



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[25-0215](#)

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: 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 Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Planner Brittany Smith, and Finance Director Linda Senne.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Weed.

I. RECOGNITION

[25-0216](#)

Ceremonial Swearing in: Council Member Lloyd Weed

Clerk Michaels performed this swearing in assisted by Mayor Pachota.

[25-0217](#)

10-Year Service Award, Steven Short, Police Officer

Mayor Pachota, City Manager Lavallee, and Acting Chief Eric Hill presented this award.

Recess was taken from 9:08 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Melinda Short, 527 Sawgrass Bridge Road, and John Holic, 636 Apalachicola Road, spoke on behalf of the Roberts Bay Revitalization Initiative (RBRI) on cleanups, RBRI merging with Sarasota Bay Watch, requested to partner with City on channel debris removal on Hatchett and Curry Creeks, and debris removal from Tarpon Lagoon.

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[25-0218](#)

Minutes of the May 13, 2025 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved in the Consent Section.

[25-0219](#)

Confirm Council Member Lloyd Weed as Liaison to Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership Program Policy Committee and the United Way of South Sarasota County's Long Term Recovery Group

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

B. CITY MANAGEREngineering[25-0220](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Notice of Grant and Agreement Award Budget of \$360,525 with Federal Share of \$360,525 and Local Share of \$0 for Hurricane Milton Channel Debris Removal

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS***PUBLIC HEARINGS - ORDINANCES FIRST READING***[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-16](#)

Ordinance Continued from the May 13, 2025 Council Meeting

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. 24-60CP by Changing the Future Land Use Designation on the Property Generally Located at the Northeast Corner of Auburn and Border Road, South of I-75, from Low Density Residential (LDR) to Moderate Density Residential (MODR); 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.

Planner Brittany Smith provided a presentation to include general information, project description, aerial map, existing and proposed conditions, future and proposed future land uses, current and proposed zoning maps, site photo, surrounding land uses, planning analysis, Comprehensive Plan consistency, Land Development Code compliance, Concurrency/Mobility, conclusions/findings of fact, and answered Council questions regarding density.

Joshua Law, Agent for the Applicant presented general information, location map, project site, photos, aerial photos, conceptual plan, the Comprehensive Plan, current future land use, proposed future land use, compatibility, surrounding units, surrounding condo/townhome density, buggering, proposed enhanced buffering, surrounding area buffering, conceptual plan, transportation, stormwater management, conclusion, requested approval, and answered Council questions regarding density, and intensity.

Steve Carr, 149 Avens Drive, expressed concerns on the zoning designation, density, and infill development.

Nancy DeForge, 332 Laurel Hollow Drive, expressed concerns on density and encouraged Council to deny the amendment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Mr. Howard, to deny Ordinance No. 2025-16.

Discussion took place regarding compatibility and density, maintaining low density, surrounding neighborhood properties, attainable housing, intensity, and the benefits of build-to-own townhomes.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Recess was taken from 10:16 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

[ORD. NO.
2025-17](#)

Ordinance Continued from the May 13, 2025 Council Meeting

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 24-61RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation of the Property Generally Located at the Northeast Corner of Auburn and Border Road, South of I-75 (10.73 ± Acres), from Sarasota County Open Use Rural (OUR) to City of Venice Residential, Multi-Family 2 (RMF-2); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

The applicant withdrew Petition No. 24-16RZ for Ordinance No. 2025-17.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

[ORD. NO.
2025-21](#)

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2024-25, Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2024 and Ending September 30, 2025; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$417,890 and Total Expenditures by \$417,890; 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 Ordinance No. 2025-21 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.

City Manager Lavallee answered a Council question regarding the sale of a truck being sold for scrap.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

[ORD. NO.
2025-22](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22, Elections, by Amending Section 22-1, Procedure for Qualifying for Office, Renaming Section 22-2, Preparation of Ballots, Repealing Section 22-3, Designation of Polling Places and Publication of Notice, Section 22-4, Voting Machines or Devices, and Section 22-5, Canvassing Board, Amending and Renumbering Section 22-6, Certification of Election Results, Repealing Section 22-7, Reserved, Renumbering Section 22-8, Discharge of Duties, and Amending by Renumbering and Adding Section 22-5, Special Elections; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

City Attorney Fernandez stated the ordinance is an update to Elections in the City Code and is consistent with Council's discussion at a previous meeting.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-22 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

B. PRESENTATION WITH ACTION

25-0221

Finance Director Linda Senne: Budget 3% Cap

Finance Director Senne stated they are requesting Council's permission to exceed the 3% budget cap in order to provide a balanced budget to Council on June 5th, which will exceed 3% from the prior year's original adopted budget as required by the Code. She stated the reasons for the increase are estimated pay increases, and related costs, increase in property and liability insurance, increase in vehicle rent payments, payment to Sarasota County based on the interlocal agreement, two police department full time equivalents (FTEs), Parks Master Plan, and the Seaboard Master Plan. She answered a Council question regarding the originally adopted budget amount basis versus using the amended budget amount as the basis. Code language is specific to original adopted budget amount when calculating the 3% cap.

City Manager Lavallee commented on the history of the 3% cap and measuring growth.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, to approve the request to exceed the 3% budget cap for the FY26 Budget.

Discussion took place regarding roll back rate, revenue, property taxes, taxing trends, reducing expenses, unwillingness to reduce staff increases, lowered millage in 2023, reserves, comparing cities, cost of services, cost of living, reviewing the budget line by line, and upcoming budget workshops.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

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

No: 1 - Mr. Smith

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION[25-0222](#)

Direct the Appropriate Charter Officer to Provide Council With an Update on the Curry Creek Project at the July 8, 2025 City Council Meeting (Mr. Howard)

Mr. Howard introduced the topic of a Curry Creek maintenance project update.

Steve Carr, 149 Avens Drive, expressed appreciation for a future report of the project status.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to direct the appropriate Charter Officer to have staff bring back an update on the status of the Curry Creek Maintenance project to Council at the July 8th, 2025 meeting.

Discussion took place regarding support for the request, and engaging the not-for-profit community.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTSCity Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee reported on attendance at the Florida City County Managers Association, with Assistant City Manager James Clinch handling things in his absence, and the utility water quality report.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS***Council Member Smith***

Mr. Smith stated he was looking forward to the reviewing the budget and the budget workshops. He also commented on the Southwest Regional Planning Council's dissolution.

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank congratulated Mr. Weed for his appointment.

Council Member Engelke

Mr. Engelke had no report.

Council Member Weed

Mr. Weed thanked everyone for the warm welcome, expressed appreciation for the City staff, and reported on the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership meeting.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard had no report.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on the Tourist Development Council (TDC), and the upcoming Hurricane Expo.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on the Memorial Day ceremony at Patriot's Park, EMS Week events, and the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) approval of renaming City Hall Park. He commented on the upcoming Hurricane Expo, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mayor Pachota announced the upcoming events, Old Betsy Museum ribbon cutting, Centennial Community Meeting, the 2025 Holiday Parade theme, craft festival, and welcomed Mr. Weed to Council.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk