

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
JANUARY 9, 2023
AT 4:00 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Troy McDonald
Vice Mayor Becky Bruner
Commissioner Eula R. Clarke
Commissioner Christopher Collins
Commissioner Campbell Rich

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Manager, David Dyess
City Attorney, Michael J. Mortell
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor McDonald, Vice Mayor Bruner, Commissioner Clarke, Commissioner Collins, Commissioner Rich.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ARTS MOMENT - EQUALITY~ A POEM BY MAYA ANGELOU READ BY NINA DOOLEY

Nina Dooley read a Poem "Equality" by Maya Angelou.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. ARBOR DAY - JANUARY 9, 2023

Karen Bonney, President of the Garden Club of Stuart, received the Proclamation and spoke about the organization, the trees previously planted by their organization, and thanked the Commission for their support.

3. REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION - JANUARY 16, 2023

Nina Dooley, President of the Afro-American Citizens of East Stuart, Inc. (AACES) received the Proclamation and announced the different events that will take place for Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. She encouraged all to participate and provided the Commission with a MLK T-Shirt.

PRESENTATIONS

4. SERVICE AWARD - JANUARY 2023

Raymond Wehrer 5 Years Utilities & Engineering (Not Present)

5. ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

4:12 PM

Mayor McDonald announced that it is Tim Voelker's, the Utilities & Engineering Director's last meeting and thanked him for his time here in the City.

Mr. Voelker provided an update on the Alternative Water Supply project and he presented on the different components of the project, construction of the reverse osmosis facility, concentrate pipeline, deep injection well modification, project construction costs, funding received to date, and spoke on the budgeting of the projects.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Vice Mayor Bruner

- Commented on the green trees on Colorado Ave and stated you can not see the business and would like them to be thinned out. Also stated the Coconut Palms are starting to get coconuts on them and would like to have them removed.

Commissioner Rich

- Urged the residents to be cautious and careful as COVID seems to be spreading more frequently in recent times.

Commissioner Clarke

- Thanked Ms. Dooley for reading a poem during the Arts Moment and encouraged everyone to participate in the events for MLK Day.
- Commented on the Housing Workshop that happened on January 5th. She thanked Commissioner Collins for his presentation during the workshop and asked City Manager Dyess for a "Stuart Cares" program, something to constantly educate the Commissioners and the public.
- Stated she will be attending the Airport Noise Advisory Committee (ANAC) and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council meeting.

Commissioner Collins

- Commented that a concerned citizen reached out to him about the Duck Crossing sign on Flamingo Ave and requested an update.
- Said a prayer.

Mayor McDonald

- Commented on Alice Luckhardt's memorial service and spoke about Ms. Luckhardt and how she will truly be missed.
- Reminded everyone that the Boat Show is this weekend and stated that Dixie Hwy will be closed.
- Stated he received a lot of complaints about e-bikes and would like to know what the regulations are for them.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4:35 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Christopher Collins

Motion approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 Minutes Max.)

- 1.) Joe Tumminelli - ZOOM; Stated he wanted to commend all the Law Enforcement officers for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (01/09/2023) and responded to Mayor McDonald's e-bike question.
- 2.) Natalie Evans - SE Ocean Blvd; Provided a brief background on herself and family, stated she works with humanitarian services and is in favor of prayer for our Commission meetings.
- 3.) Christi Fuller - SE Riverside Dr; Stated how powerful the invocation can be and not divisive, in favor of prayer for our Commission meetings.
- 4.) Laura Giobbi - SE Ocean Blvd; Shared statistics of prayers in public meetings, in favor of prayer for our Commission meetings.
- 5.) Ron Dennis - SE Ocean Blvd; Stated that Faith is the founding ingredient that found this country, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 6.) Gil Hulting- Jensen Beach; Read a scripture from the Bible, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 7.) Susan Lopez - SW Hawkview Cir; Stated she found it disturbing that we are taking out prayer from meetings and appreciated Commissioner Collins trying to bring it back, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 8.) Julie Bjornson - SE Riverboat Dr. ; Spoke about the two parts of the unseen world and talked about the "Bible Marathon" event, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 9.) Connie Pavlik - SE Glenridge Trail; Read the verse of the day, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 10.) Amy Prichett - SE Horseshoe Point; Stated prayer works, heals, and unifies, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 11.) Audrey Capozzi - Hobe Sound; Questioned who would not want prayer and stated our rights were given to us by God, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 12.) Gail Goldy - NW 12th Terrace; Thanked all the Commissioners for their hard work and stated her hopes for what the Commissioner will do, in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 13.) Christine Grassam - NW Everglades Blvd; Spoke about prayer in her personal life and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.

- 14.) James Brocious - SE Madison Ave; Spoke on the benefits of living in Stuart and knowing most of the Commissioners, stated he is baffled that the City Commission would not allow prayer in the meeting.
- 15.) Jim Harp - SE Osceola St; Stated that as a pastor he knows people need prayer and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 16.) Elizabeth Crane - SE Burnette Ave; Shared her personal testimony and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 17.) John Crane - SE Burnette Ave; Stated he firmly believes God gave us our right to pray and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 18.) Frank Bragg - SE Conference; Provided a brief background on himself and in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 19.) Jackie Thurlow Lippish - Riverview Dr; Thanked the Commissioners and provided statistics on Lake Okeechobee and offered a tour of C44 (Indian River Lagoon South). She provided a handout to the City Clerk.
- 20.) Jan Manzigo - SE Fairway St; Commented on how prayer works and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings and thanked Commissioner Collins for trying to bring prayer back.
- 21.) Todd Manzigo - SE Fairway St; Spoke on the majority of what the community wants and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 22.) John Johnson - Port Saint Lucie; Read an interview from 9/11 and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 23.) Massy Campos - Port Saint Lucie; Read the State Constitution and stated that prayer is needed and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 24.) Rob Raineri - NW Flagler Ave; Spoke on affordable housing and asked that the Commission continue the dialogue for affordable housing.
- 25.) Sharon Mitchell - Sewalls Pt; Spoke about her family history and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 26.) Jonathan McClain - Jensen Beach; Thanked the Commission for their hardwork and stated there are more believers in this City than those that are actually here and volunteered to start our meetings in prayer.
- 27.) Sherry Sway - SE Ocean Ave; Is in favor of prayer because God is our creator and deserves our recognition.
- 28.) Brandon Cooper - SE Flamingo Ave; In support of prayers for our Commission meeting.
- 29.) Stephen Cooper - SE 6th St; Spoke about the senate opening their meetings with prayer and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 30.) Jenny Starts - SE Heartleaf Terra ; She is proud to be in a community where prayer is vital and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 31.) Tammy Dreffenback - Palm City; Is in favor of prayer and stated her personal testimony.
- 32.) Jonathan Dobbs - SE Bayleaf Place; Spoke about the incident that happened in the NFL and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 33.) Pamela Thapton - Hobes Sound; Stated she wanted prayer and God back in our community, school, and law enforcement agencies.
- 34.) Caren Hall Yost Rudge - Palm City Rd; Stated she believes prayer is always welcomed and would like it to be inclusive to all religions.
- 35.) Tom Clark - SE 13th St; Spoke on prayer walks that he has done within the community and spoke on the elements of prayer.
- 36.) Kristin Carper - Palm City; In favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 37.) Amber DeAngelo - SW Fast St; Commented she feels the same as others in the room and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 38.) Brian Moriarty - SE Monterey Rd; Thanked Commissioner Collins for bringing this up as this is a huge issue and is surprised he did not get a second for discussion.

- 39.) Blaine Albright - SW Pitts Ter; In favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 40.) Laura Masiello - Shady Lake Ter; Spoke about the prayers in the NFL incident and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 41.) Cynthia Lucas - Stuart ; Stated prayer works and is in favor of prayer in our Commission meetings.
- 42.) Mark Brechbill - SE Oseloa Ave; Stated his approach from a practical political point not religious.
- 43.) Misti Harris - SE Alamanda; Agrees with prayer and commended Commissioner Collins on the powerpoint that he did for the ZIP workshop and stated the need for a parking garage.
- 44.) Nathaniel Joiner - SW 96th St; Thanked the Commissioners for their hard work and stated that he is in favor of prayer.
- 45.) Linda Julien - ZOOM; Stated she was shocked that because the small portion of the Community did not want prayers, that the Commissioners shifted and is in favor of prayers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

