



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[24-0175](#)

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

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Ms. Joan Farrell, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith and Mr. Rick Howard

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: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Chief Charlie Thorpe, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ricky Simpson, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Building Official Derek Applegate, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Frank.

I. RECOGNITION

[24-0176](#)

Proclaim the Week of May 12-18, 2024 as "Police Memorial Week," Presented to Police Chief Thorpe and Staff

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[24-0177](#)

Proclaim the Week of May 18-24, 2024 as "National Safe Boating Week," Presented to Venice Master Police Officer Paul Joyce, and Representatives from: Venice Sail and Power Squadron, USCG Auxiliary Venice Flotilla 86, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, WCIND, and Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

- [24-0178](#) Proclaim the Week of May 19-25, 2024 as "Public Works Week," Presented to Public Works, Utilities, Engineering and Stormwater Staff
Vice Mayor Boldt and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.
- [24-0179](#) Proclaim the Week of May 19-25, 2024 as "Emergency Medical Services Week," Presented to Fire Chief Giddens, Assistant EMS Chief Nathan McManus, and EMS staff
Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.
- [24-0180](#) Proclaim the Week of May 6-12, 2024 as "Nurses and Hospital Week," Presented to Julie Polaszek, Chief Nursing Officer, Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice
Mayor Pachota, City Manager Lavallee, and Fire Chief Giddens presented this proclamation.
- [24-0181](#) 5-Year Service Award, Alicia Chapman, Divisional Permit Coordinator
City Manager Lavallee and Building Official Applegate presented this recognition.
- [24-0182](#) Venice Historic and Architectural Preservation Board and the City of Venice Honoring Julia Cousins Laning with the Legacy Award, Presented to Julia's Nephew Jimmy Cousins
Mayor Pachota, Historical Resources staff, and Historical and Architectural Preservation Board Vice Chair Barrick presented this Legacy Award.
- Recess was taken from 9:37 a.m. until 9:50 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

There was none.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

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

CITY CLERK

- [24-0183](#) Minutes of the April 23, 2024 Regular Meeting
These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING**[ORD. NO.
2024-07](#)**

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 87, Land Development Code, by Amending Section 1.15.2., Temporary Use Permit (Private Property), Pursuant to Text Amendment Petition No. 24-17AM, to Authorize the Temporary Use of Portable Storage Containers Under Certain Conditions; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications.

Council waived staff's presentation.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2024-07 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**[24-0163](#)**

Consider the Citizen Advisory Board's Recommendation for City Council to Approve Placement of a Butterfly Sculpture in West Blalock Park

There was no staff update.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve staff's recommendation on the placement of the butterfly sculpture in West Blalock Park. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

VII. NEW BUSINESS**A. ORDINANCES****[ORD. NO.
2024-09](#)**

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending Chapter 50, Personnel, Article III, Pensions and Retirement, Division 2, Municipal

Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund; Amending Section 50-81, Definitions; Amending Section 50-84, Finances and Fund Management; Amending Section 50-96, Minimum Distribution of Benefits; Amending Section 50-104, Credit for Military Service Prior to Employment; Amending Section 50-107, Prior Fire Service; Amending Section 50-109, Supplemental Benefit Component for Special Benefits, Chapter 175 Share Accounts; Providing for Codification; Providing for Severability of Provisions; Repealing All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2024-09 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

[ORD. NO.
2024-10](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, Article IV, Finance, Division 2, Purchases, by Amending Section 2-216, Approval of Purchases; Purchasing Threshold, Deleting Section 2-217, Local Preference, and Amending Section 2-223, Conflicts of Interest and Section 2-226, Surplus and Scrap Disposal; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Ms. Moore, that Ordinance No. 2024-10 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

B. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO.
2024-12](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Creating a Solid Waste and Recycling Rate Stakeholder's Work Group and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mrs. Frank, that Resolution No. 2024-12 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[24-0184](#)

Approve Fifth Amendment to Lease Agreement with Venice Pier Group, Inc.

Mayor Pachota announced a conflict of interest as a partner in Venice Pier Group, Inc., has submitted Florida Commission on Ethics Form 8B to the Clerk's office, passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Boldt, and stepped off the dais.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the Fifth Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Venice Pier Group, Inc. with the corrections as noted by the City Attorney.

