

12/11/2023

The regular meeting of the Stuart City Council was called to order on the above date at 6:00 pm by Mayor Cook. Present were Council Members Kalbach, Kirkpatrick, Morgan, Doely and Renslow. Also present were City Administrator Ashour, Deputy Clerk Stouffer, Jim Henderson, Matt Funk, Crystal Kirkpatrick, Kory Guisinger, John Gulbranson, Sean Bovinett, Barbara Boss, Kevin Guisinger, Dustin Capps, Warren Varley, Lisa Sherman, Dan Sherman, Katelynn Bovinett, Forrest Aldrich, Jeff Fight, Bryan Belden, Shane Martinson, Craig Russell, Douglas Galliano, Omega Galliano, Josh Renslow and Neal Crawford.

Moved by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Morgan to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Morgan to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of minutes of 11/13/2023
- B. Approval of financial statement as of 11/30/2023
- C. Approval of bills as presented
- D. Approval of Liquor License – B & A Mallory Corp (Hometown Foods)

Roll Call: All Ayes

Douglas Galliano made a presentation to the Council regarding the alley in the 100 block between N. Harlan Street and the Sale Barn Property. Galliano requested that the Council consider making the alley one-way from the south to the north. Galliano also discussed snow removal in the alley. The Council will take time to consider the requests and revisit them at a later date.

Mayor Cook made a presentation to the Council regarding the status of the automated traffic enforcement cameras.

City Engineer Forrest Aldrich of Veenstra & Kimm made a presentation to the Council regarding the Wambold Phase 3 (Housing Phase 4) Project. Aldrich recommended payment to McAninch Corporation in the amount of \$122,686.64.

Moved by Doely, seconded by Kirkpatrick to approve Pay Estimate No. 6 to McAninch Corporation for \$122,686.64 as recommended by City Engineer Forrest Aldrich of Veenstra & Kimm.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Morgan to approve Change Order No. 2B, which will decrease the contract price by \$22,180.52, for the Wambold Phase 3 (Housing Phase 4) Project as recommended by City Engineer Forrest Aldrich.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Mayor Cook appointed Christi Russell to fill a vacant spot on the Library Board completing a three year term ending 12/31/2025.

Moved by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Morgan to approve Mayor Cook's appointment of Christi Russell to fill a vacant spot on the Library Board completing a three year term ending 12/31/2025.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Mayor Cook reappointed John Gulbranson, Shirley Jones, and Kimberly Avey to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees.

Moved by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Morgan to approve Mayor Cook's reappointment of John Gulbranson, Shirley Jones, and Kimberly Avey to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees.

Roll Call: Ayes: Kirkpatrick, Morgan
Nays: Doely, Kalbach, Renslow

Motion not carried.

Mayor Cook reappointed Shirley Jones to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees.

Moved by Renslow, seconded by Kalbach to approve Mayor Cook's reappointment of Shirley Jones to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees ending 12/31/2029.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Mayor Cook reappointed Kimberly Avey to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees.

Moved by Renslow, seconded by Kalbach to approve Mayor Cook's reappointment of Kimberly Avey to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees ending 12/31/2029.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Mayor Cook reappointed John Gulbranson to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees.

Moved by Kirkpatrick to approve Mayor Cook's reappointment of John Gulbranson to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees ending 12/31/2029.

There was no second to the motion.

Motion not carried.

Mayor Cook appointed Neal Crawford to fill a vacant spot on the Utility Board of Trustees completing a six year term ending 12/31/2024.

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Renslow to approve Mayor Cook's appointment of Neal Crawford to fill a vacant spot on the Utility Board of Trustees completing a six year term ending 12/31/2024.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Mayor Cook appointed Dan Sherman to a six year term on the Utility Board of Trustees.

Moved by Renslow, seconded by Kalbach to approve Mayor Cook's appointment of Dan Sherman to the Utility Board of Trustees for a six year term ending 12/31/2029.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Councilmember Kalbach made a presentation to the Council regarding the Guthrie County EMS Proposal, and requested that the following letter of petition signed by various citizens be included in the minutes:

Date: 12/03/2023

Subject: Guthrie County EMS Proposal

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of support to keep Stuart's EMS locally run, managed and controlled. Recently Guthrie County Health Services Director (Official) proposed a centralized county tax to levy all Guthrie County citizens and take over EMS control rolling up to Guthrie County. Stuart and Panora both have functioning EMS departments that are built into city budgets, so this county proposal amounts to a double tax and losing local control of our EMS service.

The Guthrie County proposal has not been shared openly with citizens, but yet there is a Nov 2024 goal to push for a vote. The proposal has no budget outline, nor city council support from Stuart or Panora (only 2 communities with paid EMS units). **Successful implementation of a centralized county service has no guarantee Stuart will always have an EMS unit in Stuart. Stated in the county proposal from years 5 to 10 document County plans to reassess staffing and EMS Unit locations for efficiency. The county proposal draft is public record and a copy can be obtained at Stuart City Hall.**

After contacting the City of Panora, their city representatives share the same sentiment and declined to support the Guthrie County initiative. It is our recommendation that Stuart form a local committee structure similar to what Panora's put in place. This will allow clear communications to Stuart citizens without the risk of gaps in information sharing and insure Stuart's EMS remains locally controlled. Stuart maintains its own police and fire department, both of which have immense pride. The EMS has similar heritage and tradition and doesn't need Guthrie County management of operations or a double/triple county tax for services already provided.

Sincerely,

Name:

Councilmember Kalbach proposed that he form a Council Committee to work directly with Panora's EMS Committee, surrounding councils, for the purpose of developing ideas to promote better coverage while keeping Stuart's EMS service locally controlled. The committee will report back to the full council on a monthly basis. Councilmember Renslow requested that the committee include the Fire Chief and Stuart Rescue Director.

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by seconded by Renslow to form a committee to work directly with Panora's EMS Committee, surrounding councils, for the purpose of developing ideas to promote better coverage while keeping Stuart's EMS service locally controlled, which will include the Fire Chief and the Stuart Rescue Director and will report back to the full Council on a monthly basis.

Roll Call: Ayes: Morgan, Doely, Kalbach, Renslow
 Nays: Kirkpatrick

Motion carried.

Economic Development Director Matt Funk made a presentation to the Council regarding an available grant for strategic redevelopment of the downtown business district. Warren Varley of S.E.E.D. (Stuart Enterprise for Economic Development) informed the Council that S.E.E.D. is also applying for grants and working with the Community Visioning Program, and requested that the Council wait to make a decision.

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Morgan to table the grant application for strategic redevelopment of the downtown business district, as recommended by S.E.E.D. member Warren Varley.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Economic Development Director Matt Funk made a presentation to the Council regarding the possibility that S.E.E.D. be reimbursed for the costs of mowing empty lots from the All Saints and the Wambold Phase 2 housing developments from the contingency fund of the All Saints Project.

Moved by Doely, seconded by Kirkpatrick to allow a one-time reimbursement for mowing expenses incurred by S.E.E.D. during the calendar year 2023.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Economic Development Director Matt Funk made a presentation to the Council regarding a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Application received from Jeff Fight and Angela Burg of Allmine Group, LLC. Warren Varley of S.E.E.D. informed the Council that the application has not yet been reviewed by S.E.E.D., because the City Council meeting falls before the S.E.E.D. meeting this month.

Moved by Renslow, seconded by Doely to approve the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Application received from Jeff Fight and Angela Burg of Allmine Group, LLC, subject to S.E.E.D.'s approval, a signed purchase agreement, a complete application, the approval of the city bond attorney and the city financial advisor, and the possibility of using blight housing funds.

Roll Call: All Ayes

The Council thanked Volunteer Parks & Recreation Coordinator Barb Boss for her efforts working with the community to make Lawbaugh Park festive for the holiday season.

Councilmember Kalbach and City Administrator Ashour thanked Councilmember Renslow for her service to the City of Stuart.

Adjournment at 7:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Deputy Clerk Stouffer.

Dick Cook, Mayor

Ashraf Ashour, City Administrator