



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, April 8, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### **\*There is an Executive Session Scheduled at Noon\***

[25-0132](#)

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, Ms. Joan Farrell, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith and Mr. Kevin Engelke

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Rick Howard

### **ALSO PRESENT**

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Acting Police Chief Eric Hill, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Planning Manager Amy Nelson, and Airport Director Mark Cervasio.

### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Frank.

### **I. RECOGNITION**

[25-0133](#)

2024 Holiday Parade Award Recipients: Venice Theatre, Advanced Asphalt, Starz Choice Dance Academy, Bowersox Air Conditioning and Heating, and Circus Arts Conservatory

**Mayor Pachota, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Special Events/Marketing Coordinator Brianne Lorenz presented this award.**

[25-0094](#)

Swearing in: Police Officers Courtney Chaco, Courtney Brady, and Milton Davis

**Deputy Clerk Barcia performed this swearing in assisted by Mayor Pachota, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Acting Police Chief Eric Hill.**

[25-0134](#) 5-Year Service Award, Marion Vandermark, Administrative Coordinator, Fire Department

**Mayor Pachota, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Fire Chief Giddens presented this award.**

[25-0135](#) 5-Year Service Award, Bithja LaFalle, Firefighter/Paramedic

**Mayor Pachota, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Fire Chief Giddens presented this award.**

[25-0136](#) 5-Year Service Award, Jeffrey Lunsford, Firefighter/Paramedic

**Mayor Pachota, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Fire Chief Giddens presented this award.**

[25-0137](#) 5-Year Service Award, Nicholas Miller, Firefighter/Paramedic

**Mayor Pachota, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Fire Chief Giddens presented this award.**

[25-0138](#) Proclaim the Week of April 6-12 2025 as "Crime Victims' Rights Week", Presented to Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Unit Advocates Autumn Roppolo, Trauma Talks Representative Concetta Holmes, and Venice Police Captain Eric Hill

**Vice Mayor Boldt, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Acting Police Chief Hill presented this proclamation.**

[25-0139](#) Proclaim April 2025 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month", Presented to SPARCC Advocate Mirna Marcia and Police Captain Eric Hill

**Vice Mayor Boldt, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Acting Police Chief Hill presented this proclamation.**

[25-0140](#) Proclaim April 8, 2025 as "Be Kind to Our Municipal Attorney Day" in the City of Venice, Presented to City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

**Mayor Pachota, along with Vice Mayor Boldt, and Assistant City Manager Clinch presented this proclamation.**

[25-0133](#) 2024 Holiday Parade Award Recipients: Venice Theatre, Advanced Asphalt, Starz Choice Dance Academy, Bowersox Air Conditioning and Heating, and Circus Arts Conservatory

**Mayor Pachota, Assistant City Manager Clinch, and Special Events/Marketing Coordinator Lorenz presented this award.**

## **II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.**

Kristen Hoffschmidt, 232 Gulf Drive, spoke on behalf of the Friends of Deertown Gully requesting Council provide a letter of support for a grant application to the Sarasota County Neighborhood Initiative Grant Program.

Louis Kosiba, 6921 Gosport Cove, Lakewood Ranch, spoke on behalf of The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Legacy Trail Commemorative Resolution honoring Darlene Culpepper for her dedication to the pedestrians and bicyclists in the City of Venice and the users of the Legacy Trail.

### III. CONSENT SECTION:

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

#### A. CITY CLERK

[25-0141](#)

Minutes of the March 11, 2025 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved in the Consent Section.

[25-0142](#)

Set the Public Hearing Times for Ordinance No. 2025-15, Hazeltine Property Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 24-36RZ, at 9:00 a.m., or Shortly Thereafter, on April 22, 2025 and May 13, 2025

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

#### B. CITY MANAGER

##### Engineering

[25-0143](#)

Approve adding the Flamingo Ditch Area Flood Mitigation Project to the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Project List and submitting an Economic Recovery & Resiliency Project Summary Worksheet

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

[25-0144](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute Subrecipient Agreement Between Sarasota County, Florida, and the City of Venice, Florida, to Provide Community Development Block Grant Funds for the Cockrill Street Sidewalk (Phase 2) Project in the Amount of \$700,000

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

### IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

### V. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[25-0145](#)

Kevin McGrath, Chair of the Police Pension Board of Trustees and Douglas Lozen, Senior Consulting Actuary, Foster and Foster Actuaries and Consultants: Board Annual Report and Council Feedback

Chair Kevin McGrath and Douglas Lozen provided a presentation on the

police pension board, one active member, otherwise retiree only plan, assumption, returns, minimizing volatility, 23% + return last year, overfunded, intentionally, and answered Council questions regarding a possible recommendation for an increase to the monthly benefit payments.

[25-0146](#)

Edward Van Deusen, Member of the Fire Pension Board of Trustees and Chrissy Stoker, Plan Administrator, Foster and Foster Actuaries and Consultants: Board Annual Report and Council Feedback

Chair Edward Van Deusen and Chrissy Stoker, provided a presentation to include an overview of the pension plan, members, growth of assets, asset allocations, market environment, and answered Council questions regarding Sunshine law and public records training.

## **VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING**

[ORD. NO.](#)  
[2025-14](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the 2017-2027 Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to Petition No. 24-35CP to Comply with the Seven Year Evaluation and Appraisal Process Resulting in the Update of Data, Maps, and Text as Required by Florida Statutes; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith to the Extent of Such Conflict; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Written communications were provided in advance.

Planning Manager Amy Nelson provided a presentation on the Comprehensive plan including the project description, evaluation and appraisal process, accessibility issues in the document, new legislation, elements, land use, transportation and mobility, open space, housing, infrastructure, public school facilities, private property rights, neighborhoods, appendix, and conclusion.

Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark answered Council question regarding Joint Planning Agreement (JPA) language, the importance of annexation, mixed use section removed and is now in the code, first fully implemented Comprehensive Plan, and the City Code being in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion took place on capacity for potable water and wastewater for potential growth.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark responded to Council questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan being a visioning document which gives options, the JPA expiration, the roadway section, widening, floor area ratio, impervious surface, the airport terminal building, and fixed base operator.

Airport Director Mark Cervasio addressed the terms airport terminal building versus administration building being from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Aviation Association (FAA), in relation to grant funding.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark answered Council questions regarding Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) and the Land Development Regulations (LDRs), consistency, and timeframe for submittal to the state.

Discussion took place on the timeframe of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Frank called the question.

Discussion took place on staff being available in advance to answer Council questions.

Recess was taken from 10:47 a.m. to 10:56 a.m.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark answered Council questions regarding complete streets list, County standards on flooding, regulatory issues are addressed in the Code, the Comprehensive Plan being visioning, Stormwater Master Plan update, maintaining Council's flexibility, removing unnecessary language, and thoroughfares.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-14 be approved on first reading and transmitted to the Department of Commerce for review.**

Discussion took place regarding further discussion, review, and the longevity of the document.

**The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Engelke

**No:** 2 - Ms. Farrell and Mr. Smith

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

**B. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING****[ORD. NO.  
2025-12](#)**

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Providing for Placement of the Structure Known as the Venice Beach Pavilion Located at 101 The Esplanade South on The Local Register of Historical Resources Pursuant to Chapter 87, Historic and Architectural Preservation, Section 7.7, Local Register and Landmarks, of the City of Venice Code of Ordinances; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels 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. 2025-12 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Engelke

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

**[ORD. NO.  
2025-13](#)**

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 46, Parks and Recreation, Article V, Camping and Storage of Personal Property on Public Property, By Amending Section 46-201, Definitions, and Section 46-202, Camping Prohibited; Exceptions; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Written communications were provided in advance.

City Attorney Fernandez stated staff would like to continue the ordinance to the next meeting.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to continue Ordinance No. 2025-13 to the April 22, 2025 City Council Meeting at 9 a.m.**

Discussion took place regarding the reason for continuance being due to questions on implementation and potential language changes.

**The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Engelke

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO.  
2025-06](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Approving an Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Project Number 438750-1-94-02 by and Between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Venice, Florida, for the Design and Construction of a General Aviation Terminal Building; Authorizing Appropriate City Officials to Execute it; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There was no public comment.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Resolution No. 2025-06 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Engelke

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

[RES. NO.  
2025-07](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Isola Casa Development Company LLC, and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date (Isola Casa)

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There was no public comment.

**A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Resolution No. 2025-07 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Engelke

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

[RES. NO.  
2025-08](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Authorizing the Venice City Council to Participate in a Joint Meeting with Sarasota County to Receive,

Discuss and Act Upon Matters of Mutual Interest; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There was no public comment.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mrs. Frank, that Resolution No. 2025-08 be approved and adopted.**

Discussion took place regarding the desire for additional topics and a more flexible agenda.

**The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Engelke

**No:** 1 - Mr. Smith

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

## **B. PRESENTATION**

[25-0147](#)

Assistant City Manager James Clinch and Fire Chief Frank Giddens: Hurricane After Action Report

Assistant City Manager Clinch and Fire Chief Giddens provided the the Hurricane After Action Report (AAR) for Hurricanes Helene and Milton, including the purpose of the AAR, methodology, 2024 Hurricane Season Overview, emergency operations overview, successes before the storm, during the storm, and after the storm, key observations, and recommendations. financial impacts, and the upcoming hurricane expo, and answered Council questions regarding flood barriers, sandbags, sandbag alternatives, mobile showers and other recovery services, thoroughness of the report, speed of recovery, and equipment recommendations.

## **C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION - Continued**

[25-0148](#)

Approve Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2026

Assistant City Manager Clinch answered a Council question regarding Goal Three.

There was no public comment.

Discussion took place on Goal Six regarding communicating upcoming zoning changes to residents.

**A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Farrell, to approve the Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2026, with the**



change to Goal 3, Policy 1, adding "for recurring expenses" to the end of the sentence. The motion failed by the following electronic vote:

**Yes:** 2 - Ms. Farrell and Mr. Smith

**No:** 4 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Engelke

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

Discussion took place regarding the wording being appropriate as written.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to approve the Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2026. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Engelke

**No:** 2 - Ms. Farrell and Mr. Smith

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

## **VIII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS**

### City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez commented on Council Chambers renovation.

### City Clerk

Clerk Michaels reminded Council about their upcoming executive session.

### City Manager

City Manager Lavallee had no report.

## **IX. COUNCIL REPORTS**

### ***Council Member Frank***

Mrs. Frank had no report.

### ***Council Member Engelke***

Mr. Engelke had no report.

### ***Council Member Farrell***

Ms. Farrell had no report.

### ***Council Member Howard***

Mr. Howard was absent.

### ***Council Member Smith***

Mr. Smith commented on the public comment request from the Friends of Deertown Gully.

**A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Farrell, to amend the agenda to discuss the request for a letter of support from the Friends of Deertown Gully.**

***Council Member Smith***

Discussion took place regarding support for a letter, the letter not being read, time to review documents and question staff, allowing the mayor to write a letter, last minute request, concern of obligating the City, and not having complete information.

**The motion failed by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Ms. Farrell, Mr. Smith and Mr. Engelke

**No:** 3 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt and Mrs. Frank

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Howard

***Vice Mayor Boldt***

Vice Mayor Boldt had no report.

***Mayor Pachota***

Mayor Pachota reported on attendance at Legislative Action Day in Tallahassee, and upcoming events, including Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) Earth Day celebration, the annual Sharks Tooth Festival, local egg hunts, and Venice Police and Fire Public Safety Day.

**X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk