides demonstrating the location of the Boat Show.

Tom Wittington, Past President of the Marine Industry, came forward and reported on the coordination of the Boat Show and looks forward to a great future ahead.

5:47 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously.

9. REVENUE BOND APPROVAL - 2 FIRE APPARATUS (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 48-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A NON-AD VALOREM REVENUE NOTE, SERIES 2026 OF THE CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $1,920,000 TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF FIRE APPARATUS AND TO PAY COSTS OF ISSUANCE THEREOF, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED HEREIN; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS OF PUBLIC PURPOSE; MAKING SUCH DETERMINATIONS AS ARE REQUIRED TO AFFORD THE NOTE "BANK QUALIFIED" STATUS; PROVIDING THAT THE NOTE SHALL BE A LIMITED OBLIGATION OF THE CITY PAYABLE FROM NON-AD VALOREM REVENUES BUDGETED, APPROPRIATED, AND DEPOSITED AS PROVIDED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS, SECURITIES AND REMEDIES FOR THE OWNER OF THE NOTE; MAKING CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION THERE WITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vince Felicione, Fire Chief, and Kate Ambrosini, Finance Director, provided a brief explanation of the revenue bond.

5:50 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously. 6:05 PM

10. BUDGET AMENDMENT #4: REVENUE BOND APPROVAL - 2 FIRE APPARATUS (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 49-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENT No. 4 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET; APPROPRIATING AND AUTHORIZING

THE RECEIPT OF REVENUE AND THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FIRE APPARATUS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

6:06 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

11. MARINA COVE AT RIVERSIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY ABANDONMENT (RC):

ORDINANCE No. 2554-2026: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN THE CITY BEING THAT CERTAIN 20-FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY, AS SET FORTH ON THE PLAT OF RIVERSIDE PARK, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 25, ST. LUCIE (NOW MARTIN) COUNTY, FLORIDA PUBLIC RECORDS RUNNING NORTH TO SOUTH, DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A” ATTACHED HERETO AND DEPICTED IN EXHIBIT “B” ATTACHED HERETO; PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF A PRIVILEGE FEE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Jodi Kugler, Development Director, presented the Item.

Mayor Reed commented on the ROW abandonments and clarified that the City only considers these when approached by residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mary Anne Seymour - Stuart; Commented that she lived near this property and questioned if the site plan is a current one because she understood a road was approved that is not showing. [Ms. Kugler reassured her that this is a current site plan and there will be no road that has direct access to Dixie Highway.]

6:14 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Campbell Rich
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
VOTE: 3/1 MOTION PASSED.
YES: Eula Clarke, Campbell Rich, Laura Giobbi
NO: Sean Reed

***** ITEM #7 PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR *****

7. BUDGET AMENDMENT #3 TRAM REPLACEMENT (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 47-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET; APPROPRIATING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR TRAM REPLACEMENT DUE TO ACCIDENT OF PREVIOUS TRAM THAT WAS DEEMED A TOTAL LOSS BY INSURER; PROVIDING AN

EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Public Works Director, Milton Leggett, reported on the tram replacement that is a result of an accident in which the tram was totaled.

6:19 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Campbell Rich
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

6:22 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk	**Sean Reed, Mayor**

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