



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, October 13, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### Broadcast

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Jim Bennett, Council Member Emilio Carlesimo, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels and Council Member 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: Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Assistant Utilities Director Jack Richardson and Code Enforcement Supervisor Paul Iannelli.

#### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Carlesimo.

#### I. RECOGNITION

[15-1530](#)

Proclaim the Month of October as, "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" Presented to Advocate Mirna Marcia

Mayor Holic presented this Proclamation to Ms. Marcia.

#### II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Earl Midlam, 744 White Pine Tree Rd. #112, noted that volunteerism is a good part of the Sun Fiesta, the city is approaching its 100th anniversary and provided a history of Venice High School from 1930 to present and upcoming reunion celebration. He requested Ms. Gates to read a letter about Clyde Lassen a former Venice High School Graduate and Medal of Honor recipient.

John Ryan, 597 Tamiami Trail South, thanked the council for their service, Mr. Bennett for his support at Venice Chamber of Commerce events and provided an overview of the chamber and its mission.

### III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member McKeon to approve items on the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item Nos. 15-1535 and 42-2015. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

#### A. MAYOR

[15-1531](#)

Appoint Anthony V. Pinzone to the Fire Pension Board to Serve a Term from November 1, 2015 until October 31, 2019

This Appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

#### B. CITY CLERK

[15-1532](#)

Minutes of the September 8, 2015 Budget Public Hearing and September 23, 2015 Budget Public Hearing

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

#### C. CITY MANAGER

##### Engineering

[15-1533](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute Change Order #4 to A2 Group, Inc. in the Amount of \$4,746.00 for Installation of Additional Landscaping and Irrigation on the Entrance Road to Legacy Park, Authorize a Future Budget Amendment, Authorize City Staff to Request Payment from Park Impact Fees and Authorize the Use of Reserve Funds in the Interim and as an Alternate Funding Source if Park Impact Funds are not Available

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1534](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute Change Order #3 to A2 Group, Inc. in the Amount of \$41,975 for Installation of a Permanent Irrigation System at Legacy Park, Authorize a Future Budget Amendment, Authorize City Staff to Request Payment from Park Impact Fees and Authorize the Use of Reserve Funds in the Interim and as an Alternate Funding Source if Park Impact Funds are not Available

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

##### Public Works

[15-1536](#)

Approve Placement of Plaque in Recognition of Medal of Honor Recipient Clyde Lassen at Heritage Park

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### Utilities

[CON. NO.  
43-2015](#) Approve Purchase of Lift Station Odor Control Chemicals from Evoqua Water Technologies in the Amount of \$220,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1537](#) Approve Purchase from Innovative Metering Solutions, Inc. for Radio Read Meters in the Amount of \$160,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### ***CITY MANAGER - Continued***

### Planning and Zoning

[15-1535](#) Approve Sertoma Club of Venice's Sponsorship Request in the Amount of \$500.00 Recommended by the Economic Development Advisory Board for Winefeast 2015

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates that Item No. 15-1535 be approved.**

Discussion ensued with concern expressed that the policy set for the Economic Development Advisory Board by council is not being followed, funds are not benefiting the residents, appearance that the decisions of the board are questioned and then brought to city council, this is the kick-off event of the year, amount requested is a deviation to the amount approved by the board per policy, financial impact to the city from the investment and the increase is tourist awareness.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

### Utilities - Continued

[CON. NO.  
42-2015](#) Request Council Approval for Sole Source Odor Control Chemical, Lubrizol, in the Amount of \$140,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Bennett to approve Con. No. 42-2015.**

Discussion ensued regarding why there is an odor, and the need for better odor control.

Mr. Richardson stated that the Utilities Department is in the process of updating the wastewater plant and this should be the last request for chemicals.

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

**IV. NEW BUSINESS****A. PRESENTATIONS**

[15-1538](#) Kim Binkley Seyer, Agent, Fox Lea Farm: Activities Update (10 min.)

Ms. Seyer and Laurie Birnbach gave a presentation of Fox Lea Farm noting that the facility is family owned, has been a part of Venice for over 30 years and is a nationally recognized 46 acre horse show facility attracting competitors from all over the country and internationally. The presentation included Fox Lea Farm's background, location, purpose and the many local economic impacts and how the city can help.

Following Mayor Holic providing his experience when he visited the facility, discussion ensued regarding equestrian being a big business, being mindful of buffers with new developments, Fox Lea Farm contacting the Sarasota Economic Development Corporation and the lack of hotel accommodations in Venice.

[15-1539](#) Bob Vedder: Venice in Bloom (10 min)

Recess was held from 10:12 a.m. until 10:23 a.m.

Mayor Holic stated that the council will recess from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to attend a Sarasota County meeting on homelessness.

Mr. Vedder provided a report on the America in Bloom evaluation noting that the city is now a five bloom city, won their division, city is number one in the country, six categories judged and presented a trophy to the city.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to do more with trees, improving airport landscaping, repairing city hall front walk, lighting of Heritage Park and amount and dedication of volunteers.

[15-1540](#) Assistant City Manager Len Bramble and Code Enforcement Supervisor Paul Iannelli: Resort Dwelling Update (10 min.)

Mr. Bramble and Mr. Iannelli presented an update on code enforcement for resort dwellings by providing information on the properties outside the settlement agreements as well as those, within the settlement agreements and the tracking table.

Discussion ensued regarding council wanting to understand the code enforcement process, a request that city council be provided with an ongoing update of complaints and the need for council to see that enforcement is being conducted.

**B. COUNCIL ACTION**[15-1541](#)

Request Sponsorship for Chalk Festival 2015 in the Amount of \$10,000.00 Above the \$5,000.00 Recommended by the Economic Development Advisory Board

Denise Kowal provided a description of the Chalk Festival noting that the festival will take place at the airport festival grounds on November 9-16, this is the second year for the festival in the city, the best pavement artists in the world will be participating and the festival will fill approximately 1,400 hotel rooms. Ms. Kowal stated that the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) application for special events sponsorship has been completed and due to the request is in excess of the established EDAB sponsorship amount, and is requesting council sponsorship in the amount of \$15,000.

Discussion ensued regarding EDAB not able to fund any more than \$5,000, policy if the amount requested is in excess of the established formula, the city has a moral obligation to help start ups but for next year will need private funding, how much the city is going to do to attract tourists, funds from sales tax revenue and last years event using bussing and shuttle services was well coordinated.

**A motion was made by Council Member Bennett, seconded by Council Member Daniels to approve Item No. 15-1541 in the amount of \$15,000.00. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

[15-1542](#)

Request Approval of a Joint Meeting with Sarasota Board of County Commissioners

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Bennett to approve a joint meeting with the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners.**

Mayor Holic stated that he placed this item on the agenda for council to establish topics and set a date for a joint meeting with the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners.

Discussion ensued regarding a joint meeting is long overdue, should be cooperative and positive, need to spend time on parks, council members to submit suggestions to Mr. Lavalley by the end of October and for the city clerk to request the meeting for January, 2016.

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

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****A. COUNCIL ACTION**[15-1543](#)

Approval of Minutes for May 22, 2015 Special Meeting

Recess was taken from 11:42 a.m. until 11:49 a.m.

**A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Bennett that the Minutes for May 22, 2015 Special Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

[15-1544](#)

Approval of Minutes for July 8, 2015 Budget Workshop

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member McKeon that the Minutes for the July 8, 2015 Budget Workshop be approved as submitted.**

Ms. Anderson asserted that if a response to a question is included in the minutes then the question should also be included and her presented responses did not agree with a verbatim of the minutes.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

## VI. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

### City Attorney

[15-1545](#)

Proposed Revisions to the City's Code of Ethics

Mr. Persson stated that Ms. Anderson created a revised code of ethics and city council is to determine what policy to adopt in drafting a new ordinance. He noted that if Florida state law is incorporated into the city code an appeal can be filed against both the state and city. Ms. Anderson interjected that the purpose for the revisions is to incorporate city and state codes of ethics in one document.

Discussion ensued regarding the meaning of ethics with Mr. Persson stating that he is looking for council direction to incorporate into a revised city code of ethics.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels to leave the code of ethics as it stands on the books of the city.**

Discussion ensued with a suggestion to keep the current city ethics code, revised code was drafted using examples from other municipalities, revised draft is too restrictive and would prohibit boards from effectively doing their job.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, 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 opposed.**

[15-1546](#)

Proposed Creation of a Lobbyist Registration Ordinance

Mr. Persson stated that lobbying registration and regulation is a new item and council direction is requested to create an ordinance. Ms. Anderson provided an overview of the item.

**A motion was made by Council Member Anderson to approve the creation of a lobbyist registration ordinance. The motion failed for lack of a second.**

### City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer had no report.

### City Manager

Mr. Lavallee reported that he met with Sarasota County and negotiating terms for an agreement, on the fire merger, Chamber of Commerce independent consultant, staff is conducting an assessment of the three fire stations to determine the depreciation of facilities and assets, service quality included in the agreement, fire pension information provided to Sarasota County and the need to make a change to the charter.

Discussion ensued regarding maintaining quality control for any future fire stations, majority of fire emergency calls are medical calls which are handled by Sarasota County and it was requested for the next agenda a discussion of including in the preliminary negotiations to maintain a fully staffed, operational, 100-foot aerial platform the on the island.

## **VII. COUNCIL REPORTS**

### ***Mayor Holic***

#### [15-1549](#)

#### Audience Participation

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item at this time.

Mayor Holic presented a letter from a Traffic Advisory Task Force member regarding Ms. Anderson's actions and comments at their October 1, 2015 meeting with it being noted that members should not feel threatened for serving on a board. He noted that within the last year council has not been respecting audience participation and that the dais is for members only.

Discussion ensued regarding the council members' role is not to lead or sway board discussion.

Ron Fazzalano, 1424 Gleneagles Drive, read a letter to city council citing examples of Ms. Anderson's behavior.

**There was consensus to follow the procedures outlined in Mayor Holic's memorandum relative to audience participation.**

Ms. Anderson responded by apologizing to the citizens of the city, that she has received no direction on how to conduct herself and it is her first

amendment right to speak about politics.

Mayor Holic stated that city council will recess from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to attend a presentation on the homeless at the Sarasota County R.L. Anderson Building.

Recess was taken from 1:09 p.m. until 3 p.m. Ms. Anderson and Mr. Carlesimo did not return.

### ***PRESENTATIONS - Continued***

#### [15-1552](#)

Tom Barwin, Sarasota City Manager: Chronic Homelessness Update - Next Steps (10 min)

Mr. Barwin provided an update on homelessness noting that the City of Sarasota has been researching the root causes of homelessness stating that this is a crisis and noted that the causes include closures of mental health facilities, loss of low skilled jobs, shortage of low cost housing and the geographic splintering of the American family. He reported that the hidden costs include arrest and detention, ambulance and emergency room responses, homeless outreach programs, property damage and negative impacts on property values. The City of Sarasota's response includes homeless shelters, the Resurrection House Drop-in Center, SPD Homeless Outreach Team and increase in public/mental health services. The action steps in responding to the chronic homeless challenge include hiring a city homeless coordinator, Housing First Program being organized and resourced, street diversion, navigation center and transition housing, mental health beds and caseworkers, low rent housing construction, policy makers exploring additional funding options, access to the Homeless Outreach Team Homeless Management Information System and the Chronically Homeless Information and Community Responsibility Information Cards. Mr. Barwin stated that as the challenge of homelessness continues to evolve he remains confident that the community will rise and create more effective solutions to the challenge.

Mr. Barwin stated that there will be a seminar on Housing First on October 27, 2015 and a joint meeting will be held between Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota on November 6, 2015. Doug Lougan, Director of Homelessness, City of Sarasota, defined homelessness noting the need for appropriate shelters, finding homes, need to create a fabric of solutions, state constitution allows municipalities to deal with the homeless and there is no end to the situation.

Discussion ensued regarding the public's views of the homeless, education curve of public in understanding what homelessness is, is Sarasota County working with the City of Sarasota, location of shelters and placing individuals in housing.

**COUNCIL REPORTS-Continued*****Mayor Holic-Continued***[15-1549](#)

## Audience Participation

Discussion ensued regarding the chair must carry the burden of maintaining control of the board, Mayor Holic will meet with the chairs of the advisory boards to discuss issues, many meetings are going too long, attendance of council members at assigned advisory boards and after elections there will be new council member assignments as liaisons to the advisory boards.

[15-1548](#)

## Letter from Venice Heritage

Mayor Holic read a letter from Venice Heritage in response to comments made at the September 22, 2015 council meeting refuting the claim that the Venice community is not showing support for a new museum or the Lord Higel House.

Discussion ensued regarding the council member was expressing opinion not fact, a former council member was involved in the restoration of the Lord-Higel House and newly installed historical signs.

[15-1550](#)

## Florida Statute 112.3135(2)(a) on Appointing Relatives

Mayor Holic explained Florida Statute 112.3135 and stated that he will not appoint a family member to any city boards.

Discussion ensued regarding not having family members on boards, very direct connection between those who serve on boards and the council, city clerk put together a transcript of proposed changes and suggestion that a traffic expert review city traffic issues.

[15-1547](#)

## Suggestions for Sister Cities

Mayor Holic stated that this is a request to search for sister cities noting that the provided material on Mariemont, Ohio is a suggestion for review and that Mariemont is also a John Nolen designed community.

Discussion ensued with it being suggested that the Historic Preservation Board research sister cities, bring those suggestions to council who will review and then submit to the Economic Development Advisory Board for additional review before city council approval. Venice, California was suggested, as a sister city and the desire to look for cities that would benefit both communities.

**There was a consensus that the historic preservation board research and make suggestions for a sister city with their recommendations subsequently submitted**

to the economic development advisory board for review prior to recommendations submitted to Council.

### ***Council Member Bennett***

Mr. Bennett reported that the Community Alliance of Sarasota who represents many of the homeless agencies is taking the approach of combining the Housing First and walk-in as a solution package and are still working on a long range plan. The MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) will hold elections due to Mr. Bennett not running for re-election and will not be able to serve on the MPO.

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

Mr. McKeon noted that the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council is working on the rewrite of the comprehensive plan and he noted that small groups can try to influence the process and requested that the restrooms be fixed at Maxine Barrett Park before the Blues Festival.

### ***Council Member Daniels***

Mr. Daniels reported that Code Enforcement Supervisor Paul Iannelli is the new staff liaison for the code enforcement board, iPad training for iLegislate, Heritage Park lighting, provided examples of best practices in other municipalities and questioned if the Chalk Festival will provide bussing as was done the previous year. Mayor Holic and Mr. Lavallee stated that the contract had not been signed and that they are to meeting with Ms. Kowal of the Chalk Festival to discuss.

### ***Council Member Gates***

Ms. Gates reported on her "Best Practices" trip with the Economic Development Corporation to Louisville, Kentucky who is promoting the "urban bourbon trail" and has a consolidated government. She attended a SAC meeting at Venice High School with a presentation by Kathie Ebaugh, Director of Long Range Planning for the Sarasota School District regarding new schools planned to be built. Ms. Gates requested the city clerk to have Ms. Ebaugh give a presentation to the city council. Ms. Gates continued with a request for the city clerk to have Jon Thaxton, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, provide city council with a report on families in the south county. Ms. Gates stated that she attended the Council of Governments meeting for Mayor Holic and provided an update with Mr. Lavallee.

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

Mr. Carlesimo was not in attendance.

### ***Council Member Anderson***

Ms. Anderson was not in attendance.

[15-1551](#)

Pocket Park Signage

Mayor Holic stated that Ms. Anderson was not present and there was no submitted material for this item. The item was not discussed and can be on a future agenda.

**Mayor Holic**

Mayor Holic reported that he attended the Fast Fly-In in Washington DC noting the following points were addressed federal gas tax, alternative financing, streamline approval sources, marketplace fairness act (online taxing), FEMA (deobligating monies from previous events with cities having to appeal), municipal financing (bonds), and sober homes. He continued reporting on the Volleyball Beach Bash commending the Venice High School team, suggested signs displaying the Venice High School teams, lightning detectors are being researched by the Sarasota School District for placement at local schools and will make council member board assignments after the election.

**VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

No one signed up to speak.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk