



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

2:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Present:** 6 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Richard Cautero and Council Member Fred Fraize
- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Deborah Anderson

ALSO PRESENT

Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, and for certain items on the agenda: Development Services Director Jeff Shrum and City Engineer Kathleen Weeden.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Fraize.

Mayor Holic commented on September 12, 2017 council meeting being rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma, council member attendance and availability, meeting format, and addressing time critical items.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, noted Item No. 17-2872 and read a newspaper article from The Wall Street Journal regarding low income housing.

II. CONSENT SECTION:

A. CITY MANAGER

Police

[17-2893](#)

Approval of the Agreement Between the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida and the City of Venice for the School Resource Officer Program

(July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fraize to approve Item No. 17-2893. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATIONS

[17-2896](#)

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden and Atkins North America Sr. Engineer/Project Manager Marty Morlan and Sr. Landscape Architect Harry Belton: Downtown Reconstruction Project 60% Plans Including Landscape and Median Components and Requesting Council Action (20 min.)

Ms. Weeden provided an update on the downtown reconstruction project to include 60% design plans, project boundary, current project schedule, and coordination activities.

Marty Morlan, Atkins North America Sr. Engineer/Project Manager, spoke on the overall summary 60% plan design to include adding bicycle sharrows, replacing sidewalks, improved landscaping, drainage, pedestrian safety enhancements, creating four-way stop intersections, pavement design, Tampa and Nokomis Avenue intersection modifications, and traffic control and construction phasing.

Harry Belton, Sr. Landscape Architect, spoke on proposed landscape improvements to include median elevation, brick pavers, sidewalk tree openings, street furnishings, palms, trees, and shrubs and groundcovers.

Discussion followed regarding bike racks and finishing, stainless steel theme, Venice Avenue, street lights, LED lighting, cost benefit analysis for downtown lighting, Florida Power and Light (FPL) light fixtures, irrigation for flower baskets, full depth reclamation for pavement design, road longevity after pavement, special telephone hotline to address community concerns, communication with residents, CodeRED, Venice MainStreet, brick pavers and roadways, stamp concrete, palm holiday lightings, Nokomis Avenue piping, concern with business owners, incentives, Tampa and Nokomis intersection, Centennial Park driveway, dedicated one way on Tampa and Miami Avenue during construction, Venice Theater street parking and drop off, Bosque Drake Elms, project funding, traffic counters and placement, sidewalk clearance, and new regulations for corridor requirements.

Discussion ensued on electrical outlets, tree lighting on Tampa and Miami Avenues, electrical outlets for tree lighting and special events, downtown analysis of electrical outlets, existing and proposed curbs, narrowing roads and slowing traffic, Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) crosswalk,

making light poles effective for plants and banners, cost benefit analysis and maintenance of poles, in pavement lighting and crosswalk settings, Venice Avenue median height and shrubbery, median fence height, project objectives, security cameras, lighted in ground crosswalks, sidewalk widths, furnishing strip, restaurant canopies, and trash receptacles.

Ms. Weeden noted lighting fixtures are not part of the project, and commented on providing conduit for lighting and verifying irrigation.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to accept the city engineer's 60% downtown reconstruction project plan proposal.

Discussion took place on Ms. Weeden providing council with a communication plan to address public concerns, and adding vegetation instead of a fence in the median.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

B. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO. 2017-19](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Neal Communities of Southwest Florida, LLC, (Villages of Milano Phase 2 Subphase 2 and 8, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 15) and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond, and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member McKeon, that Resolution No. 2017-19 be approved and adopted.

Discussion followed regarding developer contracts and their responsibility for costs, site inspections and testing, project oversight, and maintenance bond.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Holic, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Caution and Mr. Fraize

Absent: 1 - Ms. Anderson

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[17-2860](#)

Development Services Director Jeff Shrum and Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez: Requesting Council Direction on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (10 min.)

Mr. Fraize and Mr. McKeon left the dais at 4:16 p.m.

Ms. Fernandez commented on November 8, 2017 moratorium expiration and council providing direction.

Mr. Shrum spoke regarding zoning districts and development standards applicable to pharmacies.

Ms. Fernandez noted statewide regulations for dispensaries.

Mr. Fraize returned to the dais at 4:18 p.m.

Mr. McKeon returned to the dais at 4:19 p.m.

Ms. Fernandez commented on Sarasota County's adopted regulations.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fraize, to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries within city limits.

Discussion followed on resident input, state regulations, prohibition or active ban, election results, and enforcement.

Mr. Lavallee noted attending a medical marijuana conference with Mr. McKeon and spoke regarding dispensary security measures and marijuana recreational use.

Discussion ensued on pharmacists concerns with ability to compete.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

Ms. Fernandez noted item will be placed in the code of ordinances and will be an ordinance.

[17-2872](#)

Consider an Additional \$275,000 for a Total of \$550,000 for Venetian Walk II Project (Venice Housing Authority) from Fund 301 in Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve Item No. 17-2872.

Discussion took place regarding subsidized housing, budget, being part of a community, Venice Housing Authority (VHA) applying for 90% bonds, lottery system, project funding, issued bonds, providing residents housing, communication with various foundations, city needs and asset priorities, fire fee, budget approval and reserves, honoring previous council discussions, helping residents, infrastructure needs, public safety, Venetian Walk I project, project failing due to lack of funding, and 4% bonds.

The motion carried by voice vote 4 to 2 with Mr. Cautero and Mr. Fraize opposed.

Ms. Fernandez spoke regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement from Hurricane Irma to include the city is pursuing reimbursement for debris on private property, FEMA requires that the city agree to indemnify and hold FEMA harmless, agreements with individual subdivisions, and city code, and requested council's approval for the city to

indemnify FEMA.

There was council consensus to indemnify, hold harmless and defend FEMA from any liability, claims or loss or damage resulting from the collection of eligible disaster debris from Hurrican Irma.

Discussion followed on Hurricane Irma expenses, replacing reserves, and extraordinary mitigation fees (EMFs).

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk