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Venice City Council*

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP  
CITY COUNCIL, VENICE, FLORIDA

AUGUST 17, 2012

A Workshop of the City Council to consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-2013 Budget was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Carlesimo.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Roll was called with the following elected officials present: Mayor John Holic, and Council Members Emilio Carlesimo, Bob Daniels, Jeanette Gates, and Dave Sherman. Jim Bennett and Kit McKeon were absent.

Also present: City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Attorney Bob Anderson, and City Manager Ed Lavallee, and for certain items on the agenda: Finance Director Jeff Snyder, Acting Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Acting Solid Waste/Recycling Superintendent Bob Moroni, and Public Works Coordinator Judy DiFabbio.

**I. CITY ATTORNEY – CITY ATTORNEY BOB ANDERSON**

Mr. Anderson explained that legal expenses resulted from lawsuits and tasks assigned by council. Mr. Anderson presented the proposed budget, prepared by Mr. Lavallee for the City Attorney's office, for contractual services in the amount of \$335,207.00, and requested that \$500.00 allocated for commodities be transferred to travel and training.

Mr. Lavallee indicated that outside legal counsel expenses were not budgeted but were handled as they occurred.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that his retainer fee had not increased since 2004 and his hourly rate since 2006.

Discussion followed regarding engaging outside legal counsel, succession planning, the downward trend of legal costs, reporting and tracking of legal expenses and revenue, open legal cases, and scheduling a workshop to discuss legal issues.

Recess was taken from 9:05 a.m. until 9:10 a.m.

## **II. FIRE – ACTING CHIEF SHAWN CARVEY**

Acting Chief Carvey reviewed historic budget information, components of the 2011 International City Manager's Association (ICMA) study recommendations and implementations, proposed staffing recommendations, and fire department goals including providing annual fire inspections of public buildings and equipment and awarding of Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), Assistance to Firefighters, West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Gulf Coast Foundation grants.

Discussion ensued regarding prior fire department studies, ICMA study recommendations, tracking inspection income, the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department, using volunteers for special events to reduce overtime, elimination of the hazmat unit, firefighter applicant list, closing of fire stations, staffing reductions, fleet maintenance, advanced life support staffing, charging enterprise funds for inspections, Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) matters, and step increases for entry level firemedics.

(10:05) Jerry Collins, International Association of Firefighters representative, responded to council questions relating to step increases for entry level firemedics.

Council members requested that staff provide dollar amounts for proposed increases including employees in other departments.

Discussion continued regarding implementing ICMA recommendations relating to revenue reporting.

Recess was taken from 10:19 a.m. until 10:28 a.m.

## **III. PUBLIC WORKS - ACTING SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING SUPERINTENDENT BOB MORONI, AND PUBLIC WORKS COORDINATOR JUDY DIFABBIO**

Ms. DiFabbio reviewed Public Works Department accomplishments and efforts that support council's strategic plan goals in areas relating to conservation, operational savings, facilities management, capital improvements, and utilizing seasonal employees. Ms. DiFabbio also reviewed the general fund budget details and public works staffing levels and annual revenues.

Discussion followed regarding quarterly inspections pursuant to the interlocal agreement, county fees for city parks and buildings, county maintenance of parks, quarterly inspection of city parks, cost of services provided by public works, available grant funding, cost savings, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects, pier lighting, staffing, capital improvement project estimates, parks maintenance crews possibly damaging the Venetian Waterway Trail, and sidewalk inspections.

(11:21) Mr. Moroni reviewed solid waste/recycling department customer service and revenue goals including maintaining customer service expectations, roll-off and recycling revenues, reducing staffing expenses, streamlining administrative procedures, researching readily biodegradable hydraulic oil, dumpster service locations, improving safety records, and equipment maintenance.

Discussion ensued regarding disaster debris collection, holiday collection schedules, recycling efforts, solid waste drivers reporting code enforcement violations, dedication of the Nat Burns Public Works Complex, and paving of gravel roadways.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor – City of Venice

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City Clerk