

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, VENICE, FLORIDA

July 25, 2012

A Special Meeting of the City Council to consider dispatch consolidation and solid waste operational issues was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Roll was called with the following elected officials present: Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Kit McKeon and Council Members: Jim Bennett, Emilio Carlesimo, Jeanette Gates, and Dave Sherman. Bob Daniels was absent.

Also present: City Attorney Bob Anderson, City Manager Ed Lavalley and City Clerk Lori Stelzer and for certain items on the agenda: Police Chief Tom McNulty and Solid Waste/Recycle Foreman Bob Moroni.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. McKeon.

I. POLICE DISPATCH CONSOLIDATION

a) Presentation and Discussion

Chief McNulty reviewed costs for staffing the dispatch center and the Venice Police front desk and answered questions relating to county fees for routing all local calls to the county call center, 911 services and funding, and dual taxation. Chief McNulty responded to questions concerning annual call volumes, equipment provided by the county, there being no reimbursements for telephone bills, impacts of equipment upgrades, equipment agreements and costs, overtime costs, staffing, city dispatchers applying for county positions, negotiating agreements that include hiring city dispatchers, costs to city residents, salary costs, dispatch times, lawsuits against dispatchers, local dispatchers being familiar with city issues, front desk personnel, previous and existing joint endeavors with the county, residents preferring to call directly to their Venice Police Department, maintaining public safety, quality of service, and police department budget.

b) Audience Participation

(2:42) Richard Najm, city employee and AFSCME steward, commented on the importance of providing job security and staffing the police department front desk.

Dan Tucci, AFSCME president, offered support for Chief McNulty's comments relating to the county hiring city dispatchers.

Marty Dover, city resident, spoke in support of retaining local dispatcher service.

John Patten, city resident, supported a local police presence.

Janice Collins, city resident, stated the need for a complete review of costs relating to dispatch consolidation.

Rosemary Vauzanges, city resident, requested an itemization of costs to city residents.

Sue Ann Whitehead, retired Sarasota county 911 operator, provided background information relating to county law enforcement operations.

Discussion ensued regarding city resident input and dispatch costs.

(3:16) Mr. Carlesimo **moved** to direct staff to cease exploration of dispatch consolidation at this time. **Seconded** by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Sherman **amended** the motion to postpone the consolidation for at least three years. **Seconded** by Mr. Bennett.

Discussion continued regarding including consolidation in budget discussions, reviewing revenue opportunities, and staffing costs.

AMENDMENT CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH MS. GATES AND MR. BENNETT OPPOSED.

MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH MS. GATES AND MR. BENNETT OPPOSED.

Recess was taken from 3:29 p.m. until 3:39 p.m.

II. SOLID WASTE OPERATIONAL ISSUES – HOLIDAY/OVERTIME/ONCE PER WEEK VS. TWICE PER WEEK PICKUP

a) Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Moroni provided information concerning holiday solid waste collections and operational constraints associated with once-per-week versus twice-per-week pickup, and answered council member questions pertaining to costs, sanitation and cleanliness, equipment maintenance, recycling, employee incentives, Monday commercial and residential service, holiday collection, employee wages, impacts to the general fund, once-per-week pickup costs versus need, obtaining input from the finance department, employee costs for working ten hour days, number of summer

residents, employee duties when routes are completed early, budget projections, prior survey supporting twice-per-week pickup, solid waste pickup volume, commercial recycling, charging other companies to pick up solid waste within city limits, and employee rapport with city residents.

b) Audience Participation

(5:04) Rosemary Vauzanges, city resident, suggested once-per-week pickup during the summer, establishing focus groups to provide input, and expanding the variety of acceptable recycled materials.

Garry DeLea, city resident, spoke in support of twice-per-week pickup.

Janice Collins, city resident, supported once-per-week pickup.

Mr. Daniels **moved** to not take further action on this issue until next year. **Seconded** by Mr. McKeon.

Mr. Carlesimo **amended** the motion to extend the time to two years. **Seconded** by Mr. Bennett.

AMENDMENT FAILED WITH A SHOW OF HANDS WITH MR. DANIELS, MS. GATES, MR. MCKEON, AND MAYOR HOLIC OPPOSED.

MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH MS. GATES AND MAYOR HOLIC OPPOSED.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor – City of Venice

City Clerk