



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Friday, June 15, 2018

8:30 AM

Community Hall

Budget Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Vice Mayor Bob Daniels, Council Member Richard Cautero, Council Member Fred Fraize, Council Member Charles Newsom and Council Member Margaret Fiedler

ALSO PRESENT

City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Clerk Heather Taylor, Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Human Resources Director Alan Bullock, Information Technology Director Christophe St. Luce, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Controller Joe Welch, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, and Airport Director Mark Cervasio.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. St. Luce.

I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER ED LAVALLEE

II. PRESENTATIONS

- [18-3348](#) City Wide
This item was discussed on June 13, 2018.
- [18-3349](#) General Fund
This item was discussed on June 13, 2018.
- [18-3350](#) City Attorney - City Attorney Dave Persson
This item was discussed on June 13, 2018.
- [18-3351](#) One Cent Sales Tax

This item was discussed on June 13, 2018.

[18-3352](#) Engineering, Stormwater and Streets Capital Projects - City Engineer Kathleen Weeden

This item was discussed on June 13, 2018.

[18-3353](#) Public Works - Director John Veneziano

This item was discussed on June 13, 2018.

[18-3354](#) Fire - Chief Shawn Carvey

This item was discussed on June 13, 2018.

[18-3355](#) Human Resources - Director Alan Bullock

Mr. Bullock reported on his goals and accomplishments including training, arbitrations, upcoming negotiations, wellness program, driver training, working alongside employees in the field, benefits meetings, union contacts, job fairs, turnover data, employee injuries, one-city program, employee satisfaction survey, healthy workplace designation, and property and liability insurance.

Discussion followed on workers' compensation, flex spending, job visits, professional services, union negotiations, employee turnover, pay comparisons, active shooter drills, positions difficult to fill, tuition reimbursement plan, student government day, internships, employee satisfaction survey, recruitment, cost of living adjustments (COLA) for retirees, unemployment compensation, impact on fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget for police retiree COLA presented to council on June 12, 2018 and the need for an additional \$237,000 and unfunded pension liability of approximately \$2.5 million, trade industry, and online training.

[18-3356](#) Information Technology - Director Christophe St. Luce

Mr. St. Luce reported on software costs, increase in security ware training, relocation of equipment, security of systems, on-street cameras at the pier, jetty, and downtown.

Discussion ensued on software updates, meeting with Sarasota County IT, automated payroll system, security system, backup system/software, ransomware, camera upgrade and ongoing costs, sound system in council chambers, communication services tax, replacement funds, responsibility for retention of video, employee email addresses and use, financial vs. business system, drones, server and equipment replacement, and operating supplies increase due to added email accounts.

Recess was taken from 10:10 a.m. until 10:20 a.m.

[18-3357](#)

Police - Chief Tom Mattmuller

Chief Mattmuller noted Venice as a safe place, priority is recruitment, retention and accreditation, and discussed hiring information, training, succession planning, reaching out to military and veterans for employment opportunities, reviewed the department's goals and objectives, requesting elimination of lieutenant position, creating a captain position, new administrative services position, two patrol officers, school resource officer, and marine patrol officer. He noted the objectives listed under the goal of improved traffic flow and safety.

Council members discussed quality of the department, proactively monitoring traffic, homeless, traffic gridlock during season, software costs, firing range use, tactical training, renovation versus demolition of the firing range, canine unit, citizens academy, staffing level, school resource officers, upcoming funding agreement with the school board, marine patrol backup, bike patrol, outreach programs, incentive pay, message boards, communication services increase, Venice High School work station benefits, Ride with the Mayor coverage, license plate readers, retirement contributions, and consider higher contribution for retirement liability.

[18-3358](#)

Airport - Director Mark Cervasio

Mr. Cervasio reviewed goals, difference due to grant funding reporting, modest increase in operating revenues, restricted funds not being used for matching funds, and administration building.

Discussion followed on skydiving requests, professional services increase, hardening the new administration building, hotel negotiations, safety drills, rezoning application, ramp rehabilitation, jet activity, rent/lease discrepancies, fly friendly policies, and federal legislative priority for privatizing air traffic control.

Recess was taken from 11:58 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.

[18-3359](#)

Building, Planning, Code Enforcement - Development Services Director Jeff Shrum

Mr. Shrum reported on code enforcement activities, resort dwelling software, garage sales monitoring, complaints received, concern with office space, and more expected code enforcement board activity.

Council members discussed home businesses in violation of business tax receipt, land development regulation (LDR) rewrite, stormwater regulations and if there is any leeway with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), timely review of ordinances, burning impact,

regulations requiring revision, reports requested on code enforcement activity, officers being proactive, outdoor dining, monitoring activity downtown, software for resort dwellings, staggered schedule for code staff, and neighborhood meetings.

Mr. Shrum acknowledged the award the city received for the comprehensive plan, noted revisiting the fee schedule, possible need for a third party to review fees prior to implementation, iPads for planning commissioners, and tree permitting staffing.

Mr. Shrum discussed the joint planning agreement needing revision, but work load may delay that project, increase in applications, included \$20,000 for rewriting the tree ordinance, and vehicle for arborist.

Discussion ensued on the fee schedule, arborist, tree permitting, LDR revision, considering reviewing the parks chapter of the code with the LDRs, pool vehicles, revenue for tree permitting, notification to Sarasota County for taking over tree permitting, and regulating lot clearing burning.

Ms. Gates left the meeting at 2:26 p.m. and returned at 2:27 p.m.

Discussion followed on reviewing the parks chapter, need for a new vehicle, general services impact fee, and timing for arborist.

[18-3361](#)

City Council & City Clerk - City Clerk Lori Stelzer

There was no discussion on the city clerk's budget.

There was discussion on travel and training and membership fees, salaries, capital improvement projects, and placeholder for council projects under one cent sales tax.

Mr. Cautero left the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Discussion ensued on potential costs for Nolen Communities' activities.

Mr. Cautero returned to the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Ms. Senne noted the difference in salaries will be added to the mayor's promotional account.

Recess was taken from 2:48 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

[18-3360](#)

Utilities - Director Javier Vargas

Mr. Vargas reviewed the budget to include department accomplishments and staffing.

Discussion took place regarding possible grants for US 41 ByPass Relocations, water capacity fees, beautification of the utility plant, Ajax property booster station project noise abatement, project completion percentage, water quality, and unit capacity fees for new dwellings.

[18-3359](#)

Building, Planning, Code Enforcement - Development Services Director Jeff Shrum

Mr. Shrum reviewed activities to include permitting, staffing, fees collected, and TrackIt software.

Mr. Lavallee spoke to funds available for expansion to provide for building department function, parking, funds available for generator, and responded to council questions regarding use of funds from the sale of a city building, and relocating the building department to another building.

Discussion took place on administrative impact fee, salaries, retention bonus, leasing vehicles, use of modern techniques for hiring and retaining personnel, use of the temporary library facility, round table meeting feedback, inspector staffing, inspection processing, permit fees, and updating the fee schedule.

[18-3362](#)

City Manager - City Manager Ed Lavallee

Mr. Lavallee provided a review to include staffing and projects.

Mr. Daniels left the meeting at 4:27 p.m. and did not return.

Mr. Lavallee continued to review his projects.

Discussion took place regarding facility condition assessment, promotional activities, discussing issues with the city manager instead of department directors, online surveys, having consent meetings to obtain information as needed, increase marketing, and sharing of assets.

[18-3363](#)

Finance - Director Linda Senne

This item will be discussed on June 25, 2018.

[18-3364](#)

All Other Funds

This item will be discussed on June 25, 2018.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk