



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

---

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

9:00 AM

Virtual

---

### Budget Workshop - VIRTUAL MEETING (See Instructions Below)

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

[20-4567](#)

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

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Feinsod called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Ms. Stelzer referenced Executive Order No. 20-69 issued by Governor DeSantis and Executive Order No. 2020-04 issued by the city regarding public meetings, and commented on public participation in public meetings.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Council Member Richard Cautero, Vice Mayor Charles Newsom, Dr. Margaret Fiedler, Council Member Helen Moore, Council Member Nick Pachota and Dr. Joseph Neunder

#### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Finance Director Linda Senne, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, Director of Public Works James Clinch, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Information Technology Director Christophe St. Luce, and Director of Human Resources Alan Bullock.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Feinsod led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER ED LAVALLEE

#### II. PRESENTATIONS

[20-4551](#)

City Wide - Finance Director Linda Senne

This item was discussed June 16, 2020.

[20-4552](#)

General Fund - Finance Director Linda Senne

This item was discussed June 16, 2020.

[20-4553](#)

Airport - Director Mark Cervasio

This item was discussed June 16, 2020.

[20-4554](#)

Utilities - Director Javier Vargas

This item was discussed June 16, 2020.

[20-4555](#)

One Cent Sales Tax - Finance Director Linda Senne

This item was discussed June 16, 2020.

[20-4556](#)

Public Works, Solid Waste, Fleet, and Historical Resources - Director James Clinch

This item was discussed June 16, 2020.

[20-4557](#)

Engineering and Stormwater - City Engineer Kathleen Weeden

Mayor Feinsod commented on today's meeting process.

Ms. Weeden provided a presentation and spoke to road maintenance program, funding sources to include one-cent sales tax, fund 301 and road impact fees, stormwater utility rate study, and stormwater grants.

Discussion followed regarding road pavement sealing and restoration project, Ms. Weeden providing council with the roads priority projects list, stormwater rates to include phasing in rates over an extended period of time, stormwater grants, outfall testing results, available funding for Laurel Road expansion, gas tax revenue, grant opportunities, Lord Higel parking lot, travel and training budgets for each department, Ms. Weeden's communication with Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Pinebrook Road and Venice Avenue intersection improvements, Sarasota County's road project list, road reconstruction of city hall's surrounding streets, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) beach mats, advancing Venezia Park stormwater treatment upgrades to FY21 to include rain garden, the city's communication and relationship with the county, state and county grants for road improvements, and Mr. Lavallee communicating with the county on road priorities.

Mr. Lavallee spoke to the city's relationship with the county and identifying road priority projects.

Discussion continued on Mr. Lavallee's letter to County Administrator Jonathan Lewis dated November 21, 2019 regarding improvements to Laurel Road and Pinebrook Road, the county's preliminary budget report dated May 7, 2020 and the county's road priority list.

[20-4558](#)

Police - Chief Tom Mattmuller

Chief Mattmuller spoke on the department's priorities, goals, accreditation, divisions, and budget.

Discussion followed regarding supporting local merchants, funding vehicles for new officers from the one-cent sales tax, impact fees, officer body and dash cameras, sensitivity training, citizens police academy, and the department's promotional budget.

Recess was taken at 10:37 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

[20-4559](#)

Fire - Chief Shawn Carvey

Chief Carvey spoke on fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) budgets, and the department's preparation for taking over EMS.

Discussion followed regarding transports, the fire department's pension fund, EMS presence in the city, EMS billings and collections, and average calls received relating to COVID-19.

[20-4560](#)

Building and Planning - Development Services Director Jeff Shrum

Mr. Shrum spoke on the land development regulations (LDR) project, fee allocation study for building and planning, department budgets, processing fees, travel and training, and permit activity.

Discussion followed regarding online customer service, staffing, department workload, obtaining public input on LDR project, and availability of LDR draft language.

[20-4561](#)

Information Technology - Director Christophe St. Luce

Mr. St. Luce spoke to accommodating remote workers, facilitating virtual meetings, introduction of digital signature workflows, replacing anti-malware programs in city computers, and FY21 budget.

Discussion followed regarding a plan to resume meetings in council chambers, backup system drills, and employees working remotely.

[20-4562](#)

Human Resources - Director Alan Bullock

Mr. Bullock spoke to department positions and turnover, employees working remotely, teleworking policy, hiring freeze, filling vacancies,

electronic signature process and responded to council questions regarding merit increases and bargaining units.

Discussion followed regarding employees working from home, teleworking policy, city hall renovation project, flexibility on contractual agreements for merit increases and potential furloughs, number of staff that can work from home, property and liability insurance, and total number of city employees.

Recess was taken at 11:59 a.m. to 12:32 p.m.

[20-4563](#)

City Attorney - City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

Ms. Fernandez spoke to proposed budget.

Discussion followed on scheduling council training on land use decisions and approvals, ancillary legal fees, and costs related to Murphy Oaks.

[20-4564](#)

City Council & City Clerk - City Clerk Lori Stelzer

Ms. Stelzer commented on the city clerk's budget.

Discussion followed regarding training for new board members.

[20-4565](#)

City Manager - City Manager Ed Lavallee

Mr. Lavallee spoke to department responsibilities and staff, director's meetings, staff collaborations, infrastructure projects, city operations, reducing carbon footprint, environmental protection goal, special events and use of public space, functions of the public information officer (PIO), and budget.

Discussion followed on staff reporting the city's energy consumption, promotional activities budget, asset management report, travel and training, management raises, facilities condition assessment, reporting asset management progress, virtual town hall meetings, special pay and overtime, including percentage of applied grants for each department, and enhancing ongoing public utilization of social media.

[20-4566](#)

Finance - Director Linda Senne

Ms. Senne spoke to department responsibilities, main functions, budget, and travel and training.

Discussion followed regarding general fund balance, unfunded pension liabilities, electronic utility bills, earmarking EMS revenue surplus for fire department's unfunded pension liabilities, reserves, the city's credit rating and debt capacity, economic impact to revenue projections, priority budget cuts per departments, ad valorem property tax revenue to include adding to

cash reserves if revenue exceeds 95 percent, and cancelling June 19, 2020 budget workshop.

Ms. Stelzer reviewed council's list of questions for staff, and discussion followed after each question.

Ms. Weeden commented on advancing the Venezia Park project, and responded to council questions regarding rain garden design and communication with Environmental Advisory Board (EAB).

Discussion followed on staff providing council with options on adding a staff position to support VABI, adding to cash reserves if ad valorem property tax revenue exceeds 95 percent, remote working, and city hall expansion project.

Mr. Clinch commented on the city hall expansion project and reporting back to council on the number of employees that can work from home on a full time basis.

Discussion followed on city hall's project components and expansion purposes, and special event funding policy.

### **III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor - City of Venice

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