

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION**  
**HELD August 17, 2020**  
**AT 5:00 PM Commission Chambers & ZOOM**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP #3**  
**121 SW FLAGLER AVE.**  
**STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

**CITY COMMISSION**

**Mayor Michael J. Meier**  
**Vice Mayor Eula R. Clarke**  
**Commissioner Becky Bruner**  
**Commissioner Merritt Matheson**  
**Commissioner – VACANT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

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

 **5:00 PM ROLL CALL**

**THIS MEETING IS A HYBRID IN PERSON/REMOTE MEETING.**

**Statement by City Manager Dyess:**

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-69 issued by the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis on March 20, 2020, due to COVID-19, municipalities may conduct meetings of their governing boards without having a quorum of its members present physically or at any specific location and utilize communications media such as telephonic or video conferencing as provided by Florida Statute 120.54. Procedures for public comment by device; if you wish to speak during public comment, click raise hand at the bottom of the participant window. Your microphone will be unmuted when you are called on to speak. The public may choose to activate their camera if they wish. Both will be deactivated once their public comment time is completed. If attending by phone, press \*9 to raise your hand, you will be called by the last three digits of your phone number. All are asked to state their name and address clearly for the record.

During Roll Call, for the record, Dyess requested the board state whether they are present in person or attending the meeting virtually.

**Roll Call**

**Present: Mayor Meier (in person), Vice Mayor Clarke (via ZOOM), Commissioner Bruner (in person), Commissioner Matheson (in person).**

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS**

**No Comments.**

#### **COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER**

**City Manager Dyess reminded all that as we are in election season, politicking is not permitted during public meetings and public comment is to address the Commission as a whole.**

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**



**5:03 PM MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda.**

**MOVED BY: Commissioner Matheson**

**SECONDED BY: Commissioner Bruner**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**No Comments.**

#### **COMMISSION ACTION**

##### **1. EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY - COVID-19:**

**RESOLUTION No. 103-2020; 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.**



**5:04 PM MOTION: Move approval until September 28th.**

**MOVED BY: Vice Mayor Clarke**

**SECONDED BY: Commissioner Matheson**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

##### **2. FY 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP #3**

**Louis "Joly" Bolglioli, Finance Director, presented the third budget presentation, reviewing the current property tax revenues and certified information gathered from the Property Appraisers Office, the roll-back rate, the Manager's balanced budget and major revenue changes.**

### **3. FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET**

Various departments were asked to provide a brief presentation of the past years accomplishments and explain or be available for questions on their 2021 budget.

City Manager Dyess announced the Public Works Department would split and Utilities and Engineering would be added to the budget.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

David Peters, Public Works Director announced various accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 such as the completion of the septic to sewer program, multiple awards, including the prestigious Florida's Best Tasting Drinking Water and other projects and campaigns. He provided an overview of plans for FY 2021, such as complete Zone 3 of the maintenance program, replace railings, complete sidewalks, park improvements, and initiate a Public Works Master Plan.

Mayor Meier congratulated Milton Leggett for the Department split. He noted a jump in the personnel and insurance costs.

Commissioner Matheson requested clarification on the stormwater increase. Mr. Peters explained the rate increase this year is to cover the deficit for one year.

Vice Mayor Clarke requested clarification on the landfill work and monitoring. Mr. Peters commented the City has a landfill budget that provides for professional engineering services and will most likely be involved in the monitoring.

Commissioner Matheson asked about the Lennar signs and their maintenance. He asked about hurricane shutters on historical properties and suggested adding hurricane impact windows in the future. City Attorney Mortell explained the expenses and maintenance for Henny Creek. Mayor Meier suggested bringing the suggestion to the CRB, Historic Preservation Board. Mr. Dave Peters mentioned they were working on a resiliency plan.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Joe Tumminelli, Police Chief, informed the Commission that crime has been reduced in the City by 16% during the past year. It may be related to the COVID-19 but new challenges came with the pandemic as well. Various projects and agreements with the County and outreach community programs were discussed.

Mayor Meier mentioned the increases and reductions in the line items and appreciated the work Police Chief Tumminelli did to work with the City Manager to cut costs.

Discussion on specific line items on the Police Budget were discussed.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Vince Falicione, Fire Chief, commented on the new fire engine, expected January of 2021. He mentioned the challenges of running a Class 1 Rating Fire Department with a dated fleet and the last time a fire engine was purchased was 1997. He reviewed the various requested budgeted items such as ambulances and fire trucks which would increase revenue and meet our County Interlocal Agreement. He provided an overview of the services and the importance of prevention and maintenance.

A brief discussion took place about the fire training center.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Jim Chrulski, Community Services Director, began with a brief history of the department, briefly reviewed the past years accomplishments including the expansion of the athletics programs, the communications of the PIO, newsletter, legislative affairs initiative, and special events.

Discussion took place about line items and revenue source from special events and reducing the cost of pavilions rentals.

Commissioner Bruner questioned the projected time for the City to move into the new building and the cost. City Manager Dyess projected 3-5 years for the current business to move and the City to make renovations. He added he has allocated funds for the project.

Vice Mayor Clarke inquired about the Special Pay line item, children's and athletic programs, and the marquee.

Mayor Meier inquired about the renovations of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and grant funding.

#### **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Kevin Freeman, Development Director, presented by including all the duties of the department, including the three advisory boards they are responsible for, a review of the number of permits, inspections, and development applications.

Joly Boglioli, Finance Director, announced that the next step is the Tentative Millage Budget Workshop hearing. He provided an overview of the contents of the budget and Special Pay. He mentioned 4 out of 5 revenue categories are down, taxes were up 5% and this budget was the City living within our means.

Commissioner Bruner asked about the savings due to not running the trams as frequently during this time of COVID-19.

Mr. Bolglioli responded that we are in 80% of that budget. The operating expense was at 65%, behind where they should be.

Mayor Meier asked about the Downtown Business Association and requested clarification on the budgeted funds. He also feels the City should reduce the \$70,000 that is budgeted for Stuart Main Street. He commented on the need for the program to show results and new ideas for the Downtown area.

**Discussion involving the funding of Stuart Main Street funding and staff.**

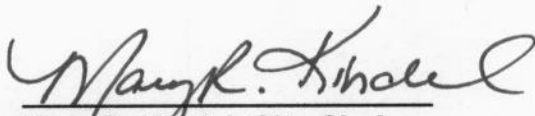
**Public Comment:**

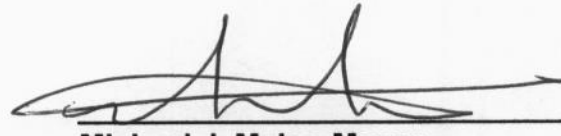
- 1) Tom Campenni – commented on the Stuart Main Street is still renting, the challenges of having events because of Covid-19, rentals, and cancelations.
- 2) Troy McDonald – commented on the importance of the Stuart Main Street program and he felt this was not the time to take away from the program.
- 3) Caryn Hall Yost-Rudge – (Via ZOOM) commented on the idea of Stuart Main Street coming back and working something out. She was thankful for the connection with everyone working together.

**Vice Mayor Clarke commented on the sidewalk problems along 14<sup>th</sup> Street from the 700 to 1100 block and asked about any plan that may be in place to keep it maintained.**

**David Peters responded that the County recently performed lot clearing, but the City does replace sidewalks frequently and makes repairs as necessary.**

 **7:11 PM ADJOURNMENT:**

  
**Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk**

  
**Michael J. Meier, Mayor**

**Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.**

