

MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
CITY MANAGER POSITION
MARCH 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

4:00 PM

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4:01 PM MOTION: Approve
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Christopher Collins
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 Minutes Max.)

1. Mark Perry - Sunshine Farms Way, Palm City; Commented on the importance of the City Manager position and the importance of focusing on our local waterways, appreciates the support of the City and working closely with the local agencies.

COMMISSION ACTION

1. DETERMINATION ON REPLACING THE CITY MANAGER'S POSITION

City Manager, David Dyess, presented the following options for the position of City

Manager to the Commission:

1. Appoint an Interim City Manager as a temporary appointment, noted Mr. Boglioli, Finance Director, has served as in the Manager's absence and is willing to fulfill the role.
2. Appoint Interim City Manager with long-term intentions; having the person in the position with the option to hire or later go outside for hire.
3. Post the position with a local or statewide search. This can be done in house with the Human Resources Department.
4. Municipal Search Firm
5. Executive Search Firms

Commissioner Clarke called Human Resources Director, Roz Johnson, to the podium to request information on option #3 and timeframes. City Manager Dyess provided feedback on the experience he recently went through and the outside search took approximately 3 months. Ms. Johnson explained that they feel there are external candidates that they feel would apply and reviewed the process of an internal hire as an interim.

Commissioner Rich confirmed that two options can be done simultaneously, select an internal interim as well as do an external search. Ms. Johnson confirmed that is correct. The Commission discussed whether a City Manager is required to live within City limits and the past policies on the subject.

Commissioner Collins commented that he had been transparent in his decision in having City Attorney, Mike Mortell, transition into the position as he is interested in hiring an Environmental Attorney. Feels the City should be in a defensive posture, preparing for what may be coming and noted Attorney Mortell lives in the City.

McDonald commented that the most successful managers have been from within and he currently has no interest in hiring externally. Supports Mortell in an interim position and suggested adding a deadline to the interim position, giving the Commission and Mortell the opportunity to evaluate the situation.

Commissioner Rich commented that he knows of other experienced city managers who live in the City and may be interested in the position.

Commissioner Clarke clarified the amount of time Dyess was given as an interim as 6 months. She agrees with a local hire and is thankful we have internal staff who are interested and qualified for the position.

City Manager Dyess announced his plans. He is scheduled for a start date in Juno Beach on May 1, 2023 and is requesting the City of Stuart release him by the end of March as he is interested in taking some time off between jobs.

4:25 PM MOTION: Have Mike Mortell move to Interim City Manager for 6 months, beginning March 31st, with a 3 month review by the Commission.

MOVED BY: Christopher Collins

SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich

Motion approved unanimously. 4:34 PM

The Commission participated in a discussion of an Interim City Attorney. Mayor McDonald proposed Mr. Paul Nicoletti, previous City Manager and City Attorney, as the Interim City Attorney until a permanent replacement is found.

Commissioner Bruner commented that Mr. Nicoletti would be a good fit. Discussion on paying the Interim City Attorney a monthly flat rate or hourly; to be determined.

Commissioner Clarke requested that if Mortell because the City Manager, that he no longer practice private cases. He confirmed but it was agreed that no changes would be made until under a new contract. No Interim contract changes are being done to the current City Attorneys contract.

4:35 PM MOTION: Have Mr. Nicoletti as our Interim City Attorney until we figure out what we need to do with the attorney position.

MOVED BY: Eula Clarke

SECONDED BY: Becky Bruner

Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Clarke thanked Roz Johnson for the information provided and helping through the process, thanked Lewis "Joly" Boglioli for always being willing to take on responsibilities. Announced that this is a new day in the City and come April 1st, asked for full cooperation and encouraged all for their support and that we are going to look to Mr. Mortell over the next several months to shine as a beacon in the City.

ADJOURNMENT

4:46 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Troy McDonald, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 27th day of March, 2023.