



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[25-0432](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pachota called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard, Mr. Kevin Engelke and Mr. Lloyd Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Rachel Frank

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Deputy City Clerk Toni Gregory, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown and for certain items on the agenda: Police Chief Andy Leisenring, Lieutenant Mathew Sauchinitz, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Planning Manager Amy Nelson, Senior Planner Nicole Tremblay, and City Engineer Jon Kramer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Clerk Barcia offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Boldt.

I. RECOGNITION

[25-0433](#)

Recognition of Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) Designation: Mercedes Barcia, Records Manager/Deputy City Clerk, Presented by Scotty Lynn Kelly, MMC, FACC Southwest District Director and City Clerk, City of Sanibel

FACC Southwest District Director/Clerk Scotty Lynn Kelly and City Manager Clinch presented this award.

Recess was taken from 9:12 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.

[25-0434](#)

Swearing in Firefighter/Paramedic Bernardo Rivera

Deputy Clerk Barcia performed this swearing in assisted by Mayor Pachota.

[25-0435](#) Swearing in Firefighter/EMT Danielle Van Deusen, Christian Stoddard, and Jacob O'Connell

Deputy Clerk Barcia performed these swearing ins assisted by Mayor Pachota.

[25-0436](#) 5-Year Service Award: Juan Leyva, Firefighter/Paramedic

Chief Giddens and City Manager Clinch presented this recognition.

[25-0437](#) 10-Year Service Award: Michael Reeves, Building Inspector

Building Official Applegate, Deputy Building Official Rakes, and City Manager Clinch presented this recognition.

Recess was taken from 9:41 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Ellen Bern, 101 Park Boulevard South, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Elin Larsen, 1204 Everest Road, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Mary Gauthier, 1354 Capri Isles Boulevard, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

John Holic, 636 Apalachicola Road, spoke on food drives and events that were held in November.

Linda Serbay, 619 Leisure, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Abigail Roos, 613 Ravenna Street, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Natalie Nordin, 1045 Groveland Avenue, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Joan Farrell, 617 Tamiami Trail North, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Angela Daley, 333 Esplanade North, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Steve Lindblom, 5644 Semolino Street, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Beverly Hunter, 412 Bayview Parkway, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Wayne Jankowske, 201 Matise Circle, spoke on yoga at the beach and safety concerns with individual at the beach.

Mr. Smith offered a point of order, asking to add an agenda item regarding the yoga on the beach safety issue and to hear from the Police Chief and City Attorney, and consider possible action, after the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2025-46.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to add an agenda item on yoga on the beach safety issue for discussion under Section C, Council Action/Discussion. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve items in the Consent Section. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[25-0438](#)

Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved in the Consent Section.

B. CITY MANAGER

Fire

[25-0439](#)

Approve Grant Agreement Between Sarasota County and the City of Venice for the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Waterway Development Program Project Agreement for the Fire Department, Project No. S-516, not to Exceed \$12,500.00

This agreement was approved in the Consent Section.

Police

[25-0440](#)

Approve Grant Agreement Between Sarasota County and the City of Venice for the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Waterway Development Program Project Agreement for the Police Marine Patrol, Project No. S-504, not to Exceed \$204,010

This agreement was approved in the Consent Section.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-37](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Annexing Certain Lands Lying Contiguous to the City Limits, Pursuant to Petition No. 25-29AN by Abdelrahman Ayyad and Sara Ayyad, into the Corporate Limits of the City of Venice, Florida, and Redefining the Boundary Lines of the City to Include Said Addition; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

Senior Planner Nicole Tremblay provided a presentation to include project description, aerial map, existing conditions, future land use map, zoning map, site photos, surrounding land uses, planning analysis, Chapters 163 and 171 of the Florida Statutes, Joint Planning Agreement (JPA) Area 6, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, and compliance with the Land Development Code.

Marty Black, Agent for Applicant, provided a presentation on the application, and answered a Council question regarding a stipulation that falls under the zoning petition stating it would be addressed in that presentation.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Smith, that Ordinance No. 2025-37 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.

Comments were made on the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the flooding situation on Curry Lane.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[ORD. NO.
2025-38](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the 2017-2027 City of Venice Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and Associated Pages Pursuant to Petition No. 25-30CP to Change the Future Land Use Designation of Specific Real Property Located at 2805 Curry Lane from Sarasota County Moderate Density Residential to City of Venice Institutional Professional (IP); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

Senior Planner Tremblay provided a presentation on the petition, including compliance with the Land Development Code, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, Chapters 163.3177(6)(a) of the Florida Statutes, conclusions and findings of fact, and the Planning Commission recommendation.

Marty Black, Agent for Applicant, provided a presentation and summary of requests, zoning stipulation, SWFWMD permits, monitoring of issue along Curry Lane, and abiding by the stipulation.

Mayor Pachota expressed appreciation for the applicant's efforts working with the City on Curry Lane water management issues.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Mr. Smith, that Ordinance No. 2025-38 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[ORD. NO.
2025-39](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 25-31RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation for the Property Located at 2805 Curry Lane (5.0 ± Acres), from Sarasota County Open Use Estate 1 (Oue-1) to City of Venice Office, Professional and Institutional (OPI); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing and announced this is a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

City Attorney Fernandez questioned Council Members concerning ex-parte communications and conflicts of interest.

Mr. Engelke, Mr. Smith, and Vice Mayor Boldt disclosed attendance or viewing of the Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Howard disclosed viewing of the Planning Commission meeting and a site visit.

Senior Planner Tremblay, being duly sworn, presented on comparison of existing and proposed zoning, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, conclusions and findings of fact, compliance with the Land Development Code, and commented on the recommended stipulation regarding construction deviation issues on Curry Lane being resolved prior to approval of the site and development plan.

Marty Black, Agent for Applicant, being duly sworn, agreed with the staff and commented on a recommended change on the stipulation from site plan to Certificate of Occupancy.

Discussion took place on the regrading of the ditches, and one entity doing the work to meet permit requirements as originally issued to them.

City Attorney Fernandez commented on the regrading being completed and review of the paperwork needed to ensure requirements have been met.

City Engineer Jon Kramer, being duly sworn, responded to City Attorney Fernandez's question stating the ditches had been regraded, are still under review by SWFWMD, and upon their agreement the as-built deviations being resolved.

There was no public comment.

Senior Planner Tremblay stated staff had no issue with the change to the stipulation suggested by the applicant.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-39 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading with the stipulation that a certificate of occupancy shall not be approved until the applicant confirms through a certified statement from the Southwest Florida Water Management District that Permit No. 43045191.000 construction

deviation issues for Curry Lane have been resolved. The applicant agrees to cooperate with the adjoining owners along Curry Lane in any improvements as may be necessary and to cooperate with the ongoing maintenance of Curry Lane.

Discussion took place on the value of the medical campus, the drainage situation, the stipulation, and the applicant's willingness to work with the City.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-46](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Granting PUD Amendment Petition No. 25-01RZ for the Toscana Isles Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Wisdom Townhomes (10.58± Acres) Located at 0 Knights Trail Road, by Allowing Development of Townhomes in Subarea 3 and Adding an Access Point Along Gene Green Road; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing and announced this is a quasi-judicial hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

City Attorney Fernandez questioned Council Members concerning conflicts of interest. There were none. Council Members disclosed ex-parte communications.

Mr. Engelke disclosed attendance at the Planning Commission meeting and a site visit.

Mr. Smith disclosed viewing the Planning Commission meeting.

Vice Mayor Boldt disclosed attending the Planning Commission meeting and a conversation with Toscana Isles resident Sue Perry regarding what is on the agenda.

Mayor Pachota and Mr. Howard disclosed a site visit and viewing of the Planning Commission meeting.

City Attorney Fernandez introduced the nature of quasi-judicial proceedings.

Written communications were provided in advance.

Senior Planner Tremblay, being duly sworn, presented the application, general information, project description, concept plan, proposed connectivity plan, proposed townhome standards, aerial map, existing conditions, site photographs, northern parcel, southern parcel, future land use map, zoning map, surrounding land uses, planning analysis and consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, conclusions and findings of fact, compliance with the Land Development Code, decision criteria, there being no recommendation for approval from the Planning Commission, responded to a Council question regarding the differences between multi-family and townhomes, and displayed the decision criteria for Council to review.

Josh Law, Pape-Dawson, Agent for Applicant, being duly sworn, presented a general overview, concept plan, Toscana Isles overview, unified control, background on Toscana Isles, Planned Unit Development (PUD) development standards, Toscana Isles Subareas, Subarea 3, compatibility, development standards, residential street and connectivity standards, and proposed access points.

Michael Yates, Palm Traffic, being duly sworn, spoke on the access points and not being able to use Knights Trail due to connection spacing standards, and having legal access to Gene Green Road. He noted Nokomis Groves has access to Gene Green Road.

Mr. Law stated the concept plan is to allow for townhomes, and amend connectivity standards map for access to Gene Green Road.

Kari MacNutt, Monarch Ecology, being duly sworn, spoke on the environmental issues of the site, wetlands, wetland determination from SWFWMD approved in 2024, historic aerial imagery, drainage conveyance, existing weir structure, wetland impact, mitigation bank, wildlife species, and heritage trees.

Matt Morris, Pape-Dawson, being duly sworn, spoke on the master drainage plan, decision criteria, additional criteria for major Planned Unit Development (PUD) amendments, conclusion, requested approval, and answered a Council question regarding access to Gene Green Road.

Mr. Yates, responded to a Council question regarding traffic, stating the applicant is providing as much separation from the intersection as possible, and necessary improvements would be dealt with by all who access Gene Green Road. He responded to Council questions regarding private roads, previous litigation regarding access point at Villoresi Boulevard/Knights Trail, and drainage responsibility on Gene Green Road.

Discussion took place regarding the easement on Gene Green Road, access points, and Nokomis Groves.

Mr. Yates responded to a Council question regarding legal access and Mr. Law displayed an easement and title insurance document.

Mr. Morris responded to a question regarding drainage issues.

Discussion took place regarding the access point and separation points off of Knights Trail in both directions, drainage, culverts, water flow, and weir.

City Attorney Fernandez stated drainage issues are not part of what is being considered today; the focus is on townhomes and the access point on Gene Green Road. She noted other issues are more appropriate for a site and development petition.

Discussion continued regarding access points and the applicant being able to apply for a variance from the County regarding Knights Trail, and concerns about the easement on Gene Green Road.

Mr. Yates spoke on the variance process with Sarasota County which is decided by the Sarasota County Engineer, access rights based on the easement, and a design exception likely being denied due to the availability of the easement.

Discussion continued regarding variance, drainage, and projected rainfall data.

Recess was taken from 12:35 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.

Mr. Law offered a stipulation with a design exception for the driveway spacing to Sarasota County if denied by Sarasota County the applicant would then have approval from the City of Venice to utilize their legal access point along Gene Green Road.

Carlo Quintiliani, 673 Maraviya Boulevard, being duly sworn, expressed concerns regarding the proposed development, stormwater issues, channel, trees, and other ecological issues.

Peter Carr, 305 Palestro Street, being duly sworn, spoke on traffic on Gene Green Road and expressed concerns regarding safety.

Philip Tripodi, 677 Maraviya Boulevard, being duly sworn, spoke on the proposed development and concerns about flooding and traffic on Gene Green Road.

Frank Brisendene, 272 Soliera Street, being duly sworn, spoke on traffic concerns at Gene Green Road

Diane Jochum, 640 Ravello Boulevard, being duly sworn, spoke on traffic concerns at Gene Green Road, ecological issues, and being against the proposed rezone.

Maryann Bozich-DiLuigi, 285 Soliera Street, being duly sworn, commented on a final judgment from a court case on the easement, and the applicant's survey.

Mike Horan, 243 Ponce de Leon, being duly sworn, spoke on Gene Green Road, maintenance, no agreement, no design, traffic concerns, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and safety hazards.

Sue Perry, 227 Toscavilla Boulevard, being duly sworn, spoke on concerns about the petition, flooding, Gene Green Road, traffic study, and requested the petition be denied.

Neal Green, 324 Villoresi Boulevard, being duly sworn, expressed concerns regarding flooding and efforts to keep the channel flowing, the weir, wildlife, the previous lawsuit, and requested denial of the amendment and petition.

Dennis Koroll, 744 Ravello Boulevard, being duly sworn, showed video of culverts flooding stormwater, canal, and requested denial of the petition.

Jennifer Heidemann, 209 Villoresi Boulevard, being duly sworn, expressed concerns regarding safety, traffic, flooding, the weir, and requested denial of the petition.

John Schrader, 228 Maraviya Boulevard, being duly sworn, expressed concerns regarding traffic, pedestrians, safety, and roads, and flooding concerns.

Robert Raimondi, 208 Maraviya Boulevard, being duly sworn, spoke on safety on Gene Green Road, and traffic concerns.

Bill Rymsza, 248 Villoresi Boulevard, being duly sworn, spoke on flooding concerns, traffic and safety concerns.

Recess was taken from 3:14 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Mr. Law commented on the access point, confirmed legal access,

easement and title paperwork, and offered stipulation to request a design exception, survey, cited separation, permitted uses, stormwater, requesting access to Gene Green Road and to allow townhomes, and stated the development meets the requirements of the City's Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan.

City Attorney Fernandez noted the easement document shown was not the one provided to staff and the correct document does show access to Gene Green Road.

Recess was taken from 3:35 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

Senior Planner Tremblay showed the correct easement.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark, being duly sworn, commented on the design exception language and recommended adding the language "good faith effort", and pursuing any appeal process available at the County.

Discussion took place on the easement, and the title insurance document.

Mr. Law and Mr. Morris responded to Council questions regarding the easement and title insurance policy, and validity of the easement.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Weed, that based on the evidence in the record, City Council deny Petition No. 25-01RZ on the basis that the petition is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and is not in compliance with the Land Development Code based on decision criteria 4, Conflicts with existing or planned public improvements, 5(a), Impact on the traffic characteristics related to the site, 5(b), Impact on population density or development intensity such that the demand for schools, sewers, streets, recreational areas and facilities, and other public facilities and services are affected, and 6, Effect on health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood and City. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, to extend the meeting end time to no later than 6 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-45](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 87, Land Development Code, Section 1.1.3 Historic and Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB), Pursuant to Text Amendment Petition 25-69AM, by Changing the Board's Requirement for a Venice MainStreet Membership to a Preference; Providing for Repeal of

All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Ordinance No. 2025-45 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

B. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING

[ORD. NO. 2025-36](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 25-46RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation of the Property Generally Located at 2001 Laurel Road from Commercial General (CG) to Laurel West (LW); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

The applicant contacted the City and requested a continuance to January 13th.

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Mr. Howard, to continue Ordinance No. 2025-36 to January 13, 2025 at 9 a.m. or as soon thereafter this matter can be heard. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[ORD. NO. 2025-40](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Submitting to the Electors of Venice a Proposed Amendment to the City Charter to Provide for the Annual Selection of the Vice-Mayor; Providing Instructions to the City Clerk; Establishing a Ballot Title and Question; Providing for Conflicts, Severability, and Effective Dates

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Ordinance No. 2025-40 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

No: 1 - Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-42](#)

An Ordinance Of The City Of Venice, Florida, Amending The Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 50, Personnel, Article III, Pensions And Retirement, Division 3, Municipal Police Officers' Pension Trust Fund, By Amending Section 50-161, Share Plan; Use Of Chapter 185 Premium Tax Revenues, To Allow Use Of Chapter 185 Premium Tax Revenues; Providing For Repeal Of All Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; Providing For Severability; And Providing An Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Ordinance No. 2025-42 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-43](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Providing an Annual Update of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule for Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Including a Long-Range Schedule of Capital Improvements for Years 2031-2035 Contained in the Appendix of the City of Venice 2017-2027 Comprehensive Plan; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Written communications were provided in advance.

Planning Manager Amy Nelson provided an update and clarified changes.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Ordinance No. 2025-43 be approved and adopted.

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

No: 1 - Mr. Smith

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

Discussion took place regarding level of service on sidewalks and bicycle lanes and maintaining at level Level C aspirationally.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Smith to maintain a Level of Service C on non arterial roads, and bicycle paths and pedestrian sidewalk areas be maintained aspirationally at a goal Level of Service C. The amendment failed due to lack of a second.

The original motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

No: 1 - Mr. Smith

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-44](#)

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2025-32, Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025 and Ending September 30, 2026; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$935,168 and Total Expenditures by \$935,168; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

There were no communications or public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-44 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

**[RES. NO.
2025-32](#)**

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Authorizing the Venice City Council to Participate in a Joint Meeting with Sarasota County, the Cities of North Port and Sarasota, the Town of Longboat Key and the Sarasota County School Board to Receive, Discuss and Act Upon Matters of Mutual Interest; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the resolution by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Resolution No. 2025-32 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

B. PRESENTATION

[25-0442](#)

Finance Director Linda Senne: September Year End Financial Report

Finance Director Senne presented the quarterly financial report, noting it is unaudited, and reviewed the general fund revenues and expenditures. She answered a Council question regarding the difference between the projections to actual.

Discussion took place regarding the difference between projections and actual. The major increases in revenue were: investment earnings, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transport fees, and property taxes.

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[25-0443](#)

Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Federal Legislative Priorities

City Manager Clinch provided the Federal Legislative priorities:

1. South Jetty restoration
2. Flamingo Ditch project
3. Utilities Water plant project

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to approve the 2026-2027 Federal Legislative Priorities. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[25-0444](#)

Discuss Making the Necessary Repairs to Reopen the Parking Area at Humphris Park (Mr. Smith)

Mr. Smith introduced the topic and his request.

Discussion took place regarding possible modifications to the parking lot, the Army Corps of Engineers role, Army Corps ownership and management, budgeting issues, all damages to be studied and funded, risks, concerns, and challenges if the City were to try to move ahead sooner.

Discussion continued regarding the cost, vulnerability, governmental officials support, restrictions, funding amounts, economics, temporary repairs, and access.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Mr. Weed, to direct the City Manager to evaluate and report on the steps, regulatory requirements, potential costs, and time line needed to possibly reopen a portion of Humphris Park and to present those findings at a future council meeting. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

[25-0445](#)

Beach Yoga Security Concern

Mr. Smith introduced topic and praised the police department.

City Manager Clinch offered a staff assessment and commented on updates from Chief Leisenring. He stated memos were shared with Council from the City Attorney's office and Venice Police Department. It was noted that permitting that allows the activity is controlled by Sarasota County, the permit is general and allows them to be on beach, but there is no specified perimeter.

Police Chief Leisenring commented on the yoga issue, efforts, safety, the community outreach team, resources offered to the individual, monitoring of the beach, limitations of the permit, and public misperception.

Lt. Mathew Sauchinitz spoke on the issue, constitutional rights, fairness, and the open space permit.

Discussion took place regarding weapons, potential violence, concern, and level of presence.

City Manager Clinch commented on special events, police presence, and special detail.

Chief Leisenring responded to Council regarding continuation of level of police presence, and continuing to monitor through the community outreach team.

Discussion continued on yoga, first amendment issues, working with both sides, the individual being a registered sex offender, observation of workouts, working with the County to tighten permit rules, defining what a special detail can and cannot do, and defining the physical area of the permit.

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to direct staff to work with community partners and Sarasota County, to develop a solution for special permit issuance that address this specific incident or any future incidences that can occur based on definitions of these permits and spaces allotted and report back to council when appropriate.

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

Discussion took place on the motion, and, continued police work.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Excused: 1 - Mrs. Frank

Patience Gibson, 824 Laguna Drive, spoke on concerns about the yoga at the beach, safety, appreciation for the police department, the length of this issue, harassment by the individual, disrupting the peace, escalation, aggressive behavior, need police on the beach, and asked for police to have more authority.

Leslie Ingalzo, 601 Mistiflower Circle, expressed concerns regarding safety, tranquility gone, and requested a harassment policy in the City's code.

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTSCity Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez stated she provided Council with her quarterly update.

City Clerk

Deputy Clerk Barcia had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Clinch thanked everyone for an amazing holiday parade, and reported on the ribbon cutting at Lord-Higel House, upcoming tour of single stream recycling in Sarasota, the budget process workshop on January 9th, walkthrough of Fire Station 52, Convocation of Governments at Suncoast Technical College on January 16th, and annual strategic Planning on February 2nd with a new facilitator.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS***Council Member Engelke***

Mr. Engelke had no report.

Council Member Weed

Mr. Weed had no report.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard had no report.

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith had no report.

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank had an excused absence.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on the Chamber of Commerce annual recognition of businesses and turnover of leadership, and the Venice Police Department community service and outreach.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota offered congratulations to Mrs. Frank and her family on

their new baby. He reported on the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Conference, the Mayors Tree Lighting event, the Centennial holiday parade's success, the parade winners, the Venice Museum Open House, the annual glow ride, the Hanukah Festival, and he encouraged the public to visit the City's website and Facebook for more events.

He announced the Together Through Time: Venice at 100 dinner at the Venice Community Center with past mayors and chamber presidents.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk