



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Friday, January 9, 2026

9:00 AM

Community Hall Room 165

Budget Process Workshop

[25-0450](#) Instructions on How to Participate in the Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard, Mr. Kevin Engelke and Mr. Lloyd Weed

ALSO PRESENT

City Manager Clinch, City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, Deputy City Clerk Toni Gregory, Finance Director Linda Senne, and Finance Controller Rattana Wongsa.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pachota.

I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER CLINCH

[25-0451](#) Workshop Memorandum

City Manager Clinch provided an introduction on the budget process, and potential models to be used, including Line-Item, Program, Performance, Zero-based, and Priority budgeting. And our current process which is a hybrid of all five of those models. He stated Council can provide feedback on how to strengthen the FY27 budget process.

II. PRESENTATION

[25-0452](#) Finance Director Linda Senne and Controller Rattana Wongsa: Municipal Government Budgeting Methods

Finance Director Senne introduced the goals of the workshop and the five budgeting methods.

Controller Wongsa presented the commonly used municipal budgeting

methods, line-item budgeting, program budgeting, performance-based budgeting, zero-based budgeting, priority-based budgeting, key concepts of the methods, the strengths and challenges and examples of each method.

Finance Director Senne discussed the city's current eight-month budget process, departmental budget work, 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), initial service reviews and needs assessments, strategic planning inputs, the CIP Workshop, and budget development and review meetings.

Discussion took place regarding the staff portion and aligning with Council's direction.

Finance Director Senne continued speaking on the city's budgeting methods, provided examples of how the City uses line-item budgeting, examples of how the city uses program budgeting by division, examples of priority-based budgeting, examples of building the capital budget, the Council budget workshop for the proposed budget, refinement, the budget hearings, summary of the current process, Council's role, and review of today's goals.

Recess from 10:03 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Council provided positive comments on the presentation, and discussed the City's financial accounting systems, interest income projections being understated, providing information regarding things to look for in the future, breaking down accounts by general and enterprise funds, contractual requirements, managing the balance sheet, and not focusing too much on trends.

Discussion took place on providing a income and expense income statement provided at a high level, projecting interest income with quarterly amendments for a more accurate picture, including staffing levels in the summary budgets, and providing details for line items.

City Manager Clinch responded to a Council comment on the use of outside consultants, expense, using them for the annual audit, an IT department study, and a staffing study of the police department. He noted is important to weight the expense versus the benefit when considering a city-wide staffing study.

Discussion took place on staffing levels, the CIP project start dates moving from five-year to one-year, value of the information, enterprise funds, overtime use, duplication of services, fleet, details of the budget being available, and CIP process continuing with staff prioritization of need.

Finance Director Senne responded to a Council question regarding homesteads and homestead exemptions by dollar, and property as a percentage, stating that she will bring the information to the strategic planning meeting.

Discussion continued on having budget details available to them electronically in advance of the budget workshop, the number of budget workshops scheduled, use of staff time, spending money on consultants, being fiscally conservative, Council not getting too involved in the details of operations, CIP, confidence in staff, and enterprise fund efficiency.

City Manager Clinch provided closing comments and thanked City Council and the Finance Department for their participation.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk