



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[26-0613](#)

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 James Clinch, Assistant City Manager Roger Omenhiser, Deputy City Clerk Toni Gregory, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown and for certain items on the agenda: Police Chief Andy Leisenring, and Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Captain Louis White.

I. RECOGNITION

[26-0614](#)

Proclaim May 2026 as "Children First's 65th Anniversary Month", Presented to Chief Executive Officer Philip Tavill and Vice President of Organizational Engagement Jessica Rogers

Mayor Pachota presented this proclamation.

[26-0615](#)

Proclaim June 2026 as "Small Cities Month", Presented to City Manager James Clinch and Assistant City Manager Roger Omenhiser

Mayor Pachota and Vice Mayor Boldt presented this proclamation.

Recess was taken from 9:10 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

There was none.

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

[26-0616](#)

Minutes of the May 12, 2026 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved in the Consent Section.

B. CITY MANAGEREngineering

[26-0617](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management Federally-Funded Subaward (Grant #4673-213-R) for \$937,125.00 to Install an Emergency Generator and Wind Protection at the Public Works Building Located at 1350 Ridgewood Avenue

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

Utilities

[26-0618](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) General Appropriations Grant for \$850,000 for the Utilities Equalization Basin Tank Project

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**A. EASEMENTS**

[26-0619](#)

Consider Dedication of Easement to Florida Power & Light (FPL) Concerning Property at 120 and 610 Airport Avenue West to Provide Access for the Relocation of Electrical Services Associated with the Agape Flights Hangar Construction Project

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications or public comment.

Clerk Michaels read the easement by title only.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to approve Item No. 26-0619. 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

[26-0620](#)

Consider Dedication of Easement to Florida Power & Light (FPL) Concerning Property at 1545 East Venice Avenue to Provide Access for the Installation of Electrical Services for the New Fire Station 2 Project

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the easement by title only.

There were no written communications or public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve Item No. 26-0620. 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

[26-0621](#)

Consider Dedication of Easement to Florida Power & Light (FPL) Concerning Property at 1575 East Venice Avenue to Provide Access for the Installation of Electrical Services for the New Fire Station 2 Project

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the easement by title only.

There were no written communications or public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to approve Item No. 26-0621. 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. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[ORD. NO.
2026-16](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 87, Land Development Code, by Amending Sections 1.7.4., 1.8.3., 1.9.4., and 1.12.3., Decision Criteria, and Section 1.10.1., Preliminary Plat (Quasi-Judicial Application), Pursuant to Text Amendment Petition No. 26-08AM, by Amending the Decision Criteria for Several Quasi-Judicial Application Types; 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.

There were no written communications.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark spoke on the need to clarify review procedures for zoning map amendments, site and development, height exceptions, and preliminary plats, improved clarity and consistency of wording, increased accuracy of environmental criteria, reordering zoning map amendment to planned unit map amendments, compatibility guideline consistency, and answered Council questions regarding not being more restrictive to applicants, whether the timing of changes is appropriate, and reason for removal of references to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Ordinance No. 2026-16 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

C. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING

[ORD. NO.
2026-19](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70, Traffic and Vehicles, by Amending Section 70-10, School Zone Speed Infractions; Adopting Findings; Authorizing the Placement, Installation, and Operation of Speed Detection Systems on Specified Roadways Maintained as School Zones for Venice Elementary that Constitute a Heightened Risk; 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.

There were no written communications or public comment.

There was no staff update or Council questions.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Frank, that Ordinance No. 2026-19 be approved and adopted. 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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION

[RES. NO.
2026-11](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, Acknowledging the Creation of the Venice Police Charitable Foundation, Inc., Finding that the Organization Serves a Public Purpose; Transferring Charitable Donations Held by the City on Behalf of the Venice Police Department to the Venice Police Charitable Foundation, Inc.; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

Police Chief Andy Leisenring and Sean Singeisen presented the history on use of funds, various community programs, employee support, the need for non profit status, current challenges, the foundation, 501c3 status, the current fund balance, and transparency.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Resolution No. 2026-11 be approved and adopted. 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

[26-0622](#)

Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark: Neighborhood Workshops and Property Posting Standards

Planning and Zoning Director Clark presented on the history of neighborhood workshops and posted signs, citizen's requests for greater opportunity to speak on development, current mailed notice requirements, currently allowed virtual workshops, surrounding municipalities' requirements, SB180 restrictions, the recommendation for a hybrid format, and answered Council question on expanding the radius of those notified.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark continued on posting of sign, Sarasota County updated notice requirements, the suggested revised sign template, increasing to three-foot signs, adding a QR code that takes you to the agenda, estimated cost, and answered Council questions on allowing virtual attendance, whether increasing notice radius is more burdensome to

applicant, and feasibility for City to absorb cost of increased radius notices until expiration of SB180.

City Attorney Fernandez noted potential concerns regarding SB180.

City Manager Clinch clarified all revisions have cost impacts.

Discussion took place regarding offering city community rooms, whether there have been complaints on radius of notice, and calculating cost of notices.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to approve staff's recommendation of standards regarding the physical posting on property for pending public hearings and for neighborhood workshops to require a hybrid format that includes both the in-person and virtual component.

Discussion continued on consideration of a larger radius of public notice mailings.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Engleke, seconded by Mr. Smith, to increase the mailed notice radius to 500 feet.

Discussion took place regarding the increased size of the posted sign will be clearer, 500 feet being the size of 1.4 football fields, and transparency.

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 REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels provided a reminder on the cancellation of the June 9th meeting, and the next meeting being the Budget Workshops on June 18th (and June 19th if needed).

City Manager

City Manager Clinch spoke on the Budget Workshop discussion framework, budget book availability, having electronic budget detail sheets available, second Budget Workshop on July 8th if needed, conservative

financial approach this year while limiting impact to level of service, new expense programs, hurricane season beginning June 1st, and the Hurricane Expo being held Friday and Saturday, May 29th and 30th.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank had no report.

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith requested endorsement of letter regarding acquiring 10 acres adjacent to the Northeast Park, requested adding to the agenda of the joint meeting with the County to reopen Caspersen beach, thanked Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) for work on Airport Master Plan, and consideration of a permanent Airport Advisory Panel.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard had no report.

Council Member Weed

Mr. Weed had no report.

Council Member Engelke

Mr. Engelke offered support for investigating the acquisition of property adjacent to the Northeast Park, and reported on the Florida League of Cities (FLC) leadership meeting.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt had no report due to departure after the last vote.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on upcoming events, including the Hurricane Expo, the downtown craft festival, and Fourth of July 4th celebrations.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk