



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Jim Bennett, Council Member Emilio Carlesimo, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates and Council Member Bob Daniels

Absent: 1 - Council Member Deborah Anderson

Also Present:

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Edward Klotz, and for certain items on the agenda: Utilities Director Tim Hochuli, Public Works Director John Veneziano, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Director of Historical Resources James Hagler and Marketing and Communications Officer Pam Johnson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Calamaras.

I. RECOGNITION

[15-1567](#)

Mayor's Pillar of the Community Award, Presented to Dean Calamaras

Mayor Holic presented the Pillar of the Community Award to Dean Calamaras.

[15-1568](#)

Recognition of the Utilities Department's First-Place Award for Public Works Projects Less than \$10 Million

This Item will be presented at the November 10, 2015 Regular Council Meeting.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Michael Bauerle, 728 Limeberry, expressed concern regarding motorcycle and truck traffic in the city, regulations for truck parking at Sharky's pier parking lot and the need for restriping of streets.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels to approve items on the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item Nos. 15-1575, 15-1576 and 15-1577. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

A. MAYOR

[15-1569](#) Appoint Nicholas Pachota to the Municipal Code Enforcement Board to Serve a Term from November 1, 2015 until October 31, 2018

This Appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1570](#) Reappoint Linda Kenfield to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to Serve a Term from November 1, 2015 until October 31, 2018

This Reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1571](#) Reappoint Jon Barrick to the Architectural Review Board to Serve a Term from November 1, 2015 until October 31, 2018

This Reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1572](#) Reappoint Heather McCullough to the Public Art Advisory Board to Serve a Term from November 1, 2015 until October 31, 2018

This Reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY CLERK

[15-1587](#) Minutes of the September 22, 2015 Regular Meeting

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGERAirport

[15-1573](#) Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Restated Lease between Tristate Aviation Group of Florida, LLC and the City of Venice and Approve Reimbursement of \$5,806.02 in Rent

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Administrative Services

[15-1574](#) Approve Workers' Compensation Claim Settlement, Demitri Serianni, \$50,000

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

[15-1578](#) Request Approval to Continue the Cooperative Purchase with Allied Universal Chemicals for the Purchase of Sodium Hypochlorite in the Amount of \$177,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1575](#) Request Council Execution of King Engineering Associates, Inc. Work Assignment No. 11, Reclaimed Water Distribution System Improvements, in the Amount of \$127,318.00

In response to council member questions, Mr. Hochuli stated that the contractor is fully responsible for repairs, the city does not incur any additional expense, and that utilities is undergoing updates to the reclaimed water master plan for fiscal year 2016 to determine expansion capacity.

This Work Assignment was approved under Item No. 15-1577.

[15-1576](#) Request Council Execution of Wade Trim, Inc. Change Order No. 1 of Work Assignment No. 2, Water Main Replacement Program - Phase 2, in the Amount of \$6,800.00 Bringing the New Contract Amount to \$194,920.00

Discussion held under Item No. 15-1577.

This Work Assignment was approved under Item No. 15-1577.

[15-1577](#) Request Council Execution of Atkins North America Change Order No. 1 of Work Assignment No. 8, Construction Inspection Services, in the Amount of \$18,055.00 Bringing the New Contract Amount to \$155,255.00

Discussion ensued regarding time delays with a contractor, the change orders associated with standing work assignments, and the process used to verify contractor qualifications.

In response to questions, Mr. Hochuli responded a viable explanation for the delays had not been provided due to lack of responsiveness from the contractor, communications with the city attorney had taken place as a precautionary measure and that the project was nearing completion. In regards to contractor qualifications, Mr. Hochuli assured council that a contractor's performance history was reviewed prior to contract signing.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Bennett to approve Item Nos. 15-1575, 15-1576 and 15-1577. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

[15-1579](#) Approve the Termination and Release of a Water Line Easement with the Board of Public Instruction of Sarasota County and Approve the Termination and Release of a Lift Station and Force Main Easement with the School Board of Sarasota County, Both Located at Venice High School, 1 Indian Avenue

Ms. Stelzer read the notice of public hearing.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer stated there were no written communications and that no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Item No. 15-1579 be approved. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

B. PRESENTATIONS

[15-1580](#) Jay Loeffler, VP Displays, Venice Area Orchid Society: Activities Update (10 min.)

Mr. Loeffler presented an overview of the Venice Orchid Society, including meeting times, the orchid society's purpose and invited city council to their 50th annual show titled "50 Shades of Orchids" at 5 p.m., February 5, 2016. Mr. Loeffler spoke about the "Orchid Project", working with VABI (Venice Area Beautification Inc.) for the Arbor Day event, process of growing orchids and placing in parks and requested city council to consider future assistance with a greenhouse for the propagation of new orchids.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of naming the orchid the city flower and Venice as the City of Orchids, staff research for placement of a greenhouse, suggested creating an educational brochure on the Orchid Society and their needs, along with the possibility of a donation box.

[15-1581](#) James Hagler Director of Historical Resources and Michael Zimny Historic Preservation Assistant, Florida Department of State: Certified Local Government Update (10 min.)

Mr. Hagler and Mr. Zimny provided an overview of the Certified Local Government program and updated council on the steps that have been taken to date in cooperation with the planning and zoning department and the Historic Preservation Board to implement necessary ordinance changes and the application process.

Discussion ensued regarding other government members, the division of the grants and the determination process of allocating funds to applicants, ordinance changes that are needed, and implications on the city and its residents.

Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, spoke in favor of the Certified Local Government grant program and expressed concerns with the direction of governance that the Architectural Review Board takes in comparison to the Historic Preservation Board.

Discussion continued regarding the Architectural Review Board and policies associated with the board. Requests were made for the city attorney to review the Certified Local Government ordinance, Architectural Review Board policies, and to get input from the Architectural Review Board and Historic Preservation Board.

Council Member Anderson entered the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Recess was taken from 10:30 a.m. to 10:44 a.m.

[15-1582](#)

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden: Update on Road Project for Bond Referendum and Request for Council Direction Related to City Roads to be Included in the Bond Referendum, Inclusion of Private Roads Substation Road and Hauser Lane and Related Ancillary Improvements

Ms. Weeden presented an overview of the road bond project, explained the average condition analysis and how it is used. The current conditions of two privately owned roads (Substation Rd. and Hauser Ln.) were discussed, what is needed to bring the roads up to standard, the requirements for improvements to take place, and the need for council direction on how to proceed.

Discussion ensued regarding property owner contribution toward the project, the need for a separate referendum item, the need for additional financing and property owner assistance financing, road impact fees, the discrepancy for the need for sidewalks.

Discussion continued on the benefits of bonds and the relief to existing property owners for taxes through the building of new homes, the annual tax cost to homeowners, possible modifications to the current options given, and the placement of some or all projects on the ballot and when they would be placed on the ballot for voters.

[15-1583](#)

Director of Historical Resources James Hagler and Director of Public Works John Veneziano: Historic Lamp Post Update (10 min.)

Mr. Hagler and Mr. Veneziano presented an update on the removal of the historic lamp posts and why they were removed.

Discussion took place regarding the removal of the lamp posts, the

restoration process, associated costs, council direction, and a request for costs to be brought back to council.

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels that the costs for the three options of 1. restore both lamp posts and display both, 2. restore both lamp posts and display one, 3. restore both lamp posts and put neither back out on the street, be brought back to council. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

C. ORDINANCES

[ORD. NO. 2015-20](#)

Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Venice, Florida, Chapter 46, Parks and Recreation; Article III, Conduct in Parks; Amending Section 46-62, General Rules and Regulations for all Parks, Beaches and Recreational Areas; Adding Subsection (C) Special Permit, to Establish Regulations for Special Permitting in Regards to Overnight Camping; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only and stated that there was no one signed up to speak.

Discussion ensued regarding allowing overnight campers within city parks, concerns regarding policing and enforcement of uninvited attendees, unintended impact on residents in surrounding neighborhoods, and the need for ordinance language to be addressed clarifying policing boundaries.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo, that Ordinance No. 2015-20 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Mayor Holic

No: 6 - Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carlesimo, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels and Ms. Anderson

Recess was taken from 12:06 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

V. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

[15-1584](#)

Contracted Fire Services - Options for Referendum Question

Mr. Persson discussed the verbiage for a charter amendment, whether to include police and finance with fire, the need to amend the charter to merge with another government, and approval of the amendment allows the creation of an interlocal agreement.

Discussion ensued regarding the fire department merger and Sarasota County's request for endorsement from city council, the public, and the

fire department prior to proceeding. Council members expressed concerns regarding not having enough information and misinformation being shared. A suggestion was made that a public information session be held and that a fact sheet be made.

Richard Cautero, 126 Burana Ct., presented the need for a five year study to be conducted on fire department capital expenditures, potential savings, quality of service, how savings will be deployed, and the need for a fact sheet.

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo to hire a professional consultant who is detached from the issue to look at both sides of the question whether the city needs to take over EMS or whether the city needs to merge with the county and bring back the results. The motion failed for lack of a second.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer stated she contacted the elections office and confirmed that the deadline for the August 30, 2016 primary is June 20, 2016 and cautioned that several voters are out of town in August.

City Manager

Mr. Lavallee gave an update on the city park signage projects, Lord Higel House parking lot capacity and projected completion of construction, the new beach parking lot north of the pier and additional parking spaces provided, the Hamilton Condominiums parking lot adding an additional 46 parking spaces on the hard surface and discussions to take place in the future with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding the adjacent lot. He noted that landscaping under the Venice Ave. bridge across from the Gondolier was completed, city hall parking lots were scheduled to be striped, no overnight parking signs were posted and trash cans were removed from visibility of the road.

Discussion ensued on the parking lot at Service Club Park being signed and used as overflow parking for Venice Pier, Venice Beach, and Sharky's, and the park amenities and public use.

VI. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Holic

[16-1880](#) Salvation Army

[15-1585](#) Email Communications with Sarasota County

Mayor Holic addressed the issue of complaints taking too much staff time through reporting and follow up. A suggestion that discussions be held with Sarasota County to utilize their call center or looking into a similar system for the city so that complaints could be easily tracked and

followed up on.

[15-1586](#)

2015 Point-In-Time Community Report

Mayor Holic presented the point in time community report on the homelessness of Sarasota and Manatee counties for council review. Mayor Holic reminded council of board liaison assignments, and requested approval to direct the city manager to look into special event fees being waived for groups that dedicate volunteer time to the city, and obtaining a copy of the contract that the bicyclists had for the Englewood Parks Complex for comparison of fees with the Venice Community Center.

Council Member Carlesimo

Mr. Carlesimo reported on the parks and recreation advisory board meeting, including the progress with the soccer fields, lighting and lightning detectors on the fields, and the status of the permit for demolition of the bathroom facilities at Maxine Barritt Park, the county landscaping project at the Venice Community Center and the board is trying to determine the number of Wellfield Park visitors who live within the city. Mr. Carlesimo provided an overview of Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army.

Council Member McKeon

Mr. McKeon gave an update on planning commission activities, including approval for an extension on a variance request on the demolition and rebuild of a house on the beach, and Venice Regional Medical Center's sign request. He reported that the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council received an offer of purchase on their current facility and sent a request to the state to opt-out of the requirement to be in a regional planning council.

Council Member Daniels

Mr. Daniels presented an update on the Venice Housing Authority meeting that he attended for the mayor, noting that a CPA was hired and a board member questioned the cleaning of the creek. He noted his assistance to connect Fox Lea Farm with the Economic Development Council, Pinebrook Park has been adopted by Friends of Pinebrook Park, reported on the croquet field expansion, lack of cleaning and maintenance of the Border Road overpass, and ongoing concerns with county roadside maintenance contractors not performing as required.

Mayor Holic requested Mr. Lavalley follow up with the county on the croquet field expansion and the use of impact fees for related projects.

There was a consensus to have Council Member Daniels draft a letter for Mayor Holic to sign which is to be sent to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Sarasota County regarding the Border Road overpass at Laurel Road and

I-75.

Council Member Gates

Ms. Gates requested a letter be sent asking to not divide the community with redistricting. Ms. Gates noted her upcoming joint meeting of the Bradenton and Sarasota EDCs. Ms. Gates presented an update on the FDOT ByPass project plans for the retention ponds and the designated school zone. A suggestion was made that the city engineers have conversations with FDOT regarding joint use of the retention ponds.

Ms. Johnson offered feedback on the redesign of the retention ponds and that she has had discussions with FDOT regarding the school zone.

There was a consensus to have Council Member Gates compose a letter to be signed by Mayor Holic regarding redistricting.

Council Member Anderson

Ms. Anderson had nothing to report.

Council Member Bennett

Mr. Bennett suggested contacting FDOT directly, addressed the suggestion to convert the sign code task force into a bypass task force to monitor bypass improvements and construction. A request was made to change the composition of the sign code task force to allow Mr. Bennett to remain a member. He gave an update on Venice MainStreet and their cooperation with staff on the new LED sign, his intent to remain a member of the community alliance and announced the new MPO chair and vice chair. Mr. Bennett confirmed that all funding needed was in the long range plan with the exception of the traffic light study and his request that the MPO be reminded that the southernmost sectors continue to be included in the planning process.

Mr. Lavalley noted council members participating with the staff retreat.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Michael Bauerle, 728 Limeberry, expressed concerns regarding lack of portable toilet facilities on Snake Island, Sharky's pier maintenance, parking lot and cleaning of the litter, usable knowledge getting to the public as needed, and the need for more wooden benches on the pier.

Discussion ensued on responsible parties for Snake Island, the pier, and parking lots.

Mr. Bennett suggested that Sharky's parking lot and Caspersen renourishment be a topic for the joint meeting with Sarasota County.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk
