

To: Kelly Michaels, City Clerk

From: Ron Smith, City Councilmember

Subject: Agenda item request

Date: August 30, 2024

I would request that an item be placed on the 9-10-24 council agenda.

I would like an item under Council Discussion/Action that would read:

Discuss FY 2025 budget amendment to cover Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council dues

Background: The council appointed me as the city's representative to the SWFRPC. That board recently appointed me to serve as a member of their executive committee. The executive committee has now elected me treasurer of the SWFRPC.

I recently attended a meeting with the executive director of the statewide Florida Regional Councils Association and heard of all the good being done by the regional councils across the state (there are 10 in all serving every city and county in the state). Representative from numerous cities attended and testified to the help the planning councils give them. Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach attended and discussed the tremendous help they have received accessing funds as they struggle to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Ian. Others talked about things like the assistance they have received with their comprehensive plans, diminishing the need to hire outside counsels to answer questions.

SWFRPC and the others around the state assist cities with identifying grant possibilities, grant preparation and grant administration. They also address all the important issues of regionality. Issues of development, transportation, water quality and quantity, disaster preparedness and evacuation.

At my invitation the Venice Council recently heard a presentation from the executive director of the SWFRPC explaining the important role of our regional planning organization and we discussed the failure of the city to pay its dues of 30 cents per capita which would be something under \$9,000.

Action requested: amend the budget to allow for payment of annual dues

This item really involves all of our strategic goals including:

Goal 2: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High-Quality Services

Goal 6: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning