



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, June 18, 2026

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Budget Workshop

[26-0633](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pachota called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard and Mr. Lloyd Weed

Absent: 1 - Mr. Kevin Engelke

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Gregory, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Chief Andy Leisenring, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Rick Simpson, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ashlee Castle, City Engineer Jon Kramer, Information Technology Director Roger Navarro, Director of Human Resources Alan Bullock, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pachota.

I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER CLINCH

City Manager Clinch spoke on the budget process, revenue, property tax revenue remaining flat, increased cost of delivering services, level of service, possible property tax reform decreasing the General Fund by \$5.5 million at full implementation, conservative approach to budgeting, communicating impacts to the public, growth's impact on service, transparency, and answered a Council question about the projected reduction in revenue.

II. PRESENTATIONS

[26-0634](#)

City-Wide - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne thanked Council and department directors for their support and work, and presented the citywide budget, noting rate increases, personnel changes, changes to fleet services, and answered a Council question regarding position reductions, the Other category, and property liability insurance premiums.

Human Resources Director Alan Bullock explained the savings in property insurance premiums being due to the market, and risk management strategies.

City Manager Clinch noted additional savings due to Wellfield Park being removed from the City's insurance policy.

[26-0637](#)

General Fund - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne responded to a question from Council regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements.

She continued on the General Fund, summary table of changes from adopted FY26 to Proposed FY27, the millage rate table, proposed general fund revenues, and answered Council questions regarding park impact fees, reserves, general fund expenditures by department, and proposed general fund expenditures.

[26-0635](#)

CIP - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne presented the Capital Improvement Program proposed funding changes, One Cent Sales Tax Fund, Building Fund, and reviewed proposed capital projects.

Public Works Director Simpson discussed options for the roof of the Venice Beach Pavilion Building, refurbishing versus roof replacement, and a recent insurance claim.

Finance Director Senne provided the schedule for budgeting the Flamingo Ditch project phases, and continued on Fleet replacement fund, Venice Community Center (VCC) changes of a sound system and the technical enhancements requested at Strategic Planning in the One Cent Sales Tax Fund, the generator switch at VCC, Public Works building updates (75% grant-funded), and new Fleet maintenance vehicle.

There was consensus to change the amount of the Venice Beach Pavilion from \$500,000 to \$150,000 for refurbishing rather than replacing the whole roof.

[26-0636](#)

One Cent Sales Tax Fund - Finance Director Linda Senne

Assistant Director of Public Works Ashlee Castle clarified the purpose for the Fleet maintenance vehicle, grant allocations, and responded to Council remarks on the Blalock Park parking situation, and gas tax money used for capital project for streets and roads only.

IT Director Roger Navarro provided information on the backup server.

It was agreed to leave the numbers for now and have more information provided.

Recess was taken from 10:10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

[26-0638](#)

Fire and EMS - Chief Frank Giddens

Fire Chief Giddens responded to a Council inquiry regarding the budget increase of 78% in the last three years, call volume, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) being 83% of calls, transport fees, comparable to neighboring municipalities, and keeping in line with the consumer price index.

City Manager Clinch stated EMS transport rates can be adjusted, but would need studies to tie to the cost of services.

Discussion continued regarding rates, increasing fees, and the cost of providing service.

Fire Chief Giddens commented on fees being evaluated with Finance, rescue vehicles, Fire Impact Fee Fund balances, and responded to Council questions regarding professional services expense, BLS and ALS units, all rescue vehicles being transport vehicles, billing, and collections.

[26-0639](#)

Police - Chief Andy Leisenring

Finance Director Senne responded to a Council question regarding Law Enforcement Impact Fees.

Police Chief Leisenring responded to a Council question regarding bike patrol.

Discussion took place regarding bike patrols, the elder crimes position, and Salvation Army beds funding.

[26-0640](#)

Planning and Zoning - Director Roger Clark

Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark responded to Council questions regarding the Seaboard Master Plan the swing bridge, the Parks Master

Plan, and affordable housing.

[26-0641](#)

Historical Resources - Director Roger Clark

Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer responded to a Council question regarding the Venice Beach Pavilion roof refurbishment option as opposed to replacement. He stated as long as the Secretary of the Interior guidelines are followed (since it is on the local register) it should be fine.

Discussion took place on the Centennial Celebration wrap up.

[26-0642](#)

Information Technology - Director Roger Navarro

Council had no questions on this.

[26-0643](#)

Human Resources - Director Alan Bullock

Human Resources Director Bullock responded to Council questions regarding increase in health insurance rates, and noted factors such as, number of employees and dependents, high cost claims, pharmaceutical costs, recent history of claims. He provided a review of employee programs.

Discussion took place regarding the union negotiations, future executive sessions, and ongoing expense.

[26-0644](#)

City Attorney - City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

Discussion took place regarding the budget of the City Attorney and overall legal expense, it was noted that the retainer amount did not increase last year and many years it increased less than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and the difficulty of predicting the need for hourly work by the City Attorney or outside counsel.

City Attorney Fernandez provided overall historical legal expenses.

[26-0645](#)

City Council and City Clerk - City Clerk Kelly Michaels

Council had no questions on this.

[26-0646](#)

City Manager - City Manager James Clinch

Council Members noted the digital detail provided ahead of time was very helpful.

[26-0647](#)

Finance - Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne received Council compliments on assistance and adoption of suggestions, and responded to a Council question regarding

adding money to the Stormwater Funds from the General Fund. She noted it is not recommended to take funds from the General Fund to put into an Enterprise fund, but Stormwater Fees could be increased.

[26-0648](#) Engineering - City Engineer Jon Kramer

Recess was taken from 11:33 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

[26-0649](#) Stormwater - City Engineer Jon Kramer

City Engineer Kramer responded to Council comments regarding the maintenance of Curry Creek and Deertown Gully.

City Attorney Fernandez responded to a Council question regarding negotiation with Sawgrass on the maintenance of Curry Creek.

Discussion took place regarding the decline in revenue in the Stormwater Fund, challenges of having Engineering and Stormwater as competing priorities for staff time, a proposed stormwater consultant for capital projects, the Stormwater Management Plan, level of service, beach outfalls, Flamingo Ditch projects status, and excavation of Flamingo Drive lot.

[26-0650](#) Public Works and Fleet - Director Ricky Simpson

Public Works Director Simpson responded to Council questions regarding the staff schedule change, preparation for additional parks, contractual services, the Venice Community Center, Public Works building needs, and Venice Beach Pavilion needs.

[26-0651](#) Solid Waste - Director Ricky Simpson

Public Works Director Simpson responded to a Council inquiry regarding the schedule change for solid waste.

[26-0652](#) Building Department - Building Official Derek Applegate

Building Official Applegate responded to Council questions regarding staffing reduction, changes in the industry, outsourcing, inspections, plan reviews, and developers hiring private providers.

[26-0653](#) Airport - Director Nick Dumas

City Manager Clinch responded to Council comments regarding Fuel Fee revenues, and lease default issue.

Discussion took place regarding Maxine Barritt Park mowing, mobile home park property taxes, HVAC maintenance, Airport Avenue possible improvements, and the Airport Master Plan engagement.

[26-0654](#)

Utilities - Director Javier Vargas

Utilities Director Vargas responded to Council questions regarding age of infrastructure, reclaimed water status, master plan, and replacement water plant feasibility study.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pachota confirmed there would be no workshop tomorrow, however Council will meet on July 8th for the final budget workshop as planned.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk