MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 9, 2026
AT 4:00 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

Interim City Manager, Roz Johnson Strong
City Attorney, Lee J. Baggett
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

ROLL CALL

4:01 PM

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

INVOCATION

Chaplain Ed Skiba, Stuart Police Department, gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ARTS MOMENT - CRAIG ANDERSON, PERFORMANCE OF SONG ABOUT STUART

Craig Anderson played the guitar and sang a song about Stuart.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH - JANUARY

Lynn Barletta, CEO & Founder of Florida Faith Alliance, accepted the Proclamation and announced statistics. Members of FFFA reported additional information.

3. 211 AWARENESS MONTH - FEBRUARY

Chad Adcock, Outreach Coordinator for 211, accepted the Proclamation and provided information on their program and services.

4. ENGINEERING WEEK — FEBRUARY 22 - 28, 2026

Christopher Smyth, Florida Engineering Society Member of the Treasure Coast, accepted the Proclamation and provided information on the Engineering profession.

PRESENTATIONS

5. SERVICE AWARDS - FEBRUARY 2026

Vincent Taylor	Utilities & Engineering	5 years
Dwayne Thomas	Fire Rescue	5 years
Olga Rockwell	Utilities & Engineering	5 years (Not Present)
Leroy Rodrigue	Fire Rescue	5 years
Martin Meehan	Utilities & Engineering	10 years (Not Present)

6. PRESENTATION BY MAJOR COREY BELL, ARMY CORP.

Ruth Holmes, Environmental Engineer, briefly introduced the presentation and the presenter, Major Corey Bell of the Army Corp, Deputy Commander for South Florida. The presentation included an update on the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, a Comprehensive Study, Indian River Lagoon and Central Everglades Planning Project. In addition, he reviewed LOSOM Lake Recovery Operations, current conditions and the C44 and C43 Canal Operational Plan.

There was a brief discussion between the Commission and Major Bell. Mayor Collins requested the Commission consider submitting a one-year extension request for Major Bell to remain in his current roll. Major Bell noted if the Commission wished to proceed, the request would need to be submitted promptly, as he will soon be confirmed in his new position for the upcoming year. The majority of the Commission agreed to submit the request, with Commissioner Rich opposing. Commissioner Rich felt it is not the City's place to advise other entities on their business practices and decisions. A letter is to be sent to the same recipient who received the prior extension request.

7. HALF CENT SALES TAX SPENDING GUIDELINES

Ruth Holmes, Environmental Attorney, presented the "guardrails" for the use of the half cent sales tax, providing a list of how the City can spend the funds. Explained that municipalities have broader guardrails and she identified the parameters in Section 2 of Page 3 of the referendum, "Municipalities may only spend their share of the surtax revenues to finance, plan, and construct infrastructure and to acquire land for public recreation, conservation, or protection of natural resources in accordance with Section 212.055(2) F.S." Evaluation criteria examples were provided for the Commission's review.

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rich

- Expressed concerns related to the recent and abrupt resignation of the Finance Director, an overreach of the Commission per the Code of Conduct, recapped a series of recent events, and noted that at a future meeting, he would motion for the City Attorney to conduct an investigation of the events and actions pertaining to Mr. Joly Boglioli and current Interim City Manager, Roz Johnson Strong. [Mayor Collins responded to Rich's comments, clarified that Mr. Boglioli retired and was not

terminated.]

Commissioner Giobbi

- Reported on the success of the Arts Fest.
- Commented on the concerns of Commissioner Rich and how he portrayed the City in a negative way.

Commissioner Clarke

- Commented that she has a meeting scheduled with Bonnie Moser and appreciates her assistance in helping the community.

Vice-Mayor Reed

- Offered his condolences to the McBride Family.
- Commented that the information Commissioner Rich stated was untrue and noted information about the past City Manager.

Commissioner Giobbi (added a comment)

- Complimented the Stuart Police Department and the response to the shooting on Tarpon Avenue. [See correction on Page 4, Public Comment #6]

Mayor Collins

- Requested that the City Attorney bring forward a D&D to discuss the required parking for the courthouse and how many spaces are on site versus what Brightline requires, and a breakdown of what the parking implications of Brightline parking coming in will look like.
- Commented on the FEC application for the new rail bridge; wondered why the City is spending $174,000 per year to lease parking spaces and railroad crossings from the FEC. Interested in a future D&D for staff to bring back the next step in the grant process and look into renegotiating the lease with FEC.
- Interested in hosting a slow growth Town Hall.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

Roz Johnson Strong, Interim City Manager

- Provided an update on the bridge grant, FDOT, FEC, and Brightline, $262 Million project with an expected start date of October 27th, 2026 and conclude in 2032. Provided the dimensions of the new bridge for public awareness.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5:31 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously.

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

1. Kevin Hemple - Stuart; Commented that he is happy living in the City.
2. Robert MacKeen - Stuart; Marine Industry representative, complimented the City and provided information on the boat show, commented on proposed solutions for traffic in the future.
3. Caryn Hall - Stuart; Commented on the D&D at the last meeting, referred to Seat 5, noted that their case is open, and they are defendants, asked the City Attorney if he would attend.
4. Gail Goldy - Stuart; Expressed gratitude to the Commissioners, commented on the intent of one of the Commissioners with his comments.
5. Bonnie Moser - Stuart; Commented on concerns about the MPO 714 Railroad Feasibility Study and the three alternatives; not in agreement with the first two concepts and asked the Commission not to support them. Requested the Commission to support the third alternative. (Presentation request)
6. Gwendolyn Hall-Brinkley - Stuart; Corrected Commissioner Giobbi that the shooting was not on Tarpon. [Chief reported that there was a shooting on Riverside, isolated, no one was shot. No recent shooting on Tarpon Avenue.]

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

8. APPROVAL OF 01/26/2026 SCM ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION AND 01/26/2026 CCM MEETING MINUTES

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

5:49 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

9. CITY MANAGER SCREENING COMMITTEE SELECTION & MEETING DATE (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 07-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A CITY MANAGER SCREENING COMMITTEE, IDENTIFYING PARTICIPANTS, AND SCHEDULING A DATE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MEET; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Interim City Manager Strong Johnson provided the details of the applicants and her plan for a Special Commission Meeting on Friday, February 13th.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Kim McHardy Grant - Stuart; Clarified the process of selecting the City Manager.
2. Gail Goldy - Stuart; Expressed that a minimum requirement and a criteria is necessary for the process of elimination.
3. Cherie White - Jensen Beach; Commented that an alternate candidate for City Manager should be selected to be prepared if an offer is declined.

Interim City Manager Strong Johnson provided a timeline of the entire course of selecting a City Manager. [Commissioners confirmed availability for dates and times to meet.]

6:04 PM MOTION: Approve the Committee staff to review the applications for the City Manager, Vice Mayor Sean Reed, Human Resources, Karen Chambers-Cuffy, Robin Cartwright, Dan Hudson, Ryanne Cavo (background) on February 13th at 10 a.m.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

10. 2025 MARTIN COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 13-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE 2025 MARTIN COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Police Chief Zenelovic briefly explained the renewal agreement.

6:19 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Eula Clarke
Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

11. CODE AMENDMENT ADDING LANGUAGE RELATED TO REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION (RC):

ORDINANCE No. 2547-2026; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 8.07.07 OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE IN COMPLIANCE WITH RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION, SENATE BILL 954; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, provided the history and updated the Commission on the proposed edits recommended at First Reading.

6:22 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Eula Clarke
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously.

12. DISSOLUTION OF EAST STUART HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (RC):

ORDINANCE No. 2548-2026; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AMENDING PART II, CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE III. – BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS, DIVISION I, SECTION 2-28 AND DIVISION 7 EAST STUART HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SECTIONS 2-118 THROUGH 2-121, OF THE CITY OF STUART'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY REMOVING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE EAST STUART HISTORICAL COMMITTEE DUE TO DISSOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Attorney Baggett briefly reviewed the Ordinance.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas commented that there is a Neighborhood Meeting in March, where Mr. Paul Weaver, President of Historic Property Associates, Inc., will be coming to Stuart to present.

6:32 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Sean Reed
Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

None.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

13. COMMUNICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT STUDY FOR THE WILLOUGHBY BOULEVARD EXTENSION

City Attorney Baggett reviewed the options for the project.

Commissioner's consensus is a no-build letter to both the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mark Bellissimo - Stuart; Commented on the concept of the project not working as planned and because we have taxpayer's dollars, it does not mean we have to spend them.
2. Luke Latham- Stuart; Commented on the outcome of this project if it goes through and expressed his disagreement.

6:51 PM MOTION: Approve a letter to MPO and FDOT regarding the Willoughby Extension. The majority of residents would like the no-build Option 3, and drawing from some of our public comments that it would be the City's position that we are choosing Option 3.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Sean Reed
Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

6:58 PM

Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Christopher Collins, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 23rd day of February, 2026.