6. APPROVAL OF 12/12/2022 CCM MINUTES (RC)
7. LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL FOR 171 SW FLAGLER AVENUE (CRARY HOUSE) WITH CONGRESSMAN BRIAN MAST (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 01-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AMENDMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STUART AND CONGRESSMAN BRIAN MAST FOR THE CRARY HOUSE LOCATED AT 171 SW FLAGLER AVENUE, STUART; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

8. BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE DIXIE HIGHWAY WATERMAIN AND FORCEMAIN RELOCATIONS (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 02-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING BUDGET ADMENDMENT NO. 5 TO THE 2022-2023 ENTERPRISE FUND; APPROPRIATING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE DIXIE HIGHWAY WATERMAIN AND FORCEMAIN RELOCATIONS PROJECT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

6:12 PM MOTION: Approve.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Becky Bruner

Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Collins thanked everyone who came out to speak about prayer and their support.

Commissioners had a discussion on bringing back the invocation item and how to move forward.

6:16 PM MOTION: Return the item at the City Commission meeting on 01/23/2023.

MOVED BY: Christopher Collins

SECONDED BY: Becky Bruner

Motion approved unanimously.

****** 6:30 PM RECESS ******

****** 6:37 PM RECONVENED ******

COMMISSION ACTION

9. EXTENDING ZONING IN PROGRESS:

RESOLUTION No. 04-2023; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, EXTENDING THE ZONING IN PROGRESS AUTHORIZED IN RESOLUTIONS 93-2022 and 95-2022, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

6:38 PM

Mayor McDonald and Commissioner Clarke stated they would like to extend the multifractional unit resolution (93-2022) and not the UPUD (95-2022).

Commissioner Collins expressed his view on wanting both resolutions extended as he believes this is just the beginning of the conversations. Requested if there was a consensus to amend the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1.) Helen McBride - SE Flamingo Ave; Stated that she has been through the parking garage conversation plenty of times and it is time that something actually gets done, and would like something more definite.

2.) Bob Ernst - Johnson Ave; Spoke on the different projects that the Commission has approved on which he thinks are erroneous and believes the Commission's votes are destroying the community.

3.) Frank McChrystal - SE Flamingo Ave; Asked what the rush is to end the ZIP discussion and ask that the Commission take their time with the process.

4.) Mark Brechbill - SE Osceola Ave; Spoke on the fractional unit and thinks affordable housing has a lot to do with the ZIP discussion and believes they should both be extended.

Commissioner Collins asked several questions and is requesting to further discuss and extend both resolutions.

Commissioners continued discussion.

6:39 PM MOTION: Extend Resolution No. 93-2022 and not Resolution No. 95-2022.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich

VOTE:

YES: Becky Bruner, Eula Clarke, Troy McDonald, Campbell Rich

NO: Christopher Collins

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

10. DISCUSSION ON CDBG-CV GRANT

6:56 PM

City Manager Dyess provided an update and stated the City was awarded \$4.8 million in grant funds and stated that the piece of property the City was looking at was the Willie Gary property. City Manager Dyess stated that the property has been sold to Mr. Green and stated his discussions on buying the property for \$1.6 million and what would be done to the property.

Mayor McDonald stated he believes the Willie Gary property would be the best value.

Commissioner Clarke asked if we had any direct plans for the future of this property, such as the technical hub.

City Manager Dyess stated the plans for the building and the organizations that have expressed interest in working on the building.

Commissioners continued discussion.

7:18 PM

Commissioners agreed to have an agenda item to be brought forward.

11. POLICY DIRECTION REGARDING VEGETATION CONTROL

City Manager Dyess stated that there is a piloting program on the hospital pond and if that works it will be taken to other ponds, but something needs to be done on the others, meanwhile.

Mayor McDonald spoke about the different ponds and how the vegetation has grown, stated he is in favor of spraying until we have figured out what is going on with the piloting program.

Commissioner Collins was looking to see how much the mechanical pumping would be for

each pond and he questioned the chemicals being used in these ponds.

Commissioners continued discussion about the expenses and what to do next.

Milton Leggett, Public Works Director spoke about the things the City has done to control vegetation and stated what we can do to cut it down.

7:33 PM MOTION: Spray as minimal as we can.

MOVED BY: Becky Bruner

SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke

VOTE:

YES: Becky Bruner, Eula Clarke, Troy McDonald, Campbell Rich

NO: Christopher Collins

ADJOURNMENT

7:35 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Troy McDonald, Mayor

**Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission
Meeting this 23rd day of January, 2023.**