Discussion took place regarding the terms of the amendment, responsibility of the capital improvements, and correction to the document, signature on document to be the Vice Mayor, commercial appraisal, and fair market value.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 4 - Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Howard

No: 2 - Ms. Farrell and Mr. Smith

Abstain: 1 - Mayor Pachota

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Farrell, to direct staff to seek a commercial appraisal to establish the fair market value of the expansion and establish the likely time necessary to recoup such an investment in order to evaluate the appropriateness of the extension of the lease in return for that investment.

Discussion took place regarding benefits to the Venice Pier Group, protecting the business, Council, and taxpayers, inappropriateness of utilizing taxpayer funds to protect a private business, public trust, the history of the pier and Sharky's, improvements to City property, concerns about parking, fair market value, and other leases.

City Manager Lavalley commented on the history of the lease, appraisals, ownership of the property, and answered a Council question about fair market value, noting the value would change yearly due to profitability. He noted capital improvements would be inherited by the City in leases on City-owned property. Mr. Lavalley explained in this situation the City receives 5% of gross beyond the rent payment and it is a common practice with the airport leases to extend the lease in exchange for investing money in the property.

The motion failed by the following electronic vote:**Yes:** 2 - Ms. Farrell and Mr. Smith**No:** 4 - Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Howard**Abstain:** 1 - Mayor Pachota

Recess was taken from 10:22 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

[24-0185](#)

Direct Appropriate Charter Officer to Further Research and Compile Information and Recommendations Regarding the Safety of the Main Entrance/Exit to Toscana Isles (Mrs. Frank)

Mrs. Frank introduced the topic brought to her by concerned citizens regarding traffic at the entrance/exit to Toscana Isles.

Diane Jochum, 640 Ravello Boulevard, expressed concerns on traffic, the need for a traffic light at Knights Trail and Technology Way, showed a photograph of a truck accident, residents unable to get into neighborhood, would like it moved up on the Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS), recommended a smart technology light, safety, bus routes, bus stops, speeding, and being proactive.

Jeff Munzing, 202 Toscavilla Boulevard, commented on difficulty of leaving complex, requested assistance from County, and spoke regarding grant money, beautification of Knights Trail, danger, and the need for a traffic light.

Paula Steinert 119 Ventosa Place, expressed concerns on traffic on Knights Trail, safety, and moving improvements up on the CIS.

Sue Perry, 227 Toscavilla Boulevard, expressed concerns about traffic, requested a smart traffic light at Knights Trail and Technology Drive be accelerated on the CIS, recommended funding the light with the Venice Impact Fees, and requested a letter be sent to the Sarasota County Commission asking them to release the funds. She also requested acceleration of the widening of Knights Trail from Laurel Road to Rustic Road.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Mr. Howard, to direct staff to research and compile information and bring back recommendations to Council regarding Knights Trail improvements.

Discussion took place that this is a County road, but City residents and tax payers are experiencing issues, the CIS workshop, prioritizing two items: smart technology traffic light and expanding Knights Trail.

Discussion continued regarding concerns about school buses, safety, traffic concerns, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

[24-0186](#)

Discuss Intent of Student Position on Advisory Boards and Requirements to Qualify (Mayor Pachota)

Mayor Pachota introduced the topic.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Ms. Moore, to direct the City Attorney to clarify the language to allow students from the Venice area or Venice Area High Schools to participate in City advisory boards with approval from their principal.

Discussion took place regarding geographic locations to be included for student participation and the Venice area.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

VIII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTSCity Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee shared attendance at events including the National Day of Prayer, Council of Governments, and the Mayor's Home Rule Hero award.

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS***Council Member Frank***

Mrs. Frank had no report.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard had no report.

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore provided an update on the Planning Commission meeting and

Historical and Architectural Preservation Board.

Council Member Farrell

Ms. Farrell reported on the Criminal Justice Commission, and concerns about police radio availability and cost.

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith had no report.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on Manasota League of Cities attendance, the Tourist Development Council and Visit Sarasota activity, and a high school little library at Venice beach.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on participation at the Teen Leadership Venice Graduation through the Chamber of Commerce, Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, Florida League of Mayors Board of Directors Meeting, the National Day of Prayer, Coffee with the Clerks, the ethics training success, Manasota League of Cities Home Rule Hero Award, and the two millionth meal provided by Meals on Wheels.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Justin Pachota, 713 Laguna Drive, thanked Council for approving the fifth amendment to the lease for Venice Pier Group, Inc. and spoke regarding the history of the relationship between Venice Pier Group and the City, transparency, plans for improvements, healthy dialogue, parking, service, seat calculations based on current LDRs, and commercial appraisals.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk