

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION
HELD ON APRIL 20, 2011
AT 4:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 S.W. FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

**Mayor Jeffrey Krauskopf
Vice Mayor James Christie Jr.
Commissioner Michael Mortell
Commissioner Eula R. Clarke
Commissioner Troy A. McDonald**

**Also in attendance were:
City Manager Dan Hudson
City Attorney Paul J. Nicoletti
City Clerk Cheryl White (absent)
Deputy City Clerk Alice Lyons**

Mayor Krauskopf delivered the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Commission.

DISCUSSION & DELIBERATION

Mid-Year Budgetary Review

Dottie Zaharako, Financial Services Director gave a brief overview of the Mid-Year Budget status. She noted that attached to the report was a summary of revenues and expenditures to date. She stated the outlook is generally positive however, there is an anticipated revenue shortage that has been projected to year-end, but highly possible the City will be able to recoup that shortage by the end of the year, with a net amount of \$183,000.00.

City Manager Hudson explained that the City looks at the mid-year review to see if anything is going on that is popping up that we need to address through fiscal policy or next year's budget. He said the two items the City has focused on are the revenue changes.

Mayor Krauskopf asked if the net difference of the \$183,000.00, is that going to be accomplished through O&M or Capital or a combination of both?

Dottie Zaharako stated "The City does not have much capital in the budget so, it is going to be primarily from O&M. Then there are some other categories of revenues that should help to contribute to that. We have not specifically gone out and asked the Department heads and asked for specific amounts yet but, I know there are some areas of expenditures that are not going to be spent this year."

Commissioner McDonald asked that with the price of oil going back up will that help increase those franchise fees and help offset that a little bit, the decrease?

Dottie Zaharako stated that it could, but the issue that the city has is a timing problem with FPL with generally a four month lag to the positive side, and a four month lag to the negative side. When the oil prices increase, and usage declines, FPL goes to the Public Service Commission to ask for a power cost adjustment, that passes the increase in oil back onto the consumers, and that goes into the calculation of the net income, so there is a direct correlation in our Franchise Fees, for that. The problem is, they lag a few months behind, and we may be well into the year or following year before we see that.

Vice Mayor Christie asked about the half cent sales tax.

Dottie Zaharako and the City Manager noted that that has improved the situation slightly, and enough to make note of here.

Fiscal Policy FY 2012

Dottie Zaharako gave a brief overview of the proposed Fiscal Policy, and noted minor changes to the policy.

City Manager Hudson explained that the Fiscal Policy is a Charter requirement, and updated from year to year. He recommended approval of the policy.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCDONALD: MOVED APPROVAL OF THE 2012
FISCAL POLICY WITH CHANGES AS AMENDED
SECOND: COMMISSIONER MORTELL

Mayor Krauskopf asked that when the CAFR was presented it was noted there were changes to the property management fund, he asked if those changes have been incorporated into this document.

Dottie Zaharako said yes they have. She noted that where it will be seen is in the presentation of the fund balance of the property management fund, as opposed to the general fund, "Which is what I usually present to you at the meetings." She also noted that the commitment of the repayment from the property management fund to the general fund, and that change was in the fiscal policy, under the leased property.

Commissioner Clarke asked about the name change of the Financial Services Director.

The City Manager noted the change has already been made in the code and this brings it in uniformity to the entire document.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

FY 2012 Budgetary Issues and Consideration

City Manager Hudson gave a visual presentation to the Commission. He explained that the budget process has begun earlier because of the economy, and because of this we have had to make predictions and forecast, about what we think the budget will be looking at. He announced that 17 people have announced their retirement with the last incentive package offered to those who qualify for early retirement separation. He also stated they have been contacted by Martin County to participate with their clinic. There are still a lot of details to work out and we do believe there is a savings there. He asked the City Commission to consider a partial cost of living of roughly 3% in combination with a one-time merit bonus of \$500.00 per employee. He also stated that with the pension reform will benefit the City of Stuart in the amount estimated to be \$463,000.00. This is offset by employee contributions. He recommended implementing the three furlough days again next year. He stated it worked well, and there were no complaints from anyone regarding the City closure on those three Federal Holidays. Employees do not get paid for those days, but they do get the day off. He also is recommending consider using the hurricane FEMA 2005 reserve to balance the budget. He presented a printout of concessions that employees have made over the years. He asked the Commission to discuss possible workshop dates.

Mayor Krauskopf said that to date the budget for next year looks healthy.

Dottie Zaharako suggested holding the first budget workshop on May 16, 2011.

Mayor Krauskopf suggested Monday May 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

City Manager Hudson suggested holding a morning workshop on May 23, 2011 the same day as the regular Commission meeting.

The Commission agreed to hold a joint workshop between the City Commission and Community Redevelopment Agency on May 23, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner McDonald asked if the pension reform change affects the employees pockets or will it be deducted from their paychecks.

City Manager Hudson explained that legislation is still up in the air and they are still in session. He explained that it does ultimately come out of employees pockets, July 1, 2011, and would be out of their current pay. \

Commissioner McDonald calculated approximately \$2000.00 average per employee and that the City needs to take into consideration through our budget process and have sensitivity to that as well.

City Manager Hudson reminded the public and Commission that the Chamber of Commerce did make an overture that there be a referendum to support inlet dredging through the half cent sales tax. He was unaware of any commitment by Martin County to date.

Commissioner Mortell also stated that the Florida Inland Navigation District is talking about stepping up to the plate and making it be in charge of inlet dredging, and then actually having its own taxing authority for that purpose.

City Manager Hudson stated that would be a good thing.

Commissioner McDonald asked if the current sales tax expiring at the end of the year?

City Manager Hudson said yes in December. We get ½ cent that we can use for anything and then we have a capital only usage ending in December.

Mayor Krauskopf explained the process of how the City receives the tax money from the state.

Commissioner Mortell said the City needs to look at the pension reform carefully and not treat it like an unfunded mandate. He expressed concern that municipalities will make up the loss because of the pension changes.

Mayor Krauskopf reminded everyone of the next scheduled meeting on May 23, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

RECESS :5:36 p.m.

6:00 PM CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION CRA

Presentation by Dan Burden Walkability, sponsored by Stuart Main Street,

Mayor Krauskopf announced that there would be no action taken by the Commission tonight.

Theresa Lamar-Sarno, Community Redevelopment Agency Coordinator introduced Mr. Dan Burden to the audience. She said today's meeting is informational only.

Mr. Dan Burden gave a presentation to the Commission and public.

Armond Pasquale came forward and said the County has been fighting high buildings and high density for years. He further added that he could not see more traffic moving through an area with a reduction of lanes on Colorado Avenue.

Mr. Burden: What you need are streets that are not driven by formulas of the past but, creating places of the heart, to go forward to give you better addresses for new businesses. This is for people to live on the streets that are rightly sized, scaled and proportioned, and are going to give you that, before a big wide open street that looks like an area in anyone's town."

A business owner expressed concern over the backup of traffic along the roadway during the time a train is passing through confusion corner.

Mr. Burden explained that if traffic moves slower people tend to park and use the services. He explained that this would boost the retail sales. He said the designers would certainly want to work with the business owners to maintain access. He assured the business owner that if the roadway is built correctly they will see more people come, walking, bicycling and driving. He invited the audience to visit Edgewater Drive in Orlando which is part of College Park.

A resident asked if any consideration has been given to emergency vehicles that have to come down that road.

Mr. Burden stated he did, and is one of the top trainers in America on how to design streets for emergency access.

A citizen asked what was safer roundabout or traffic signal, and would you comment on the Colorado and US 1 Intersection, and what the future holds in 10-15 years from now.

Mr. Burden explained there is a reduction of personal injury crashes by motorist who go through roundabouts by 90%. He also felt the speed limit be reduced coming onto Colorado Avenue from US1.

A citizen came forward and asked how we are going to create parking in the downtown with the anticipation of County Offices returning into the downtown.

Mr. Burden stated that the total count for parking can be increased to 30,40 or 50% more. He also suggested the effective use of the off street parking near Kiwanis Park, which would increase parking. He said that should be a future study.

A citizen came forward and asked if anyone has spoken to the delivery trucks in the downtown to discuss the design.

Mr. Burden said that professional drivers prefer slow speeds. The design of the roadway will include consideration to those delivery trucks.

A citizen came forward and asked about the median and curb texture.

Mr. Burden said that the center median being green with trees is a dynamite effect, but does not have to be continuous. He suggested looking at a street in Naples, Fl. That has this effect. He said there are so many good tools to make this a model project for the whole region.

A citizen asked if it would be possible to have one side a buffer lane so cars can get in and out, and the other side of the street a bicycle lane. He also stated that he has seen many businesses close along Colorado because there is no foot traffic.

Mr. Burden said he used to be the Bicycle Coordinator for Florida. He said that you have to have bike lanes on both sides. He recommended against bike lanes with reduced speeds along the roadway. He also said that Fraizer Creek can be a very welcoming place.

Armond Pasquale asked how you move people in and out of the downtown.

Mr. Burden said the future of downtowns is how wholesome and genuine community and how it appeals to people it will bring more jobs and residents to the downtown area.

Mary Hutchinson came forward and said that one of the benefits Stuart has is in the core of the downtown we have several neighborhoods close by. She asked how the City can convince the State to make the US1 corridor more walk able to the downtown.

Mr. Burden said that he feels that DOT is workable and trainable. He said the City has to lead as a Community, County and a Region and DOT will eventually understand and listen.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

Cheryl White, CMC, City Clerk

Jeffrey A. Krauskopf, Mayor

Minutes to be approved at the Regular Commission Meeting This 23rd Day May 2011.