



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, April 3, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Ms. Joan Farrell, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith and Mr. Kevin Engelke

Absent: 1 - Mr. Rick Howard

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Captian Eric Hill, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Rick Simpson, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ashlee Castle, Airport Director Mark Cervasio, Acting City Engineer Jon Kramer, and Fleet Director Travis Hout.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Boldt lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. NEW BUSINESS

[25-0131](#)

2026 Proposed Capital Improvement Program

City Manager Lavallee spoke on this being an early step of the 2026 budget planning, purpose of workshop, definition of capital improvements, being a five year plan, items included are departments' needs, how items will be presented, and finalized in budget.

Finance Director Senne presented summary pages 1-8, the plan being a fluid working document, containing the next five years, Fiscal Year 26 will be incorporated into budget, budget deadlines, purpose of review, general

fund items, color coding on report, EMS supply vending machine, equipment for Osage rescue, marine patrol building awning, ADA compliant website, and hazardous vehicle mitigation barriers.

Assistant City Manager Clinch and Special Events Marketing Coordinator Lorenz answered Council questions on need for new barriers, barricade types, concerns from event holders, selection of product, mobility of product, and how product works.

Finance Director Senne spoke on South Brohard additional beach parking, and answered Council questions on funding options, accelerating to 2025 budget, and grant availability.

Recess was taken from 9:28 a.m. till 9:36 a.m.

Discussion took place regarding concerns with items added to general fund for next year, ability to fulfill all added items, and moving items to later years.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Wellfield Park, and Humphris Park design and reconstruction. Discussion took place regarding looking at alternative funding sources, coordination with the Army Corp of Engineers, phases of repair for Jetty, communications with federal representatives, pushing funding back, concerns for having to redo work, public concern for project, and letter of support. Acting City Engineer Kramer answered Council question on impact of differing to another fiscal year and recommendations.

There was consensus to differ Humphris Park redesign and reconstruct to Fiscal Year 2027.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Legacy Park improvements. Public Works Director Simpson answered Council questions on urgency of repair, determination of lifespan of equipment, current conditions, damage from storms, and past facilities assessment in 2017.

Fire Chief Giddens answered Council questions on EMS vending machine request, whether it would benefit medication management, and urgency of request.

Captain Hill answered Council question on urgency for Marine Awning.

Public Works Director Simpson answered Council question on additional parking at West Blalock Park, and communication with community partners.

Recess was taken at 10:18 a.m. till 10:30 a.m.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Boat Registration Fee fund for boat lift at Higel Marine Park, Once Cent Sales Tax fund, rescue fire engine, ladder truck, new vehicle for Public Works, back hoe, and answered Council question on how vehicles qualify to One Cent Sales Tax, and whether One Cent Sales Tax has been used for land conservation.

Acting City Engineer Kramer answered Council questions on bike facilities, having a bike safety track, whether repaving bicycle lanes were included, impact of Multi-modal Plan on funding requests, and new bike facility on Edmundson Road.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the Park Impact Fee fund including Wellfield Park, Street Capital Project fund, and Cockrill Street sidewalk. Acting City Engineer Kramer answered Council question regarding history of project, and urgency of request. Finance Director continued regarding beach re-nourishment, pending timeline of Army Corp of Engineers, and answered Council question regarding planning with Army Corp of Engineers' schedule.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Fire Impact Fee fund for ladder truck. Chief Giddens and Fleet Director Hout answered Council questions on size of fleet, type of trucks, estimates on population growth, and current use of ladder trucks.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Police Impact Fee fund for vehicles, Airport fund, and funding based on grant schedules. Airport Director Cervasio answered Council question on helipad, use for Lifeflight, placement at airport, other agency's use of pad, waiting list for hangers, and hanger construction schedule.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Utility Fund, energy efficient improvement for floating solar array, Solid Waste Fund, solid waste fleet facility, and Stormwater fund.

Discussion took place regarding Flamingo Ditch consultant's recommendations, adding to Fiscal Year 2026 budget, easement and ownership of land, elevation of area, why Flamingo Ditch is not on Capital Improvement Plan at this time, budget process, importance of project, need for a defined project and budget, upcoming agenda items, applying for grants, need to proceed with a well developed plan, Stormwater fund projections, grant eligibility, and whether there are emergency contracts are in place.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Fleet fund, and Stormwater skid steer.

Assistant Public Works Director Castle answered Council question on Chuck Reiter Field lighting.

City Manager Lavallee spoke on the preparation in initial stages of budget, use of funding for vehicle replacement, fleet replacement fund now being fully funded, past budget reductions and budget recovery.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Beat Lehmann, 608 Gardenia Drive, thanked Council for comments on Flamingo Ditch.

Israel Salinas, 591 Flamingo Drive, spoke on communication from Council, recommendation to have a town hall meeting, coordination with hurricane expo, and emergency contracts in place.

George Davis, 121 Castile Street, spoke on representation of Venice Thrives support for Flamingo Ditch resolution.

Steve Carr, 149 Avens Drive, spoke on chamber renovation, and new bicycle station on Edmundson Road.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk