



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, September 8, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### Broadcast

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Jim Bennett, Council Member Emilio Carlesimo, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates and Council Member Bob Daniels

**Absent:** 1 - Deborah Anderson

#### Also Present:

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Edward Klotz, and for certain items on the agenda: Director of Administrative Services Alan Bullock and Marketing and Communications Officer Pam Johnson.

#### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Victor McMurry.

#### I. RECOGNITION

[15-1448](#) Proclaim the Month of September as "Attendance Awareness Month" Presented to John Annis on behalf of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading

**Ms. Gates presented this Proclamation.**

[15-1449](#) Proclaim August 29, 2015 as "Handmade By Ethel's" Official Walk To End Alzheimer's Event Presented to Summer Reyes, Alzheimers Association

**Mr. McKeon read this Proclamation.**

[15-1450](#) Proclaim September 17-23, 2015 as "Constitution Week" Presented to Jean Maxwell Catsakis, Chair, Constitution Week Committee, Sarasota Chapter of the DAR and Victor McMurry, President, Saramana Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution (SAR)

Mayor Holic presented this proclamation to Jean Maxwell Catsakis, Clarissa Thomasson and Victor McMurry.

## II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Barry Zamoff, 408 Park Lane Drive, provided an overview of SCAT route 13 and the issues related to the establishment of a new southbound route. After noting that SCAT has not responded to his inquiries he provided a possible new route with estimated times.

Ms. Anderson entered the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Discussion ensued regarding city council sending a letter of support for a new SCAT route.

David Sayer, 633 W. Venice Avenue, questioned if there is an overseeing body that approves improvements to the city to include statues, historical markers, additions to the John Nolen plan and signage.

Philip Brown, 289 Sapphire Lake Drive, Unit 201, Bradenton, from United Way of Manatee County after providing an overview thanked the council for the "Attendance Awareness Month" proclamation.

Sandy McGowan, 829 Carnoustie Drive, Venice, commented on her poor experience with Venice Regional Bayfront Hospital with the anticipation that during the hospital presentation her issues will be addressed.

Tom Pendergrass, 787 Bridle Oaks Drive, expressed his support for item no. 15-1454, Council Execution of Wade Trim, Inc. Work Assignment No. 4 for the Lime Sludge Pond Closure in the Amount of \$173,260.00.

Larry Ivey, 120 Base Avenue E., noted the Venice Regional Bayfront Health Community Update agenda item expressing his support. He requested that council ask in the presentation what organization conducted their initial cleanup and what issues were found.

Ted Koszarski, 1229 Lucaya Avenue, provided examples of his poor experiences and the issues involved with Venice Hospital.

Tom Murphy, 1508 Jasper Court, explained his poor experiences with Venice Hospital.

## III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels to approve items in the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item No.

15-1453. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

#### A. MAYOR

[15-1451](#) Reappoint Judith Bauer to the Historic Preservation Board to Serve a Term from September 8, 2015 until August 31, 2018  
This Reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

#### B. CITY CLERK

[15-1452](#) Minutes of the May 6, 2015 Special Meeting  
These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

#### C. CITY MANAGER

##### Utilities

[15-1454](#) Requests Council Execution of Wade Trim, Inc. Work Assignment No. 4 for the Lime Sludge Pond Closure in the Amount of \$173,260.00  
This Work Assignment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

##### Planning

[15-1453](#) Approval of Work Assignment No. 1 with Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. for On-going Professional Land Use Planning Services  
A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo, to approve Item No. 15-1453.  
Discussion ensued regarding the use of consultants versus staff with it being noted that the consultants are required due to amount of time needed to ensure consistency with the current Land Development Code and that this is a work assignment for a larger project.  
Ms. Gates left the meeting at 9:57 a.m. and returned at 9:59 a.m.  
The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. PRESENTATIONS

[15-1455](#) Jeff Reece, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Karlene Pietranton, Chief Quality Officer, and Kristen Gentry, Chief Operating Officer, Venice Regional Bayfront Health: Community Update (20 min.)  
Ms. Gentry provided an update of Venice Regional Hospital's recent activities describing the hospital's plumbing issue with subsequent cleanup, AHCA (Agency for Healthcare Administration) site visit and

three main areas of focus (infection control, maintenance of environment/physical plant and the governing board) for hospital improvement.

Discussion ensued regarding the citizen's lack of confidence in the hospital, need for the hospital to reach out to the public in addressing concerns, the need for a hospital in the community, why the hospital has not revealed who did the initial clean up of the plumbing issue and the responsibility of city council to the public with it being requested that Venice Regional provide ongoing updates to city council.

## **B. RESOLUTIONS**

### [RES. NO. 2015-19](#)

Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Neal Communities of Southwest Florida, LLC, and Accepting the Grant of Easement, a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond, and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date

Recess was held from 10:42 a.m. until 10:54 a.m.

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Bennett, that Resolution No. 2015-19 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carlesimo, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels and Ms. Anderson

## **C. COUNCIL ACTION**

### [15-1456](#)

Consider Offer from the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce to Bring a Nationally Recognized Expert in the Area of Local Government Performance Management to Study Consolidation of Fire Protection Services Between the City of Venice and Sarasota County

**A motion was made by Council Member Bennett, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo, that Item No. 15-1456 be approved with the city manager managing the process.**

Discussion ensued regarding final stages of negotiation, Mr. Lavalley in negotiation with Sarasota County, proposal is to have a third party involved in the process to help provide additional information to assist council, need ballot language to be ratified by first meeting in December, data to date is reference of cost of depreciation of equipment, pension and response times and there is no information of a county ordinance regarding fees.

**A motion was made by Council Member Bennett, seconded by Council Member Daniels to call the question. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**The original motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson and Mr. Daniels opposed.**

[15-1457](#)

Regina Lucente, Account Manager, Ascension Benefits & Insurance Solutions; Andy Hanson, Account Manager, and David Lodwick, Director of Trust Services, Florida Municipal Insurance Trust: Property and Liability Insurance Renewal for Fiscal Year 2016 (15 min.)

Mr. Bullock provided an overview noting council approved an agent services agreement with Employers Mutual, Inc. d/b/a Ascension Benefits & Insurance Solutions of Florida, appointing Ascension as the city's property & liability insurance agent effective October 1, 2013 for a period of three years, with two additional years at the city's sole discretion and the switch to Ascension generated a savings of over \$100,000 in the first year.

After Mr. Bullock provided an example of park bathroom facilities that were struck by lightning and their company's efficiency in responding to the issue, Mr. Lodwick presented a return premium check to the city in the amount of \$59,139 from the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Item No. 15-1457 be approved. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

[15-1458](#)

Approve Request of the Sarasota County Croquet Club to Add Two Croquet Courts At Wellfield Park as Proposed

**A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo, that Item No. 15-1458 be approved.**

Bob Lentz and Fred Jones of the Sarasota County Croquet Club provided a background of the club and their request for two additional croquet courts noting that the courts are to be constructed north of the existing courts. Their request included the city constructing the fencing, Sarasota County expanding the irrigation system and moving two frisbee holes and the croquet club providing the loam, green mixture, laser leveling, sodding and making the courts playable.

Discussion ensued regarding fencing responsibility of the city per interlocal agreement, Sarasota County requires the city to initiate activity, monies collected by Sarasota County should pay for park upgrades with Mayor Holic stating he will bring the issue to the Council of Governments for discussion.

**The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

[15-1459](#)

Consider Appointing a Student to the Historic Preservation Board as a Non-Voting Member

**A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels to appoint a student to the Historic Preservation Board as a non-voting**

member.

Discussion ensued regarding students servings on boards as non-voting members, currently have a student serving on the Environmental Advisory Board and an ordinance will need to be created for a student to serve as a non-voting member on the Historic Preservation Board with the city clerk requested to draft an ordinance and bring back to a future council meeting for approval.

**The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

[15-1460](#)

Approve 2016 State Legislative Priorities and Federal Appropriations Requests

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Item No. 15-1460 be approved.**

Discussion ensued regarding the city council being the legislative body and the process to be used in establishing legislative priorities.

Ms. Johnson presented an overview of the proposed document and process noting that this is a preliminary document.

Discussion continued regarding Home Rule as a priority, Venice is a retirement community, objection to tourism, many businesses rely on tourism and council should have created the legislative priorities document.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels to call the question. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

**The original motion failed by voice vote unanimously.**

## V. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

### City Attorney

Mr. Persson provided an overview of email procedures noting that the first council member to respond to an email is allowed and all other members should not respond.

### City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer had nothing to report.

### City Manager

Mr. Lavallee had nothing to report.

## VI. COUNCIL REPORTS

### **Mayor Holic**

Mayor Holic reported meeting with soccer team officers regarding the office clubhouse built in 1998 with donated funds, no lightning meters at Wellfield Park and using smart phones to track storms, netting needed for fields two and three to keep balls out of the lake, need for additional parking, shade structures and indoor soccer fields.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to determine throughout the county the level of service, private donations or public assistance, master parks plan, lighting is the prerogative of Sarasota County on how money will be spent, need to create a stakeholder group, city does not have a parks and recreation department and a request that city council hold a special meeting on parks to determine where the city is headed with parks.

Ms. Anderson left the meeting at 12:47 p.m. and did not return.

Mayor Holic reported that he attended a horse show at Fox Lea Farm and noted that these are large events with the participants utilizing Venice businesses and hotels, will be speaking to the Economic Development Advisory Board regarding advertising opportunities on Fox Lea Farm jumps, Up With People doing volunteer work along with performing and the partnership between the city and county regarding parks.

#### [15-1461](#)

#### Pedestrian Crossing Signs in Downtown Venice

Mayor Holic stated that this agenda item is in response to an email from a constituent regarding safety issues regarding the road signs downtown along Venice Avenue with a request for council to review the matter.

Discussion ensued regarding multiple negative comments regarding the signs have been received, how other municipalities handle traffic signage, the Metropolitan Planning Organization will discuss, the newly created Traffic Advisory Task Force is investigating traffic issues and it was suggested to add this item to a future council workshop.

#### ***Council Member Carlesimo***

Mr. Carlesimo noted that council members should come prepared for meetings and thanked the members for bringing up issues and responding to them.

#### ***Council Member McKeon***

Mr. McKeon expressed concern regarding the proliferation of benches in the city without council input and requested a discussion be held regarding benches, plaques and statues. He attended the planning commission noting a variance request by Old Salty Dog restaurant and expressed concern that once a site plan is approved it should be

binding. Mr. Persson responded that it is a binding document but does not preclude the applicant from requesting a revision.

Discussion ensued with it being agreed that the process needs to be addressed and for the city manager to include in a future workshop.

**Council Member Daniels**

[15-1441](#)

Discussion on Business Tax Receipts for Rentals Over Six Months

Mr. Daniels provided an overview on business tax receipts for rentals over six months with discussion following regarding the importance for the city to enforce taxes, the need for clarification of what a business is, need to focus on enforcement, short term versus long term rentals and looking at what other communities are doing.

There was consensus for the city attorney to review the handling of business tax receipts for rentals over six months in neighboring communities.

**Council Member Gates**

Ms. Gates had nothing to report.

**Council Member Anderson**

Ms. Anderson was not present.

**Council Member Bennett**

Mr. Bennett reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has created a new model for lobbying and the officers elections will be held in November.

**VII.. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk