



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

---

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

---

[24-0049](#)

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 Lavalley, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, and Planning Manager Amy Nelson.

A moment of silence was held in honor of former Council Member Bob Daniels, and Mayor Pachota read a statement.

#### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pachota.

#### I. RECOGNITION

[24-0050](#)

Proclaim the Week of February 19-25, 2023 as "Engineers Week" Presented to City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, PE, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, PE, Assistant City Engineer Jonathan Kramer, PE, Stormwater Engineer Steve Berens, EIT, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Assistant Utilities Director Patience Anastasio, PE, and Marquis Bing, PE, on Behalf of the ASCE Suncoast Branch

**Mayor Pachota presented this proclamation.**

[24-0051](#)

10-Year Service Award, Peter Boers, Procurement Manager

City Manager Lavallee and Finance Director Senne presented this recognition.

Recess was taken from 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

## II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Rose Gleckler, 1219 East Gate, spoke on her concerns and need for assistance regarding her property tax bill with Sarasota County.

Gary Scott, 156 Pesaro Drive, expressed concerns on Unified Control, open space, land use, rezoning Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), the Land Development Regulations (LDRs), predictability, and protection for homeowners.

Debbie Gericke, 146 Bella Vista Terrace, expressed concerns about the definition of Unified Control, and recommended City Council seek an outside attorney for guidance. She also made suggestions about the ranking process for the Citizen Advisory Board.

Olen Thomas, 248 Acerno Drive, spoke on PUDs and Unified Control, and protection for homeowners.

Jeffery A. Boone, PO Box 1596, spoke on Unified Control and in favor of having a defined process to amend PUDs.

Jan Vertifuelle, 321 Pedro Street, spoke against the ranking process for the Citizens Advisory Board, and recommended using the board in a meaningful way.

Suzanne Jerry, 118 Savona Way, spoke on Unified Control and PUD amendments.

Steve Carr, 149 Avens Drive, recognized City Stormwater Engineer Steve Berens for his work on Curry Creek, and Assistant Director of Utilities Patience Anastasio for communication regarding neighborhood issues.

Kathy Walters, 273 Bocelli Drive, spoke on Unified Control, her homeowners association (HOA) board, and environmental concerns.

Dan McBride, 678 Bird Bay Drive West, spoke on Unified Control, and homeowner protections.

## 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.

**A. CITY CLERK**

[24-0052](#) Minutes of the January 23, 2024 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

**B. CITY MANAGER**

Airport

[24-0053](#) Approve Hiring a Full Time Position for an Airport Community Outreach Manager

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

[24-0054](#) Authorize Mayor to Execute the Interlocal Agreement with Sarasota County for an Anchorage Limitation Area in Roberts Bay

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

There were none.

**V. PRESENTATION**

[24-0055](#) Finance Director Linda Senne: Quarterly Financial Update (10 min.)

Finance Director Senne provided the quarterly financial update, general fund, revenues, and expenses.

**VI. PRESENTATION WITH ACTION**

[24-0056](#) Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark: Unified Control Discussion

Planning and Zoning Director Clark provided a presentation on Unified Control, previous code language, amending a PUD, rezoning the entire PUD, and whether or not Unified Control has to be re-established.

Discussion took place regarding percentage of homeowners in agreement, LDR requirements, minimum per Comprehensive Plan and LDRs, developers rights, history of PUDs in Venice, four options, appropriate percentage, property rights, designated areas, and HOA quorums.

City Attorney Fernandez noted we cannot make the LDRs more restrictive prior to October 2026, and Council needing to consider this would apply to all amendments that come before them, staff direction, property rights,

amendments guidelines, need for direction, details can be adjusted, possibility of a workshop, concerns about developer control, considering a consultant, and issues that are outside the City purview.

Discussion took place regarding whether or not to include a specific option, the need for a workshop and possibility of a consultant.

Recess was taken from 11:15 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.

Discussion continued regarding not limiting to one option, whether to look for consultant, balance between homeowner and property rights, and the importance of being applicable in our state.

**A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Farrell, to direct staff to come back with a modified version of option 2, to have a workshop, and have professionals to advise us on the best way to accomplish this. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Ms. Farrell, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

**No:** 3 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt and Ms. Moore

**A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that the proposed workshop be held as soon as reasonably possible and staff bring back an estimated cost of hiring a consultant to provide analysis of our code, of unified control, and how it is applied in other municipalities around our state. 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. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[ORD NO.](#)  
[2024-02](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the 2017-2027 Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to Petition No. 23-68CP to Incorporate the Annual Update of Data on Development Activity Within the Mixed Use Future Land Use Categories in Each Comprehensive Plan Neighborhood; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith to the Extent of Such Conflict; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no communications.

Planning Manager Nelson answered Council question regarding East Venice neighborhood being over in percentages, annual update, and looking for problem areas.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark answered Council question about the neighborhood being over and how could it be over, and only covers mixed-use areas, and are maxed out.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Ms. Moore, that Ordinance No. 2024-02 be approved on first reading and forwarded to the Florida Department of Commerce for review. 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. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING**

### [ORD. NO. 2023-47](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the 2017-2027 Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to Petition No. 23-57CP to Incorporate the 2022-2035 City of Venice Water Supply Work Plan by Reference and Include it in the Associated Data, Inventory and Analysis (DIA); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith to the Extent of Such Conflict; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications.

There were no updates and no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2023-47 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

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. RESOLUTION**

### [RES. NO. 2024-04](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, Limiting the Annual Time Period Within Which Petitions for Annexations May be Approved; Superseding all Policies in Conflict Herewith; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk read the resolution by title only.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Ms. Moore, that Resolution No. 2024-04 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

## **B. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION**

### [24-0057](#)

Direct Staff to Prepare a Resolution for the Mayor's Signature Expressing the Desire of the Council to Sign On to an Elected Official Letter to Legislators Proposed by Jon Thaxton, Senior Vice President for Community Leadership at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation (Mr. Smith)

Mr. Smith introduced the topic.

Discussion took place regarding the need to address red tide, City has been part of since 2007, in favor of home rule, and the mayor may sign electronically.

**A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Farrell, to authorize the mayor to sign an elected official letter (to be completed electronically) to legislators proposed by Jon Thaxton, Senior Vice President for Community Leadership at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. 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

### [24-0058](#)

Direct Staff to Provide Council with a Presentation on the Flamingo Ditch with Information Related to Flooding and Drainage Problems and Possible Improvements, Large or Small, that Might be Made through the Stormwater Enterprise Fund, Grants, or Bond Revenues at the Next or a Future Meeting (Mr. Smith)

Mr. Smith introduced the topic regarding neighborhood associations concern with stormwater flooding.

**A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to direct staff to provide council with a presentation on the flamingo ditch with information related to flooding and drainage problems and possible improvements, large or small, that might be made through the stormwater enterprise fund, grants, or bond revenues at the next or a future meeting. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

Discussion took place regarding concerns about the flooding and stormwater issues, Flamingo Ditch is, but would like an update and information, causing back up and flooding of streets.

### [24-0059](#)

Citizen Advisory Board Top 15 in Rankings (Clerk Michaels)

Clerk Michaels introduced the topic, received corrected rankings, others to resubmit, or submit, all rankings in now and compiled, the top 15 presented as requested.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to accept the top 15 candidates and have Council rank the top seven prior to next Council meeting so staff can place on the agenda.**

Discussion took place process not the best, options for changing the process, board supporting the Council, diverse knowledge and experience needed, proposed alternative process, and individual Council members methodology of consideration.

City Attorney Fernandez commented on staggering the board terms, so all members will not expire at the same time.

Discussion took place regarding the process, and taking the current top seven.

**Mayor Pachota amended his motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to accept the top seven candidates as currently ranked and those seven candidates will be seated on the board.**

**Mayor Pachota restated his motion.**

**A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt to accept the top seven applicants as currently ranked, as well as the Venice Art Center representative, and allow the student appointment to be made later. 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

## **IX. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS**

### City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

### City Clerk

City Clerk Michaels had no report.

### City Manager

City Manager Lavallee commented on an application for funding for a forcemain under the intracoastal waterway for utilities, not getting involved in state policies, supporting home rule, the federal lobbyist, and Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) conference on artificial intelligence (AI).

## **X. COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Council Member Smith**

Mr. Smith expressed thoughts on Mr. Daniels.

***Council Member Howard***

Mr. Howard reported the Planning and Zoning presentation was well attended and very informative.

***Council Member Frank***

Mrs. Frank had no report.

***Council Member Moore***

Ms. Moore reported on Planning Commission and the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB) meetings, the open data hub on the website, and the new trees.

***Council Member Farrell***

Mrs. Farrell reported the approval of the wildlife corridor at the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) meeting, and their Southwest Florida Climate Summit on 2/28 and 2/29 in Punta Gorda.

***Vice Mayor Boldt***

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on his attendance and presentation of a proclamation at Epiphany school, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Hot Dog Shoppe ribbon cutting, Tourist Development Council (TDC) annual report to the Sarasota County Commission, the Florida Gulf Coast Trail, and sporting events income for Sarasota County.

***Mayor Pachota***

Mayor Pachota commented on the MPO, Mr. Daniels, the Mayor's bike ride, Tallahassee, upcoming Washington DC trip coming up, legislators coming to Venice, Citizen's police academy, Florida League of Mayors, the proclamation for Holocaust Education Week.

**There was consensus for Mr. Smith to act as the United Way liaison and for Mayor Pachota to fill the necessary Charlotte Harbor committees.**

**XI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.



**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

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