401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
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City of Venice

Meeting Minutes
City Council

Thursday, March 3, 2022 **8:30 AM** **Village on the Isle 920 Tamiami Trail South, Venice, FL Renaissance Room 1**

Strategic Planning

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Feinsod called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Moore arrived at 8:36 a.m.

Present: 7 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Vice Mayor Nick Pachota, Dr. Joseph Neunder, Dr. Mitzie Fiedler, Mr. Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore and Mrs. Rachel Frank

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Administrative Coordinator Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Chief Charlie Thorpe, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Building Official Steve Beckman, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Charlie Mopps, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Acting Information Technology Director Eric Tanner, Fleet and Facilities Manager Travis Hout, and Solid Waste and Recycling Supervisor Bob Moroni.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Boldt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. NEW BUSINESS

22-5486 Capital Project Initiatives: Solid Waste, Recycling & Fleet Management

City Manager Lavallee commented on the budget, personnel, sustainability, investment versus impact, and introduced Ms. Betsy Steiner.

Ms. Steiner presented the agenda and the strategic planning process.

Assistant City Manager Clinch gave background on the Seaboard Ave area and discussed relocation of the solid waste facilities and project elements.

City Manager Lavallee spoke about a possible combined site with the County, including cost estimate, funding, and timeline.

Dr. Neunder commented on the City's relationship with Sarasota County.

Fleet and Facilities Manager Hout spoke regarding bringing fleet services in-house, quality of service, staffing, and cost benefit analysis.

Discussion took place regarding the shortage of mechanics, shared staff, shared facilities, possible relationship with the school board or technical college for apprenticeship which could be considered if fleet services were brought in-house, time tables if relocation were to move forward, location, control versus sustainability, comparison to outsourcing, traffic issues, value of ownership, and relationship with County.

There was consensus to make relocation of the Solid Waste, Recycling and Fleet Management facilities from the Seaboard area an initiative in the strategic plan and for staff to move the project forward.

Recess was taken from 9:37 a.m. until 9:43 p.m.

22-5488 Seaboard Area Redevelopment Plan

Planning and Zoning Director Clark presented the Seaboard redevelopment project, including background, transition, location, Comprehensive Plan, zoning, strategies, and issues to resolve.

Discussion took place about existing businesses, acquiring additional property, affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, public/private partnerships, property values, parking, and zoning.

There was consensus to direct staff to take necessary steps to move forward with research, data collection, and building a conceptual plan to redesign the Seaboard District, including the pursuit of opportunities for land.

Recess was taken from 10:42 a.m. until 10:50 a.m.

22-5487 Affordable Housing

City Manager Lavallee questioned Council's interest in changing or expanding the scope and core services of the City as it relates to affordable housing, market rate housing, workforce housing, and noted if so, then a model needed to be created and budgeting needs met.

Discussion took place regarding the City's role, policy, partnerships, current status of housing, locations, ownership of properties, options for obtaining property, no-cost incentives the City could offer to builders and investors, concessions, and County policies.

There was consensus for staff to pursue this initiative in concept using incentives and the Land Development Regulations to provide opportunities for development of affordable housing in conjunction with other agencies and experts who already provide this service.

Recess was taken from 11:37 a.m. to 12:41 p.m.

Mrs. Frank left the meeting at 11:37 a.m. and did not return.

22-5489 Capital Project Initiatives: Fire Dept HQ: Station #52

Fire Chief Giddens presented background information regarding the need to relocate Fire Station Headquarters #52 to provide better response time to the coverage area.

Assistant City Manager Clinch discussed options for the old station if the fire station was relocated, such as moving another City department there.

Discussion took place regarding property value, the need for more property, long-range planning, response times, growth, number of calls, urgency of issue, the fire department's 80% collection rate which is higher than other systems in the area, recruitment, retention of staff, and Tele 9-1-1.

There was consensus to direct staff to move forward on how to fund and plan for relocation of Fire Station #52 and a plan for the future of another station.

22-5490 Ecology Initiatives & Sustainability

Public Works Director Mopps and Assistant City Manager Clinch presented on sustainability issues, including energy efficiency upgrades, vehicle charging stations, electric and hybrid vehicles, solar energy projects, and stormwater quality and resiliency.

Fleet and Facilities Manager Hout expanded on charging stations at City locations with Florida Power and Light (FPL) and an overview of hybrid and electric vehicles, as well as electric maintenance equipment, such as blowers, chainsaws, and mowers.

Utilities Director Vargas spoke about solar energy projects, as well as conserving and producing energy.

Discussion took place regarding water supply and solar energy use.

City Engineer Weeden discussed storm resiliency, grants, stormwater fee analysis, and low impact development.

Assistant City Manager Clinch discussed the cost benefit analysis of solar projects and analyzing projects on an individual basis.

Discussion continued regarding issues to resolve, support for initiatives, time-line to implement, funding opportunities, electric equipment, stormwater, building codes, standards, certification, initiatives for residential builders, department collaboration, and long range work.

There was consensus to direct staff to continue to look at every opportunity to implement environmentally sustainable options across all departments, complete a cost benefit analysis on future projects, and consider incentives to put in the Land Development Regulations (LDRS) for environmentally sustainable building in residential.

Recess was taken from 1:52 pm until 2:00 p.m.

22-5491 Asset Management

City Manager Lavallee spoke on staff collaboration and five-year initiatives that have been completed.

City Engineer Weeden addressed the transportation asset management plan and process.

Discussion took place regarding painting bike lanes, costs, and intersections.

Public Works Director Mopps addressed vehicle maintenance, facility asset management plan, major project completions and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Assistant City Manager Clinch gave a summary of appropriately timed maintenance for City facilities and recommended a continued effort to be proactive on facility needs.

Discussion took place regarding annual updates, interlocal agreement with the County, Parks Master Plan, an inventory of park spending, and Surtax funding.

There was consensus to direct staff to continue with policies and practices currently being followed in regards to asset management.

22-5492 Parks & Recreation

Assistant City Manager Clinch presented background information on Parks and Recreation, including purchase of the five-acre parcel for the Northeast Venice Park, the Laurel Road linear park, five-year extension of the park inter-local agreement, Surtax IV park projects, and the Parks Master Plan from 2017.

Discussion took place on the parks master plan timing, continuing parks planning as has been done until the Surtax vote and a possible agreement with the County.

There was consensus to direct staff to wait on producing a parks master plan until after the status of the Surtax IV vote and inter-local agreement with the County are known and continue operating and evaluating projects on a case-by-case basis.

Discussion took place regarding a long-term strategy, the linear park on Laurel Road, park ownership, and having a back up plan if the County were no longer able to continue supporting City of Venice parks and beaches.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

Staff commented on the success of this year's strategic planning session.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

ATTEST: Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk