

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION**  
**HELD March 17, 2020**  
**AT 10:00 AM Commission Chambers**  
**121 SW FLAGLER AVE.**  
**STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

**CITY COMMISSION**

**Mayor Michael J. Meier**  
**Vice Mayor Eula R. Clarke**  
**Commissioner Becky Bruner**  
**Commissioner Kelli Glass Leighton**  
**Commissioner Merritt Matheson**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

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

 **10:00 AM ROLL CALL**

**Present: Mayor Meier, Vice Mayor Clarke, Commissioner Bruner, Commissioner Glass Leighton, Commissioner Matheson**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS**

**No comments.**

**COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER**

**City Manager Dyess read ICS System Florida Statute 252.38 information to familiarize the board and audience on the statute as it relates to municipalities. Municipalities must coordinate with its County.**

**City Attorney Mortell noted that the City and the County's Declaration of State of Local Emergency are in compliance with each others.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**



**10:02 AM MOTION: So moved.**  
**Moved by: Commissioner Glass Leighton**  
**Seconded by: Vice Mayor Clarke**  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**No comments.**

#### **COMMISSION ACTION**

##### **1. DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY - COVID-19**

**RESOLUTION NO. 38-2020; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY PERTAINING TO COVID-19; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**



**10:05 AM MOTION: Motion to approve, to bring it to the April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting.**  
**Moved by: Commissioner Matheson**  
**Seconded by: Commissioner Glass Leighton**  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

##### **2. PUBLIC MEETINGS (ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSION MEETINGS)**

**City Manager Dyess announced that the Martin County Commission Meeting will be tomorrow at the Blake Library with applicable space for people to spread out and that facility has been offered to the City for use. Staff is evaluating a meeting telecommunications product option called "Zoom" which can hold up to 1,000 people and allow for public comment via teleconference. Zoom offers various features that can work on any communication device and the number for the public to call in would be available on the City's agenda and website. If meetings are scheduled to be held via Zoom, the items on the agenda would be only necessary items/strictly business.**

**Commissioner Matheson commented that the City should consider cancelling all meetings other than commission meetings, feels the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Commission Meeting should be held and staff should look into the Zoom product. Optimistic the commission meetings can continue by opening the room by agenda item and continue items that historically draw a large crowd. Stated that our City cannot afford to shut down.**

Commissioner Glass Leighton disagreed and commented that public safety is the priority and feels that if they hold the meeting on Monday, it puts residents in a difficult position as they may want to participate but feel unsafe coming to a public meeting. Feels the meeting needs to be cancelled on Monday.

Commissioner Matheson replied that if possible, it could be done remotely by Monday.

The Commission discussed and agreed that the Zoom product should be tested internally before being used for a public meeting.

**Public Comment:**

- 1) Don Barber – Kanner Hwy; Riverland Cooperative resident and member of Riverland Committee commented on the Atlantic Realty hearings that are scheduled for an upcoming LPA Meeting and requested it in not cancelled or postponed but scheduled for some form of teleconference, taking into consideration the impact on the residential participation.

 **10:22 AM MOTION:** Motion that we authorize the City Manager to move forward with remote meetings.

Moved by: Commissioner Matheson


Seconded by: Commissioner Glass Leighton

Motion passed unanimously.

City Attorney Mortell requested the Commission provide direction for upcoming meetings specifying the moving of agenda items from one meeting date to a date certain in order to try and maintain reposting and remailing of notices. In addition, the cancellation of the sub-committee meetings (advisory boards) impact the general meetings.

Mayor Meier agreed to moving all meetings up one, to the next meeting date.

City Attorney Mortell will add language to Resolution to confirm.

 **10:29 AM MOTION:** All non-commission meetings to postpone, and then roll their agendas back one month, push all the items back one month, and for Commission Meetings, postpone the meetings until April 13<sup>th</sup> and roll all the agenda items on March 23<sup>rd</sup>s meeting to April 13<sup>th</sup> and then roll all of April 13<sup>th</sup>'s agenda items to the following meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Glass Leighton

Seconded by: Commissioner Bruner

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Meier requested the City have a very strong communications plan for the public meeting telecommunications program.


Commissioner Glass Leighton commented on the importance of the City testing the telecommunications equipment in-house prior to using it for public meetings.

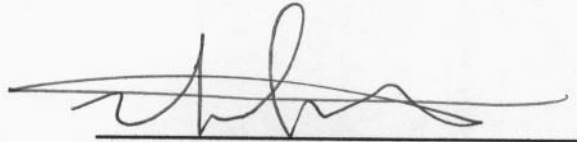
Vice Mayor Clarke inquired about curfews. City Manager clarified that curfews come from the Martin County Sherriff's Department.

Commissioner Matheson encouraged all to take the COVID-19 virus seriously.



10:34 PM ADJOURNMENT

  
Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

  
Michael J. Meier, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

