



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING (See Instructions Below)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Virtual Meeting

[20-4467](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Ms. Stelzer noted Mr. Pachota requested an excused absence.

Present: 6 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Council Member Richard Cautero, Vice Mayor Charles Newsom, Dr. Margaret Fiedler, Council Member Helen Moore and Dr. Joseph Neunder

Excused: 1 - Council Member Nick Pachota

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Feinsod.

Ms. Fernandez referenced Executive Order No. 20-69 issued by Governor DeSantis and Executive Order No. 2020-04 issued by the city regarding public meetings, and commented on public participation in virtual meetings.

I. RECOGNITION

[20-4468](#)

Proclaim the Month of April 2020 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month"

Mayor Feinsod read the proclamation.

[20-4469](#)

Proclaim the Week of April 19-25, 2020 as "National Crime Victims"

Rights Week"

Mayor Feinsod read the proclamation.

[20-4470](#)

Proclaim the Month of April 2020 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month"

Mayor Feinsod read the proclamation.

Recess was taken at 9:08 a.m. until 9:12 a.m. due to technical difficulties.

[20-4471](#)

Proclaim the Week of April 19-25, 2020 as "National Volunteer Week"

Mayor Feinsod read the proclamation.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to excuse Mr. Pachota's absence. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

No one signed up to speak.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Vice Mayor Newsom, to approve items in the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[20-4472](#)

Minutes of the March 31, 2020 Virtual Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY MANAGER

[20-4473](#)

Approve Letter of Support to the Office of Criminal Justice Grants for the Distribution of \$104,418.00 of Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Countywide Funds for Mental Health Court

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Engineering

[20-25FP](#)

Accept the Developers Completion and Payment Bond in the Amount of \$1,427,813.74 and Declaration of Maintenance Responsibilities from Neal Signature Homes, LLC, and Authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and City Engineer to Sign Aria Phase II Final Plat

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

Recess was taken at 9:17 a.m. until 9:22 a.m. due to technical difficulties.

Ms. Fernandez noted all consent agenda items were approved.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2020-13](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Establishing the Laurel Road Community Development District; Establishing the Boundaries of that District; Appointing the Initial Board of Supervisors; Providing for Powers of the Board; Consenting to Exercise of Certain Special Powers by the Board; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date

Recess was taken at 9:27 a.m. until 9:49 a.m. due to technical difficulties.

Ms. Fernandez recapped previous actions due to technical difficulties.

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Feinsod opened the public hearing.

No written communication was received.

Council waived applicant's presentation.

No one signed up to speak.

Mayor Feinsod closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Dr. Neunder, that Ordinance No. 2020-13 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Dr. Neunder

Excused: 1 - Mr. Pachota

Ms. Fernandez noted council excused Mr. Pachota's absence.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

ORD. NO.
2020-11

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 46, Parks and Recreation, by Creating Article V, Camping and Storage of Personal Property on Public Property; Providing for Definitions; Providing for the Restriction of Camping on City Owned Property and Rights-Of-Way; Providing for the Restriction of Storage of Personal Property on Public Property; Providing for Enforcement and Penalties; Providing for Severability; Providing for the Repeal of Ordinances in Conflict; and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

No one signed up to speak.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Newsom, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2020-11 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.

Vice Mayor Newsom commented on the ordinance and addressing public safety and health issues.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Dr. Neunder

Excused: 1 - Mr. Pachota

B. RESOLUTIONS

RES. NO.
2020-04

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Pamlico Point Management, LLC and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Resolution No. 2020-04 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Dr. Neunder

Excused: 1 - Mr. Pachota

RES. NO.
2020-07

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Neal Signature Homes, LLC and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Resolution No. 2020-07 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Dr. Neunder

Excused: 1 - Mr. Pachota

RES. NO.
2020-08

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Authorizing Appropriate Government Officials to Execute the Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Project Number 436507-1-94-01 By and Between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Venice, Florida, to Add State and Local Funds in Fiscal Year 2020 and to Extend the Contract Terms through December 31, 2021, to Provide for the Construction Phase for the Aviation Project for Drainage Improvements, Phase I; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Resolution No. 2020-08 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Dr. Neunder

Excused: 1 - Mr. Pachota

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

20-4474

Response and Actions Related to COVID-19

Mr. Lavallee reported on Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens' communication with Sarasota County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and COVID-19 reports sent to staff on a daily basis, and responded to council questions regarding the city's budget projections.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on the city's initiative allowing food trucks licensed by the state to operate their businesses remotely, and responded to questions regarding protections surrounding food trucks and council obtaining hard data from the finance department on budget projections.

Ms. Stelzer noted finance staff will be presenting requested information at the next council meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the city's finances, developing contingencies based on revenue streams, and the city's response to COVID-19.

Mayor Feinsod urged residents to wear a mask in public.

Chief Carvey reported on the department's SUV responding to calls along with the fire engine to minimize personnel exposure, Emergency Medical

Services (EMS) transition to include hiring paramedics, and daily meeting with EOC.

Mayor Feinsod noted city staff has done an excellent job keeping the community informed and encouraged residents to visit the city's website for information.

[20-4475](#)

Approve Entering into a Local Funding Agreement with Sarasota County for the Use of Impact Fee Funds for the Administration of a Conceptual Design Process for Improvements to Laurel Road, with Stated Conditions by Sarasota County

Mr. Lavalley explained the county approved the use of up to \$400,000 in city impact fees to pay for the preliminary engineering of the project with contingencies to include the city would be responsible for managing the project, and the city would have up to ten years to complete the construction or pay back the cost of the initial engineering work, and inquired if council wants the city to proceed with formulating a funding agreement with the county.

Discussion took place regarding project management, engineering design timeframe, project funding, and process to solicit engineering firm.

Recess was taken at 10:31 a.m. until 10:37 a.m.

Pat Neal, Neal Communities, commented on success with previous projects, saving the city money, Stantec working on adjacent Neal Community project, benefits of private enterprise concepts, and requested to make a presentation on benefits of a public/private partnership at the next meeting in council chambers, the city proceed with discussions on a funding agreement with the county, and to defer selection of an engineering contract until his presentation is made to council.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Dr. Neunder, that the city proceed with a funding agreement with Sarasota County, and have staff and Pat Neal present a report to council at the next meeting held in council chambers.

Discussion took place regarding Laurel Road, project cost estimate and the city's contribution, funding sources to include state grants and impact fees, one-cent sales tax, and addressing the city's financial expectations.

Ms. Fernandez clarified a funding agreement will need to come before council for approval.

Discussion continued regarding project cost estimate and the city's contribution, paying back the county if the road is not constructed, project funding, unassigned mobility fees, grants, ten year pay back period, annual impact fee revenue from new construction, state funding, Pinebrook Road

and East Venice Avenue intersection project, designating impact fees for Laurel Road improvements, and mobility fees from new construction.

Recess was taken at 11:10 a.m. until 11:23 a.m. due to technical difficulties.

Mr. Lavallee reviewed impact fee estimates provided by the finance department.

Discussion followed on impact fee revenue from development, criteria for use of road and mobility impact fees, project funding sources, one-cent sales tax, Jacaranda Boulevard extension, April 28, 2020 virtual council meeting, the economy's financial recovery time, prioritizing critical needs for the city, and concern with the city entering a public/private partnership with Neal Communities.

Vice Mayor Newsom spoke to resident feedback received and noted residents are not in favor of spending discretionary money on road project at this time.

Discussion continued on postponing motion to a future meeting in council chambers.

A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Moore, to postpone motion for Item No. 20-4475 to the first meeting in council chambers. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

Ms. Fernandez commented on today's virtual meeting process and possibility of structuring a meeting where all council members are present together.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer had no report.

City Manager

Mr. Lavallee commented on accomodating council members with communication challenges.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Cautero

Mr. Cautero had no report.

Council Member Neunder

Dr. Neunder noted distributing gloves to local businesses.

Council Member Pachota

Mr. Pachota was absent.

Mayor Feinsod thanked Mr. Pachota for his service as a first responder.

Council Member Newsom

Mr. Newsom advised he will be present at city hall for the next council meeting, commented on planning commission member Tom Murphy, and reported on Council of Governments (COG) meeting.

Council Member Fiedler

Dr. Fiedler complimented staff for the wonderful job done during the pandemic.

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore suggested including the city's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) link when replying to the public and praised city staff for their work.

Mayor Feinsod

Mayor Feinsod commented on city staff, residents viewing FAQs on the city's website, and residents taking precautionary measures by wearing masks in public.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk