MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP #2
OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
AUGUST 26, 2024
AT 3:00 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

Vice Mayor Campbell Rich
Commissioner Eula R. Clarke
Commissioner Christopher Collins
Commissioner Laura Giobbi
Commissioner Sean Reed

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Manager, Michael J. Mortell
City Attorney, Lee J. Baggett
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

ROLL CALL

3:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Rich, Commissioner Clarke, Commissioner Collins, Commissioner Giobbi, Commissioner Reed

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. OATH OF OFFICE - LAURA GIOBBI, GROUP II AND SEAN REED, GROUP IV

City Attorney Baggett gave the Oath of Office to new Commissioners, Laura Giobbi, Group II and Sean Reed, Group IV.

PRESENTATIONS

2. PRESENTATION OF FY2025 BUDGET

City Manager Mortell provided a brief introduction of the presentation and the Finance Director, Louis "Joly" Boglioli.

Joly Boglioli presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Recommended Operating Budget.

Commissioner Reed stated his concern about $800,000 for Brightline. City Manager Mortell informed the Commissioners that it is not necessarily in the budget to be spent, but

as a holding for the design project. In the event the money is not spent on Brightline, it may be held in reserve or carried over to next year. Mr. Boglioli further added that some grants require the entity to have the funds on paper.

Commissioner Giobbi requested information on professional services. City Manager Mortell provided details on the professional services referred to in the budget.

Commissioner Clarke asked if we are still to remain at 5 millage rate. Mr. Boglioli confirmed.

Commissioner Collins asked for clarification on the sections, their numbers and what they mean, as well as information on fleet vehicles. Mr. Boglioli explained that the state issues the budget accounts and numbers and what they apply to, specifically 58581 and 582. Commented on the new FTE's (full-time employees) for the Fire Department and police fleet vehicles. Asked if there has been a conversation regarding an Environmental Attorney and requested to reserve $200,000 or $300,000 for the position and a paralegal.

Mayor Rich commented that he prefers to set up a Discussion and Deliberation on the subject. Feels this is disrespectful to Attorney Baggett, and further stated that the City's attorney understands the fight for clean water. He commented that he is not interested in pursuing an Environmental Attorney and does not see the need but is open to it if a need ever arises.

Commissioner Giobbi commented that this has nothing to do with the current City Attorney, but he has a full-time job with city business, and feels that perhaps hiring an Environmental Attorney should be brought up for discussion.

City Manager Mortell agreed to bring something back for discussion.

Commissioner Giobbi asked about the City's recourse if the County went along with the new agreement. City Manager Mortell stated he would defer to the City Attorney and bring it back to a Commission Meeting for discussion.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3:59 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Christopher Collins
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (Non-Agenda Related) (3 Minutes Max.)

1. Valerie Jones - Vero Beach; Question about Sunset Bay Marina.

ADJOURNMENT

4:00 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Campbell Rich, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 9th day of September, 2024.