

**SPECIAL SESSION BUDGET WORKSHOP  
OF THE STUART CITY COMMISSION  
HELD ON JULY 13, 2009  
AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
121 S.W. FLAGLER AVE.  
STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

**Roll call was answered by:**

**Mayor James A. Christie  
Vice Mayor Michael Mortell  
Commissioner Carol S. Waxler  
Commissioner Jeffrey A. Krauskopf  
Commissioner Mary Hutchinson**

**Also present were:**

**City Manager: Dan Hudson  
City Attorney: Paul J. Nicoletti  
City Clerk: Cherie White**

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

City Manager Hudson notified the City Commission the Business Development Board was making an announcement at 11:00 am today at 1801 SE Airport Road, regarding a possible job expansion. He stated the Commission was invited to attend

- 1. Review and discuss the proposed budget and millage for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.**
- 2. Review of proposed change to Fiscal Policy**

City Manager Hudson stated the City of Stuart was fiscally sound even in this economic downturn. He said the City began preparing three years ago. He wanted to recognize those departments who were involved. He stated the top priority for Stuart is to save jobs for employees. He stated he did not want to lay anyone off. He felt employee morale was good right now. He said he did receive the certified tax roll from the Property Appraiser. He stated there may be some minor adjustments coming from that.

The following proposed budget items were discussed:

Fire Station #2 funding for two positions would be \$120,000.00 tax increase, which is .52 cents per month for a home valued at \$150,000.00.

Personnel cost have been reduced in almost every department.

We are anticipating a reduction in health insurance plan cost.

It is also going to be recommended that each employee contribute an additional amount of \$12.50 per paycheck.

A major reduction in overtime cost.

Suspending tuition reimbursement to employees.

Fire station #3 should become operational July 1, 2010.

City Manager Hudson recognized the Financial Service department as well as all departments for their hard work on the budget this year.

City Manager Hudson requested an increase to the City Manager Contingency from ½ to 1% of the General Fund.

Dottie Zaharako announced the rollback rate is 5.033%.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated she wants to keep the millage the same. She also felt the employee merit program was not working, and she requested a review of the program.

The Commission agreed, and requested that staff look at the program.

Commissioner Hutchinson also requested that the City Manager look at the operational budget of the Development Department, and some possible cost saving measures. She also recommended staff look into e-bills for water and sewer. She felt it may help with postage cost.

Vice Mayor Mortell asked for a statutory ruling on e-billing.

Commissioner Hutchinson requested looking into the amount of computers being replaced city-wide. She also asked why the City budgets \$5000.00 every year for the Stuart Hornets Football team when we do not budget for any other organization.

City Manager Hudson stated he would look into that.

Commissioner Krauskopf complemented staff for their efforts in this year's budget. He requested review of the following items.

He requested looking into keeping tuition reimbursement.

Look at fully staffing station #2.

Enhance sources of revenues, excluding personnel.

Mayor Christie agreed that we need to retain our employees. He felt merit was in place because the step pay was eliminated. He felt this was a way employees were rewarded for doing a good job. He felt that if merit was removed moral would go down.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested looking into the merit system.

Commissioner Waxler said she has a problem with raising taxes to give merit raises to people who are lucky to have jobs in this environment.

Mayor Christie suggested looking at the list of items presented to the Commission to find the \$157,000.00.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested removing the retreat budgeted within the City Commissioner's Budget.

City Manager Hudson stated he would look at the merit program.

MOTION: VICE MAYOR MORTELL; MOVED APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE CITY MANAGER CONTINGENCY FROM ½% TO 1%.

SECOND: COMMISSIONER WAXLER

ROLL CALL

MAYOR KRAUSKOPF	YES	COMMISSIONER HUTCHINSON	YES
VICE MAYOR CHRISTIE	YES	COMMISSIONER WAXLER	YES
COMMISSIONER MORTELL	YES		

### **3. Discussion of Fire Rescue Station #3**

City Manager Hudson gave a brief synopsis of the proposed Fire Station #3. He also gave an overview regarding the staffing of Station #2.

Vice Mayor Mortell wanted to make it clear that the City's will be operating under it's own protocol.

City Manager Hudson stated the City is looking at locating Fire Station #3 at the southern area of the bridge. He anticipates operations to begin July 1, 2010.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if there have been any communications between the City and the County.

Vice Mayor Mortell suggested scheduling a Joint Meeting with the County if they choose to cancel the Interlocal Agreement for Fire Rescue Services.

City Attorney Nicoletti suggested meeting with Martin County to negotiate fees.

Vice Mayor Mortell expressed concern over the County proposed fee structure.

The Commission agreed that City staff and County staff should meet to discuss this matter.

Commissioner Krauskopf suggested looking at who we serve and suggested looking into staffing levels at night time. He suggested looking at the call for service. The Commission agreed to direct staff to look at the staffing of all stations.

### **4. Discussion regarding Memorial Park Project Funding**

City Manager Hudson stated the estimated amount for the project is \$1.8 million. He stated none of the grants applied for were awarded this year due to State budget cuts.

Commissioner Krauskopf stated he would like to not use 1 cent sales tax and use Tree Replacement and Public enhancement.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested moving forward with the project.

Commissioner Krauskopf stated that years ago it was discussed to look into tax free charitable bonds sold locally through the tax collector for people who knew the money would remain in the City/County.

City Manager Hudson stated would look into the issues discussed.

#### **5. Review timetable for budget adoption.**

City Manager Hudson announced the schedule for upcoming budget hearings.

Commissioner Krauskopf mentioned a newspaper article relevant to the Martin County Fire Rescue fee discussion. He recommended the City Manager look into the matter.

Commissioner Krauskopf also asked for the workload of the Assistant City Attorney. He wanted to be reassured there is significant workload to justify another year of the Assistant City Attorney position.

City Attorney Nicoletti pointed out the reduction cost to outside council as well as contingency. He state the Assistant City Attorney is working on several cases and is actively involved in labor relations. He felt the position was cost effective.

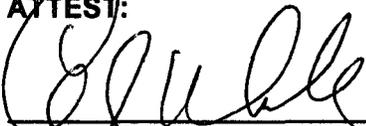
Commissioner Krauskopf mentioned the reduction in call load since 2006.

City Manager Hudson suggested emailing any further questions the Commission may have.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT:10:49 am**

**ATTEST:**

  
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Cheryl White, CMC, City Clerk

  
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James A. Christie, Mayor

**Minutes approved at the Regular Commission  
Meeting This 27th Day July 2009**

