

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
HELD July 29, 2021
AT 4:30 PM Commission Chambers - BUDGET WORKSHOP #2
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Eula R. Clarke

Vice Mayor Merritt Matheson

Commissioner Becky Bruner

Commissioner Troy McDonald

Commissioner Mike Meier

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Manager, David Dyess

City Attorney, Michael J. Mortell

City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Lieutenant Shine



4:32 PM ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Eula Clarke, Merritt Matheson, Becky Bruner, Troy McDonald, and Mike Meier

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Vice Mayor Matheson


- Commented on the timing of the budget meetings and proposed to have them earlier in the year. Feels it would be beneficial to have two workshops closer together.

Mayor Clarke

- Commented on proposed new holidays as other communities seem to be adopting them, Emancipation and Juneteenth Day, and stated she has talked with the City Manager about offering one or both as a floating holiday.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

 **4:37 PM MOTION: Move for approval of the Agenda.**
MOVED BY: Commissioner McDonald
SECOND BY: Commissioner Meier
Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 Minutes Max)


COMMISSION ACTION

1. FY2022 BUDGET FOR REVIEW

City Manager David Dyess presented Stuart's FY2022 Plan, reporting on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the four support funding objectives, identifying Stuart's projected allocation and eligible uses. Recommendation of the millage rate to remain at 5.000, information on health insurance rate increases and shared cost, a 3% cost of living increase and 2% merit increase, the increase in pay ranges in relation to minimum wage increases, and the added Juneteenth Optional Holiday for employees for a total of 12 paid holidays annually.

Commissioners discussed millage rate and increases. Dyess stated that there is a proposed 13 position increase, positions identified.

Specific departments were invited before the Commission for budget review:

 **5:09 PM**

Police Dept. – Chief Tumminelli

- Reviewed the changes to his FY22 Budget discussing the Tyler System, the increase in fuel costs, purchase of five (5) hybrid vehicles in place of the current Enterprise lease program.
- Informed Commission that he is moving toward a paperless system and reported his total requested budget.

Public Comment:

- 1) Helen McBride – Flamingo Ave; Commented on fireworks and speeders and feels we do not have enough police officers and it takes training.
- 2) Mark Brechbill – Osceola St; Commented on the Police budget would like to see money allocated to mental health resources to police and fire in place of Covid supplies.

City Manager Dyess confirmed that the County will no longer engage with the City's Interlocal Agreement to provide fire services north of the bridge and the City will then service north of the bridge for Fire Rescue. The City will service our jurisdiction for both Police and Fire. Police Chief confirmed that he feels he has an adequate number of Police officers on staff.

Commissioner Meier requested an explanation of the various funds.

Joly Boglioli, Finance Director clarified the codes that identify the departments.



5:35 PM

Fire Dept. - Vince Felicione, Fire Chief and Troy Bowser, Operations Chief

- Presented beginning with information on the new building, explaining that it is key for operations locations backing up the City, hosting trucks and a direct Covid, noting there is not another Class 1 Fire Dept. that run 25-year-old fire engines.

McDonald asked if the County was going to do their own dispatch and if the City would be doing their own dispatch.

Felicione responded stating that as of right now things would be staying the same and, in the future, if things were to change it would be a discussion between County and City Manager.



5:59 PM

Public Works Dept. - Milton Leggett, Public Works Director

- Briefly discussed the new positions requested in his budget.
- Spoke about different projects going on throughout the City.

Commissioner Meier asked about the Public Works Complex.

City Manager Dyess stated that the cost estimate came in much higher than what we thought or had in the rate study. This upcoming FY there will be a new rate study and dependent on that rate study then they will see if they want to move forward with the new facility.



6:10 PM

Utilities and Engineering Dept - Tim Voelker, Utilities & Engineering Director

- Briefly discussed the three (3) new positions requested in his budget and the reasons they are needed. Several members of their workforce will soon be retiring so they are looking to bring in new people. They have been going to the schools to promote utility careers.
- Commented that this was the last year for the “sign up and save” promotion on the sewer expansion program so that is expected to slow down.
- Discussed that they checked into an electric Side Loader Garbage Truck and passed around a catalog for the Commissioners to review.

Commissioner Meier asked if Joly could explain what the debt proceeds are to the grant plan.

