

*These Minutes are not  
Official until approved by  
Venice City Council*

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP  
CITY COUNCIL, VENICE, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 6, 2012

A workshop of the City Council to consider the Delivery of Legal Services was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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, Bob Daniels, Jeanette Gates, and Dave Sherman.

Also present: City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, and City Attorney Bob Anderson.

**I. PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF CITY ATTORNEY**

Mayor Holic reviewed his handout, noting that his proposal was less restrictive than the proposal provided by staff.

Discussion ensued regarding Venice law firms, a law firm's ability to handle multiple projects in a timely manner and track costs; attorney selection timeline; qualifications; the city's proposal being prepared by Mr. Lavallee and Mr. Bullock; benefits of selecting a local firm; minimum requirements necessary to qualify for consideration; law firm versus single attorney; obtaining a good applicant pool; considering an in-house attorney; requiring municipal law experience; attorney rates including retainer, hourly rate, and health insurance; scope of services; obtaining information on fee studies from the Florida League of Cities; complexity of the city's legal needs; finalizing the scope of services at the November 7, 2012 council meeting; the applicant providing compensation arrangements; and estimating the number of hours to be worked.

**II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5 minutes each speaker)**

(11:03) Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, reminded council members of a prior study on an in-house attorney, and shared his ideas relating to local attorneys and litigation experience.

James Humphrey and Derek Rooney, Fowler White Boggs, Ft. Myers, Florida, expressed an interest in submitting a proposal and commented on representing municipalities, limiting opportunities for proposals if applicants are confined to small geographical area, advantages of a firm over a single attorney, and hourly rates.

Council members discussed the qualifications of the Fowler White Boggs law firm.

Mr. Bullock indicated that Mayor Holic's proposal could be merges with staff's proposal.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

ATTEST:

---

Mayor – City of Venice

---

City Clerk