



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, June 19, 2025

8:30 AM

Council Chambers

Budget Workshop

[25-0231](#)

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 Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Hartley, Battalion Chief Mat Tomer, Police Chief Andy Leisenring, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Rick Simpson, Building Official Derek Applegate, Airport Director Mark Cervasio, Assistant City Engineer Jon Kramer, Information Technology Director Roger Navarro, Benefits Administrator Monka Laszkowski, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pachota led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER LAVALLEE

City Manager Lavallee provided introductory remarks regarding the process, the ordinance, history, land acquisition, funds, reserves, and the Council's policy, goals, and objectives.

II. PRESENTATIONS

[25-0232](#)

City-Wide - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne provided introductory comments regarding the

process, budget cuts, a new fund, personnel changes and requests, and the millage rate.

[25-0233](#)

CIP - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne presented changes to the General Fund Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and answered Council questions regarding personnel costs, Airport Mobile Home Park, property taxes, the Truth in Millage Act, and the rollback rate.

Discussion took place regarding fiscal years, fees, enterprise funds, investment earnings, revenue funds levels, budgeting for interest rates, budgeting for interest, impact fees, appropriate staffing, citywide general fund revenue, Department of Governmental Efficiency request, Florida League of Cities, Financial Management Policies, Emergency Financial Plan, reserve fund standards with a possible cap, and disaster expenses.

There was consensus to add the wording "with Council adoption" to Policy 12.

Recess was taken from 9:56 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

[25-0234](#)

One Cent Sales Tax Fund - Finance Director Linda Senne

There were no changes from the CIP workshop.

Finance Director Senne answered Council questions regarding the one cent sales tax revenue.

[25-0235](#)

General Fund - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne answered General Fund Revenue decrease questions, fees, funding, and savings for Fleet and Solid Waste Facility.

[25-0236](#)

Public Works and Fleet - Director Ricky Simpson

Public Works Director Ricky Simpson answered Council questions regarding potential outside contracting services, mowing, landscaping, the possibility of in-house fleet services, cost-analysis of in-house vs. contracting out services, intersection signals, expenditures, Jetty repairs, Solid Waste variances, the Community Center's future, service quality, fleet funds, and replacement of fleet vehicles.

[25-0250](#)

Solid Waste - Director Ricky Simpson

The Solid Waste budget was presented with Public Works.

[25-0237](#)

Fire and EMS - Chief Frank Giddens

Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Hartley and Battalion Chief Matt Tomer answered a Council question regarding the need for six new positions to meet current demand and standards, to provide a fourth 24-hour ambulance, number of Emergency Medical System (EMS) calls, peak volumes, training costs, and level of service.

City Manager Lavallee commented on the request, not being able to answer every call, the County covering calls, paramedics, and transport fees.

Discussion took place regarding transports, emergency rooms, fire staffing levels, support for staffing requests, hours and scheduling, previous year personnel, bunker gear life span and standards, drone usage, Fire Citizens Academy, management staffing standards, and jet ski usage.

Discussion continued on the six additional positions, the budget, and giving staff directions to analyze the financial options to fund the positions.

There was consensus to direct staff to analyze possible funding options for the six additional positions.

Recess was taken from 12:02 p.m. to 1:17 p.m.

[25-0238](#)

Police - Chief Andy Leisenring

Finance Director Senne provided the pension fund contributions amounts.

Chief Leisenring responded to Council questions regarding overtime, reasons for overtime, sworn positions versus non-sworn positions, case manager role, management staffing levels, revenue sources, fund usage, and Law Enforcement Impact Fee Fund.

[25-0239](#)

Engineering - Acting City Engineer Jon Kramer

Acting City Engineer Jon Kramer answered Council questions regarding Bayshore/Laguna sidewalk and safety study budgeting and status, beach renourishment and funding, Flamingo Ditch, sources of fund, grants, reserves, the stormwater management plan, Deertown Gully projects, and Certified Flood Manager (CFM) designations.

[25-0251](#)

Stormwater - Acting City Engineer Jon Kramer

The Stormwater budget was presented with Engineering.

[25-0240](#)

Planning and Zoning - Director Roger Clark

Planning and Zoning Clark answered Council questions regarding Parks Master Plan, Seaboard Master Plan, artificial intelligence usage for plans

review, planning fees study, status of moving properties to City zoning, eastern portion of the Airport, neighborhood workshop, waiting for the airport master plan, and affordable housing.

[25-0252](#)

Historical Resources - Director Roger Clark

Historical Resources Manager Klinkhamer answered Council question regarding the local register, Golden Beach historical survey and funding, Centennial book options, message board, and digitization of the Gondolier.

Recess was taken from 2:33 p.m. to 2:48 p.m.

[25-0241](#)

Information Technology - Director Roger Navarro

Information Technology Director Navarro answered Council questions regarding the total budget, cybersecurity monitoring, expenses, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

[25-0242](#)

Human Resources - Director Alan Bullock

Benefits Administrator Laszkowski answered Council questions regarding the NeoGov software for recruiting and applicants, the Workers Compensation Fund, union negotiations, staff recruitment, turnover rate, and providing information to Council.

[25-0243](#)

City Attorney - City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

City Attorney Fernandez answered Council questions regarding the status of legal actions, proposed settlement, update on pending legal action, and outside legal counsel.

[25-0244](#)

City Council and City Clerk - City Clerk Kelly Michaels

Clerk Michaels answered a Council question regarding evening meetings, and the possibility of eliminating landline phones for Council.

[25-0245](#)

City Manager - City Manager Ed Lavallee

Finance Director Senne answered Council questions regarding promotional account breakdown, staffing levels, budgeting processes, and merit pay.

[25-0246](#)

Finance - Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne answered Council questions regarding indirect costs, employee rewards programs, identifying savings, and utility billing.

[25-0247](#)

Building Department - Building Official Derek Applegate

Building Official Applegate answered Council questions regarding spending, staffing levels, funds, state deadlines, and hurricane after actions.

[25-0248](#)

Airport - Director Mark Cervasio

Airport Director Cervasio answered a Council question regarding the mobile home park lease rates.

Discussion took place regarding the mobile home park management company, rate analysis, restricted funds, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), festival grounds, circus property, future potential development, traffic, golf course lease, infrastructure improvement plan, and the Airport Master Plan.

There was consensus to go past 5 pm to finish today (the 2nd day workshop was cancelled).

[25-0249](#)

Utilities - Director Javier Vargas

Utilities Director Vargas answered a Council question regarding reclaimed water discharge.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk