

01/11/2024

The regular meeting of the Stuart City Council was called to order on the above date at 6:30 pm by Mayor Cook. Present were Council Members Kalbach, Doely, and Russell. Also present were City Administrator Ashour, Deputy Clerk Stouffer, Public Works Director Jim Henderson, Kory Guisinger, Matt Funk, Dustin Capps, Lori Cook, Sean Bovinett, Bob Cook, Brenda Dudley, Ben Stouffer, Trevor Nelson, Katie Guisinger and Barb Boss.

Moved by Doely, seconded by Kalbach to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved by Doely, seconded by Kalbach to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of minutes of 12/11/2023
- B. Approval of financial statement as of 12/31/2023
- C. Approval of bills as presented
- D. Approval of Liquor License – Dolgencorp, LLC (Dollar General)
- E. Approval of Liquor License – Kum & Go, LLC

Roll Call: All Ayes

Robert Cook, resident of Stuart, made a presentation to the Council regarding scheduling a town clean up for April 26 & 27, 2024. Cook requested that K & A Removal provide dumpster services again this year.

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Doely to approve April 26 & 27, 2024 for the Town Clean Up and to approve K & A Removal to provide dumpster services as presented by Robert Cook, resident of Stuart.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Lori Cook with the Stuart Depot Restoration Committee made a presentation to the Council regarding the Depot Manager Salary and asked if the City would contribute towards the salary of the Depot Manager. Lori informed the Council that the annual salary of the Depot Manager is \$10,200.00.

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Russell to approve the Depot Manager Salary Contribution for the amount of \$5,200.00 and to direct the Depot Committee Restoration Committee to apply for Hotel and Motel Tax Funds to fund the remaining amount of the Depot Manager salary (\$5,000.00).

Roll Call: All Ayes

Lori Cook with the Stuart Depot Restoration Committee made a presentation to the Council regarding repairs and painting needed for the Depot building. Lori presented two bids received from Roy Sargent Building, Inc. The first bid for \$14,849.00 is for painting, and the second bid for \$7,768.00 is for replacing damaged doors. Lori informed the Council that Economic Development Director Matt Funk is working with the Depot Committee to apply for a grant to help with the cost of painting and repairs, and requested that the Council consider setting aside funds during the budget workshop to go toward Depot repairs and maintenance. The Council requested that Lori obtain at least two additional bids for the painting and repairs.

Brenda Dudley representing the White Pole Road Development Corporation made a presentation to the Council requesting a contribution toward the cost of repainting the poles along White Pole Road. The Council agreed to consider this request.

Brenda Dudley representing Midwest Partnership made a presentation to the Council requesting the City continue its annual membership contribution.

Moved by Russell, seconded by Doely to approve the contribution to Midwest Partnership for the amount of \$1,782.00 for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Brenda Dudley representing The Stuart Revitalization Group made a presentation to the Council regarding the Bonnie and Clyde Run/Walk. Brenda informed the Council that the run will take place April 20, 2024, and that this year is the 90th anniversary of the robbery of the bank in Stuart.

Public Works Director Henderson made a presentation to the Council regarding extending the current mowing contract for North & South Oak Grove cemeteries with TCB Lawn Care, LLC for \$32,800.00 for the eight month season from April 2024 through November 2024, which equals payments of \$4100.00 per month.

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Doely to accept Public Works Director Henderson's recommendation to extend the current mowing contract for the North & South Oak Grove cemeteries with TCB Lawn Care for \$32,800.00 for the eight month season from April 2024 through November 2024.

Roll Call: All Ayes

City Administrator Ashour informed the Council that insurance renewal will take place in April, and that the Utility Board of Trustees will be keeping the current insurance provider for the next year.

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Doely to request proposals for insurance for next year, and to direct the City Administrator to make a recommendation based on proposals received.

Roll call: All Ayes

Moved by Doely, seconded by Russell to approve Resolution No. 24-01C “Resolution Directing that Civil Penalties and Revenue Received Through Automated Traffic Enforcement Efforts be Allocated to the General Fund.”

Roll Call: All Ayes

Councilmember Kalbach made a presentation to the Council regarding the recommendations of the EMS Committee and requested that the following be included in the minutes:

“Move to refer Panora’s contract template, which they approved with a 5-0 vote, to Steve Brick and emulate for Stuart EMS. Refer EMS budgeting needs and possible county revenue contribution to Chip Schultz for scenario planning and recommendations, which will be incorporated into EMS contract. Further, recommend to continue teamwork approach with Stuart council committee and City of Panora. Direct City Administrator to work with Stuart EMS staff in collaborating with Panora EMS for cost saving measures (to include but not limited to, supply purchases, etc.). Draft of financials and contract due by Feb meeting. Special council meetings may be necessary due to timelines set by county on a levy vote. Stuart council committee will involve EMS and city hall staff as needed to acquire data for aforementioned needs.”

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Doely to approve the above statement as presented by Councilmember Kalbach.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Economic Development Director Matt Funk made a presentation to the Council regarding Matthew Lepke of Kwik Star’s recommendation regarding the “Welcome to Stuart” sign that Kwik Star agreed to install near the interstate entrance and exit ramp on South Division Street. Lepke recommended the south side of the sign read “The City of Stuart Welcomes You” and the north side of the sign read “Thank You for Visiting Stuart.”

Moved by Kalbach, seconded by Doely to approve the recommendation of Matthew Lepke of Kwik Star as presented by Economic Development Director Matt Funk regarding the “Welcome to Stuart” sign that Kwik Star agreed to install near the interstate entrance and exit ramp on South Division Street that the south side of the sign read “The City of Stuart Welcomes You” and the north side of the sign read “Thank You for Visiting Stuart.”

The Council scheduled January 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm for the Budget Work Session.

Adjournment at 7:50pm.

Minutes submitted by Deputy Clerk Stouffer.

Dick Cook, Mayor

Ashraf Ashour, City Administrator