Finance Director Joly Boglioli stated that there was a proposal to borrow money in the stormwater funds line. Further discussed the plan.

- Mr. Voelker gave an update of the Alternative Water Supply. Will know the cost and funding on August 11, 2021.



6:30 PM

Development Dept - Kevin Freeman, Development Director and Pinal Ghandi-Savdas, CRA Administrator,

- Mr. Freeman stated the busy year the department has had and discussed the number of permits coming through, the amount of money in private investing in our City.
- Mr. Freeman briefly discussed the new position requested in his budget and the reasons it is needed.

Commissioner Meier commented that he feels that there is a need for an extra person in the engineering department due to several issues the City has had (Osprey Park & Hotel).

Mr. Freeman stated he does not think there is a need of extra personnel just working with other departments like Neighboring Services.

- Pinal commented that she works closely with Public Works and the position would also benefit the CRA as well.
- Increase in TIFF revenue, reviewed accomplishments in 2021.
- Reviewed future projects/improvements - Tree program, MLK Street design, East Stuart, and the Creek District.

Mayor Clarke asked Mr. Freeman if they had reached out to the new developers that are building and the County to see if we can assist in doing transportation stops.

City Manager Dyess answered that County is open for us to submit to them where the City would like to see these stops at, but the County currently does not have any funds to implement these stops.

The Commission discussed Form Based Code and what other locations they think would be good areas to do it.



7:01 PM MOTION: Motion not to exceed millage of 5.0.

MOVED BY: Commissioner Meier

SECOND BY: Commissioner McDonald

Motion passed unanimously.


Mayor Clarke questioned a package from Ms. Rudge and if it can be brought to the second meeting in August. Mortell has informed her that there is no actual pending lawsuits.

Attorney Mortell clarified his conversation with the Mayor stating that the question was not an actual authorization or hearing instead it was to have discussion and deliberation and give the commission history or timeline on what occurred. The question is if the commission would like to hear it.


Commission discussed what they would like to do.

Public Comment:

- 1) Caryn Hall Yost Rudge – Palm City Rd; Thanked Vice Mayor Matheson in regard to bringing up the Commissioner pay increase, noted people were upset about the timing and amount. Commented the case is open and there is pending litigation, she is angry, called the Attorney a liar and walked out.

 **7:07 PM**

Vice Mayor Matheson stated he would like to set up a River Defense Fund. Commissioners, City Manager, City Attorney and Finance Director discussed what would happen with this fund if not used at the end of year. Matheson was asked to bring something back next Budget Meeting with more definition.


 **7:26 PM**

Commissioner Bruner brought up her request to contribute \$50,000.00 to the Martin County Arts Council and read some information in support of the Council and building. She asked Nancy Turrell, Executive Director of the Martin County Arts Council to attend tonight's meeting in the event Commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Bruner read how this project will enhance the quality of our community.

Ms. Turrell came forward to share information about the Arts Council, immediate need is to raise the rest of the funds for renovations. If unable to contribute now, the need will be available in the future.

Public Comment:

- 1) Helen McBride – Flamingo Ave; Agrees with the donation to the Martin County Arts Council.

 **7:38 PM MOTION: At our next meeting, to find \$50,000 for us to get the funds between now and December.**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Bruner

SECOND BY: -----

Motion dies for lack of second.

 **7:40 PM MOTION: Make a motion that we have the funds.**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Bruner

SECONDED BY: ----

Motion withdrawn at 7:47 PM.

Vice Mayor Matheson commented that right now for the City to get involved, there are too many unknowns. Noted, the School Board owns the building and is hesitant for the City to donate at this time, two, there is a wide range of what can be done to the building.

Mayor Clarke noted her love for the arts but agrees that this may not be something they can support at this time.

Commissioner Meier commented that he agrees that it is a great historic building, but he is most interested in it spurring more revitalization on that corridor, perhaps a future CRA project.



7:47 PM Motion withdrawn by Commissioner Bruner.

Commissioners discussed and voiced their concerns with providing the money in this project as is right now.

Public Comment:

- 1) Mark Brechbill – Osceola St; Improvements on Colorado Avenue Stuart Mainstreet has helped to raise revenue in the City for years. Continue to be a resource to the City, they are not a cost but a benefit.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION



7:54 PM ADJOURNMENT

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Eula R. Clarke, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 23rd day of August, 2021.