

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
VENICE CITY COUNCIL
VENICE, FLORIDA

October 16, 2012

A Special Meeting of the Venice City Council and Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners was held this date at the Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Avenue, Venice, Florida. County Commission Chair Christine Robinson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT

The following officials were present: Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Kit McKeon, Council Members Jim Bennett, Emilio Carlesimo, Bob Daniels, and Jeanette Gates, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, and City Attorney Bob Anderson; Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners Chair Christine Robinson, Vice Chair Carolyn J. Mason, Commissioners Joseph A. Barbetta, Nora Patterson, and Jon Thaxton, County Administrator Randall Reid, County Attorney Stephen DeMarsh, and Deputy Clerk Spring Dickson.

For certain items on the agenda: Environmental Services Business Professional II Lee Hayes Byron, and Administration Business and Economic Development Coordinator Elizabeth Damschroder, Public Works Director James Harriott, and Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight.

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and Ms. Mason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kathy Bolam, Sarasota County resident, spoke on the U.S. 41 ByPass widening project, noting that people she has communicated with are not in favor of the widening. Ms. Bolam requested that public hearings be held in Venice to provide input and also that the public be allowed to vote on the project.

Ms. Robinson and Mr. Bennett responded that several public hearings and meetings relating to the project were held by the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Venice City Council.

II. SARASOTA COUNTY

A. Economic Development Advisory Board (EEZ)

Ms. Byron provided an update on the EEZ and reviewed opportunities to partner with the City of Venice following the adoption of a resolution establishing EEZ boundaries. The program features goals to cultivate green economic development, encourage manufacturing of energy efficient products, and create green jobs.

Ms. Damschroder reviewed financial incentives.

Discussion followed regarding incentives, defining EEZ boundaries, partnering with the Economic Development Corporation, initial certifications, follow up monitoring of certifications, and review by the city's Economic Development Advisory Board.

B. Intergovernmental Relations

Discussion focused on mutual cooperation, improved communications, protocols, and relationship building.

Recess was taken from 10:36 a.m. until 10:49 a.m.

III. CITY OF VENICE

C. Services Provided by the Sheriff's Office to Venice City Residents

Without objection, Ms. Robinson reordered the agenda to hear Sheriff Knight discuss services provided to municipalities. Sheriff Knight commented on his authority as sheriff; his relationship with the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, Venice City Council, and the Venice Police Department; and services provided to municipalities that include courts, corrections, specialized types of patrols and investigation sections, and civil process. He concluded his presentation with a review of previous investigations of criminal incidences.

Discussion ensued regarding certified law enforcement agency courses, zones within city limits not being patrolled by Sheriff's Officers, and Sheriff's Department helicopter pilot availability.

A. Interlocal Agreement between City and County for Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Without objection, Ms. Robinson reordered the agenda to hear this item.

Mayor Holic reviewed last year's budget and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) fire department study which included a recommendation to review the interlocal agreement.

Discussion followed regarding county ambulance taxes, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements, and reviewing a consultant's report.

Mr. Reid requested specifics concerning areas of study.

Discussion ensued concerning responses by county fire trucks, ad valorem taxes, state budgeting requirements, city and county reporting finances, staff cooperative efforts, termination of the interlocal agreement with one year's notice, and reviewing EMS processes.

Mr. Daniels **moved** to direct Mr. Lavallee and Chief Warman to work with the County Administrator and Fire Chief to evaluate the process and cost to provide EMS services to Venice residents. THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

B. Cost to the City of County to Assume Dispatch Responsibilities estimated at \$250,000.00

This item was not discussed.

II. SARASOTA COUNTY (cont'd)

C. Transfer of Local Roads to the City of Venice

Mr. Reid provided historical background relating to prior annexations not including the transfer of county roads, upgrading county roads to city road standards, and scheduling the upgrade of both city and county roads.

Discussion followed regarding funding road upgrading, legal description of annexations not including roads, and moving ahead with an agreement to transfer the roads.

Mr. McKeon **moved** to direct Mr. Lavallee to work with Mr. Reid to create the necessary language to annex and transfer local roads into the city. **Seconded** by Mr. Daniels.

Discussion ensued regarding funding road improvements, defining county roads and obtaining input from county and city staff.

Mr. McKeon **moved** to amend the motion that within the next two weeks city staff present council members with recommendations concerning taking ownership of the roads.

Mr. Lavallee stated that Public Works did not budget for maintenance of the roads.

Council members expressed concerns regarding the motion and the amendment.

Mr. McKeon **withdrew** the motion.

Mr. Carlesimo **moved** to direct Mr. Lavallee to bring back a recommendation within the next two city council meetings regarding the proposed annexation and transfer of local roads into the city. **Seconded** by Mr. McKeon. MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Reid identified three roads and suggested they be transferred to the city subsequent to resurfacing.

Mr. Harriott led a discussion concerning how this should be handled.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson reviewed tentative dates for 2013 joint meetings.

There was **consensus** of Sarasota County Commissioners to direct the County Administrator to contact the Sheriff and to evaluate the request by Terry Redman to construct the Alligator Creek Linear Trail under the U.S. 41 Bridge and to bring back a report for Board discussion.

Mayor Holic thanked Mr. Thaxton for his years of service to Sarasota County.

Ms. Robinson thanked Mr. Anderson for his service to the City of Venice.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor – City of Venice

City Clerk