



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88060585693>

[23-6234](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Mr. Longo had an excused absence per Section 2.75(f)(2).

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Hartley, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, and Information Technology Director Roger Navarro.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dr. Fiedler.

I. RECOGNITION

[23-6235](#)

Proclaim October 2023 as "Cybersecurity Awareness Month", Presented to IT Director Roger Navarro and Security Analyst Joelle Gurk

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[23-6236](#)

Proclaim October as "Community Planning Month", Presented to Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark and Planning Staff

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

Recess was taken from 9:12 a.m. until 9:20 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Joan Farrell, 617 Tamiami Trail North Lot 132, spoke against the Laurel Road widening project.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt , seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to approve items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[23-6237](#)

Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting September 12, 2023 and the Budget Public Hearing September 12, 2023

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY ATTORNEY

[23-6238](#)

Approve Agreement for Alternate Special Magistrate Services

This agreement was approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGER

Engineering

[23-41FP](#)

Approve Final Plat for Cottages of Venice and Accept the Developers Completion and Payment Bonds in the Amounts of \$12,362.50 for Reclaimed Water Completion, \$73,485.00 for Final Asphalt Lift Completion, and \$326,196.37 for Sign, Landscaping, Irrigation, Dumpsters, and Sidewalk Completion from Keeneland, LLC, and Authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and City Engineer to Sign the Final Plat

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Human Resources

[23-6239](#)

Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and Between the City of Venice and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1718

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION WITH ACTION[23-6240](#)

Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Hartley: K9s for Warriors Fire Station Dog Program and Request Council Approval to Implement Program (10 min.)

Discussion took place in favor of the program.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve K9s for Warriors Fire Station Dog Program and direct staff to implement program. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Howard

Excused: 1 - Mr. Longo

B. RESOLUTIONS[RES. NO.
2023-39](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, Adopting an Inventory List of All Real Property Within the City of Venice, to Which the City Holds Fee Simple Title, that is Appropriate for Use as Affordable Housing Pursuant to Section 166.0451, Florida Statutes; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

City Attorney Fernandez answered a Council question regarding the maps and clarified the City would be adopting a statement that there are no city-owned properties appropriate for affordable housing. The maps are for informational purposes.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Resolution No. 2023-39 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Howard

Excused: 1 - Mr. Longo

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION[23-6241](#)

Request to Send a Letter from the Venice City Council to Sarasota County Commissioners Endorsing the Use of Additional Funding from City of Venice Mobility Fees and Park Impact Fees as Requested for the Laurel Road Construction and Attached Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) Project, and as Approved by Resolution No. 2021-28 (Dr. Fiedler)

Dr. Fiedler introduced the proposed action to draft letter endorsing funding from fees mobility and park as already approved in resolution.

City Manager Lavallee stated staff had met with the County.

Assistant City Manager Clinch and City Engineer Weeden gave Council an update on what they have learned from their meeting with Sarasota County as follows.

1. The budget has not been established, under design, no permits, preliminary estimates, right-of-way acquisition cost unknown, and not accurate enough to request specific dollar amounts.
2. Some items will be covered under the private development of the shopping center project development on Jacaranda and Laurel Road.
3. Right-of-way acquisition, getting updated appraisals for all property owned by Neal Communities, after these negotiations will proceed with the negotiations for the other property.
4. The State appropriation of \$8 million will be delivered under the grant process with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The schedule will come with the draft grant agreement, but there are no concerns or issues at this time.
5. Linear park has \$700,000 budgeted in FY 24 approved by the County, but there are concerns with the amount of park impact fees. The County urges caution as park impact fees are coming in lower than projected. Staff will continue with caution in allocating funds, due to the shortfall in park impact fees and impact on the design and building of the Northeast Park and its amenities.

Discussion took place regarding mobility fees, park impact fees, Northeast Park, road impact fees not known at this time, but will be obtaining updated numbers from the County in the future.

Discussion continued regarding concern about sending too many letters to the County.

Assistant City Manager Clinch answered a question regarding the memo from Neal communities and stated the hawk is directly connected to the shopping center development and installation and cost will be part of that project.

The County is supportive of the wider width for the multi-use recreational trail (MURT), and recommended pursuing grant funding with partners.

Council agreed there was no need to take any action today.

[23-6242](#)

Discussion Regarding City of Venice Logo Usage

City Manager Lavallee spoke on the City's logo and history including Resolution No. 2021-31, adoption of one logo, the clock tower logo for Council, being distinct from operational documents, language clarification, and option to still have two logos, one for operations and one for Council.

Discussion took place regarding the logo transition, history, the clock tower, agendas, public input, cost, having two logos, the actual clock tower cost and status, not wanting to change, keeping things the same, value of history, official policy business using clock tower, department patches under the City Manager's approval.

City Attorney Fernandez commented on the need to clarify the logo policy for staff implementation purposes.

Discussion took place on agendas, letters on behalf of council, and resolutions.

Discussion took place regarding uniform patch changes and whether the City Manager should make the decision or if final decision should be brought to Council.

Clerk Micheals requested clarification for documents going on the website as the current policy identifies the sun logo for the website. She noted past directives by Council, proper notice as residents are familiar with the seagull, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in relation to documents on the website which was work done in compliance with a lawsuit stipulated agreement.

City Attorney Fernandez stated it should be clear as possible for staff.

Discussion continued regarding agendas for advisory boards.

City Attorney Fernandez indicated she had enough to draft the policy to bring back to Council.

VI. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTSCity Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee had no report.

VII. COUNCIL REPORTS***Council Member Moore***

Ms. Moore reported on the upcoming Venice Main Street Beach Party and being pleased with new trees being planted.

Council Member Fiedler

Dr. Fiedler reported on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting, impact on ridership up, airport, link, on demand growing, multimodal transportation, and rankings for projects.

Council Member Howard

Council Member Howard reported on the Planning Commission meeting topic of airport rezoning, and attendance at the dedication of the First Responder tribute in Heritage Park.

Council Member Longo

Council Member Longo had an excused absence.

Council Member Frank

Council Member Frank had no report.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on attendance at the First Responders Tribute dedication, Manasota League of Cities legislative priorities, public communication challenges, Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Northeast Park budget shortfall.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on attendance at First Responders tribute, the Blue Mass at Knights of Columbus, and meetings with Representatives McFarland and Buchanan.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk