MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
AT 4:00 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 SW FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Eula R. Clarke
Commissioner Laura Giobbi
Commissioner Merritt Matheson
Commissioner Sean Reed
Commissioner Campbell Rich

ADMINISTRATIVE

Interim City Manager, Jim Chrulski
City Attorney, Lee J. Baggett
City Clerk, Mary R. Kindel

ROLL CALL

4:15 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Clarke, Commissioner Giobbi, Commissioner Matheson, Commissioner Reed, and Commissioner Rich

INVOCATION

Chaplain Edward Skiba, City of Stuart Police Department, delivered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ARTS MOMENT - THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY REVEREND DR. DEBORAH ALLEN

Rev. Dr. Deborah C. Allen, song performance of the National Anthem.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. PATRIOT DAY & DAY OF SERVICE REMEMBRANCE - SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Followed by the Color Guard, Vince Felicione, Fire Chief, and Flamur Zenelovic, Chief of Police, were presented with the Proclamation and provided statistics from the historic terrorist attacks; commented on the local bridge walk that was held last Friday in honor of the brave men and women who lost their lives.

3. HUNGER ACTION MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2026

Tatiana Rousseau, Hunger Action Month Committee Member on behalf of Treasure Coast Food Bank was presented the Proclamation and provided bags to each Commissioner.

4. HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH — SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2026

Eddie Mercado, Founder of EME Media & Marketing was issued the Proclamation and announced some upcoming Hispanic heritage events.

PRESENTATIONS

5. SEPTEMBER SERVICE AWARDS

Angel DeLeon Utilities and Engineering 25 years (ARRIVED LATE)

COMMENTS BY CITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Matheson

- Commented on the bridge walk in honor of 9/11 remembrance, reflected on how such events make the community come together; looks forward to working together with fellow commissioners, staff, County, organizations, and apologized for past offenses. Noted that, at the end of the day, it is all for the Country.
- Suggested Moving Item #14 prior to the Commission Action.

Interim City Manager Chrulski announced that the presenter for Item #14 had a family emergency and would not be present.

4:41 PM MOTION: Postpone Ordinance 2552-2026 indefinitely.
MADE BY: Campbell Rich
SECONDED: None
MOTION DIED FOR A LACK OF SECOND.

4:45 PM MOTION: Ordinance 2552-2026 be postponed to a date in the future to be determined when the Development Department can address it.
4:54 PM AMEND MOTION: Agenda Items #8, #9, and #14, be postponed to October 26th.
4:58 FINAL AMENDED MOTION: Table Agenda Items #8 and #9 to a date certain of October 12th and Item #14 be heard for discussion for participation of the Community before Commission Action and the vote continued to October 12th.
MADE BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED: Sean Reed
Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Clarke

- Announced events:
  - Constitution Week, September 17th, at Blake Library and stated she will be in the 5th Grade at JD Parker Elem.
  - Port Mayaka Cemetery, for the storm of 1928, is being held on September 16th at 10 a.m., on Kanner Highway at the border of Palm Beach and Martin County.
  - Groundbreaking at 1900 SW Citrus Boulevard, on September 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

ribbon cutting for a new Martin County Fair Grounds.

Angel DeLeon arrived and accepted his Service Award for 25 years.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

Jim Chrulski, Interim City Manager

- Thanked the Commissioners and staff for their support as Interim City Manager.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5:07 PM MOTION: Approve to table Agenda Items #8 and #9 to a date certain of October 12th and Item #14 be heard for discussion for participation of the Community before Commission Action and the vote continued to October 12th, an add to the end of the agenda the delay of going before the ELOC board until the properties are prioritized.
MOVED BY: Merritt Matheson
SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich
Motion approved unanimously.

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

1. Albert Brinkley - Stuart; Commented on the parking aspect in reference to his comment during the 3 p.m. CRA Meeting; noted the visual obstructions on Martin Luther King and Georgia.

***** 5:16 PM RECESS *****
***** 7:07 PM RECONVENED *****

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

6. APPROVAL OF 08/17/2026 SCM MINUTES AND 8/24/2026 CCM MINUTES (RC)

***** PULLED ITEM #7 *****

7. DECLARATION OF 2026 ELECTION RESULTS (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 74-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA CONFIRMING THE RESULTS OF THE 2026 REGULAR PRIMARY MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR THE CITY COMMISSION GROUP II AND GROUP IV; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Giobbi gave her explanation of moving the items other than minutes out of the Consent Calendar.

7:08 PM MOTION: Approve to move Item #7 after the approval of the Consent Calendar.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Merritt Matheson
Motion approved unanimously.

7:14 PM MOTION: Approve Consent Calendar Item #6.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich
Motion approved unanimously.

***** ITEM #7 MOVED AND WAS HEARD AFTER CONSENT CALENDAR *****

7. DECLARATION OF 2026 ELECTION RESULTS (RC):

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA CONFIRMING THE RESULTS OF THE 2026 REGULAR PRIMARY MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR THE CITY COMMISSION GROUP II AND GROUP IV; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

7:15 PM MOTION: Approve with correction to title of changing Group II and IV to Group I, III and V.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Merritt Matheson
Motion approved unanimously.

***** ORDINANCE MOVED FROM LAST ITEM TO BE HEARD BEFORE RESOLUTIONS *****

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

14. BACKYARD CHICKENS IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS (RC): **(ITEM TABLED FROM JUNE 22, 2026)**

ORDINANCE No. 2552-2026; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE CHAPTER II – ZONING DISTRICTS USES ALLOWED, DENSITY, INTENSITY, SECTION 2.06.00. – SUPPLEMENTAL USE STANDARDS TO ADD A NEW SECTION 2.06.24. BACKYARD CHICKENS IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS AND TO AMEND THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 8 – ANIMALS, ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL, SECTION 8.2. – LIVESTOCK PROHIBITED IN THE STUART'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY REMOVING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO ALLOW BACKYARD CHICKENS IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Lee Baggett, City Attorney, noted that Second Reading was heard on June 22, 2026.

Commissioner Reed proposed a 7-foot-tall coop should be permitted, all residential zoning, and a pilot program for 1-year.

Commissioner Matheson stated he does not support them for duplexes; supports staff to do a survey of the general public using email addresses on file in the City for multiple rounds to collect data.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Samantha Smith - Stuart; Commented on the Oath of Commissioners, Ordinance 2552-2026, policy handout referred to Sec 8.2; inquired about enforcement, projected additional workload.
2. Amber D'Angelo - Palm City; Interested in the approval of the Ordinance in hopes that Martin County would follow, felt this would build back trust.
3. Clay Scherer - Stuart; Commented that it is a non-issue, encouraged the Board to move on to more important issues.
4. Will Laughlin - Stuart; Commented on the setbacks, the code enforcement position is not necessary due to permit revenues.
5. Dayne Oldenborg - Stuart; Not in favor of additional code enforcement officers.
6. Althea Whiley - Stuart; Commented that raising chickens is more for Palm City, place and time for everything, our distinctive character would be diminished.

Commissioners' discussion included the survey, noise, a plan is needed, a pilot program, survey questions (limited to city addresses weighing in on the survey questions).

Commissioner Reed summarized the Commissioner's requests: 7-foot-high coops, survey, non-duplexes, homesteaded property, pictures for the permit process, and the survey language to come back to the September 28th City Commission Meeting. [Commissioner Matheson relayed the questions he would suggest be on the survey.]

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONT.):

7. Samantha Smith - Stuart; In favor of the survey, thanked Commissioner Matheson, stated that chickens are often re-homed and released to our neighboring counties, and suggested the survey be sent to constituents that do not have computer access.

8:06 PM MOTION - To have a survey with questions brought back to the Commission on September 28th, including first question, "Do you support backyard chickens with 3 to 4 bullet points? with an education to the public on the Ordinance; second question, "If allowed, would you acquire backyard chickens?"; third question, "Area for comments with the amendments to the Ordinance, no duplexes, homesteaded properties, and seven-foot-high coop." and consideration of where the chickens will go.
MOVED BY: Merritt Matheson
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously.

COMMISSION ACTION

8. DEED OF DEDICATION - 300 SW DIXIE HWY - T2A HOLDINGS (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 53-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF

THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING A DEED OF DEDICATION FROM T2A HOLDINGS LLC FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY AND SIDEWALK PURPOSES ALONG SW DIXIE HIGHWAY; PROVIDING FOR PARKING RELIEF AND ZONING AND LAND USE CALCULATION CREDIT, AND A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION LICENSE; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND RECORDATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

***** POSTPONED TO DATE CERTAIN Of 10/12/2026 CITY COMMISSION MEETING *****

9. DEED OF DEDICATION - 310 SW DIXIE HWY - MISHERDAN LLP (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 54-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING A DEED OF DEDICATION FROM MISHERDAN LLP FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY AND SIDEWALK PURPOSES ALONG SW DIXIE HIGHWAY; PROVIDING FOR PARKING RELIEF AND ZONING AND LAND USE CALCULATION CREDIT, AND A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION LICENSE; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND RECORDATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

***** POSTPONED TO DATE CERTAIN OF 10/12/2026 CITY COMMISSION MEETING *****

10. AMENDMENT OF THE ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL STUART BOAT SHOW (2027) (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 58-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 44-2026 TO REVISE THE ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 53rd ANNUAL STUART BOAT SHOW; AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FROM 5:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2027, THROUGH 11:59 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2027, ALONG NW DIXIE HIGHWAY (FORMERLY SR 707) FROM SW ALBANY AVENUE SOUTH OF THE OLD ROOSEVELT BRIDGE TO NW POINSETTIA STREET TO INCLUDE THE FEC RAILROAD CROSSING OFF NW FERN STREET AND NW DIXIE HIGHWAY, NORTH OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER DRAW BRIDGE, SUBJECT TO FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Robert Mac Keen, Maritime Consultant, explained the extended road closure request. Stuart Police Lieutenant Reddick provided information on the traffic control plan while Jessica Tharp, Community Services Program Leader, reviewed the permit process.

Commissioners discussed a longer lease term, parking and traffic control. [Ms. Tharp provided the City's process for road closure approval, event process and requirements.]

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Gail Goldy - Stuart; Supportive of the Boat Show and thanked the Police Chief for his communication with her about the traffic last year.
2. Dan Romence - Stuart; President of the Boat Show, thanked the City for their patience as the annual event continues to grow.

8:12 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Campbell Rich
Motion approved unanimously. 8:32 PM

11. RATIFICATION OF LPA ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 73-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, RATIFYING THE ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT OF A LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY BOARD MEMBER, FULFILLING VACANCIES ON THE BOARD FOR THE 2026 TERM YEAR, EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2026; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

8:33 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Sean Reed
SECONDED BY: Laura Giobbi
Motion approved unanimously.

12. HAZEN & SAWYER CONTRACT FOR SURFACE AND WATER RESOURCES EVALUATION (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 67-2025; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HAZEN AND SAWYER; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Ruth Holmes, Environmental Attorney, reported on the Resolution.

8:43 PM MOTION: Approve Resolution No. 67-2026.
MOVED BY: Laura Giobbi
SECONDED BY: Sean Reed
Motion approved unanimously.

13. APPENDIX A UPDATE (RC):

RESOLUTION No. 62-2026; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA ADOPTING TYPES, FEES, RATES AND CHARGES AS APPENDIX "A" TO THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS PROVIDED AND PERMITTED IN VARIOUS CHAPTERS OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Reed questioned whether studies were done for the fees in Appendix A, referred to permit fees for water heaters and tree removal. [Building Official Lou Hatten explained the tree removal requirement, and the differences in water heater permit fees.]

Commissioners continued questions regarding event permits. [Jessica Tharp, Community Services Program Leader, explained permit process and fees for events.]

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mark Brechbill - Stuart; Commented that not everyone is computer-literate, some fees should be available to pay without a computer, noted the restrictions on new businesses starting up.

8:49 PM MOTION: Approve.
MOVED BY: Campbell Rich
SECONDED BY: Merritt Matheson
Motion approved unanimously. 9:07 PM

ORDINANCE FIRST READING

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

Commissioner Rich requested to pull back the City going before the Environmental Land Oversight Committee (ELOC) of Martin County, so the City can rank the potential properties to acquire in the City ourselves, and have our own ELOC Committee.

Discussion included attending the Martin County ELOC meeting this Thursday, expectations of the board, the parcels in Avonlea and ranking of properties.

9:10 PM MOTION: Approve to pull back the City going before the Environmental Land Oversight Committee (ELOC) of Martin County so that we can rank the potential properties themselves and instruct City Attorney Baggett to contact Martin County to postpone the next meeting.
MOVED BY: Campbell Rich
SECONDED BY: Merritt Matheson
VOTE: Motion passed 4/1.
YES: Eula Clarke, Campbell Rich, Laura Giobbi, Merritt Matheson
NO: Sean Reed

City Attorney Baggett briefly reviewed the City Manager contract for Mr. Michael Mortell, anticipated start date to be September 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

9:36 PM

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Mary R. Kindel, City Clerk

Eula R. Clarke, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting this 28th day of September, 2026.