



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

---

Monday, August 28, 2017

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

---

### Fire Fee Assessment - Special Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Cautero and Council Member Fred Fraize

#### ALSO PRESENT

Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Finance Director Linda Senne, and Controller Joe Welch.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Cautero.

#### I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

##### [17-2877](#) Fire Fee Assessment Discussion

Ms. Stelzer clarified continuation of the public hearing is September 7, 2017.

Mayor Holic thanked finance staff and the fire department for their work on the proposed fire assessment, and commented on development of the fire fee, fire department funding, condominium assessments and structural values, consultant credibility, tier 1 charges for manufactured homes, voting decision, and intended motion to instruct staff to prepare a resolution establishing a citizen task force to study alternatives for the fire department.

Discussion took place on community outreach and resident feedback, building versus structural values, impact versus fire assessment fees, ad valorem taxes, further evaluation and review of the assessment, stakeholders group, public safety bond, annual fire fee evaluation, millage rate, fire department budget, adding task force time frame, operational

expenses, consolidation with Sarasota County, revenue, police department, and public safety.

Discussion followed regarding the bicycle coordinator position, first responders, fire department funding, public safety, city's expenses, researching the fire assessment further, one-cent sales tax, capital 301 fund, city's financial status, general fund reserves, lobbyist expenses, city's credit rating, stakeholders group, fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget, sunshine law, fair and equitable fire fee, resident feedback, and legal counsel advice.

Recess was taken from 9:54 a.m. until 10:01 a.m.

## II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

David Habecker, 1430 Carswell Street, Port Charlotte, Robert Kaplan, 1311 Cypress Avenue, Chris Ferrante, 640 Armada Road South, and Janine Joyner, 817 Riviera Street, spoke on concerns with the proposed fire assessment.

Mayor Holic noted council will vote on the fire assessment on September 7, 2017, and ad valorem taxes will not be increased this year.

Jim Rogers, 631 Alhambra Road, spoke on funding ideas to include builder and developer fees.

Larry Wilson, 601 Armada Road South, spoke regarding taxpayers, revenue sources, impact fees, and city expenses.

Carol Barbieri, 230 Padova Way, commented on ad valorem taxes, cost to maintain the fire department, fire fee rate, fire department expenses, and bond referendums.

Mike Rafferty, 989 Cayman East, spoke on concerns with the proposed fire assessment.

Mayor Holic left the dais at 10:45 a.m.

Chris Roe, attorney with Bryant, Miller, and Olive, spoke on IRS deductions and ad valorem property taxes.

Discussion followed regarding itemized tax returns.

Mayor Holic returned to the dais at 10:47 a.m.

Mr. Roe spoke on developer and impact fees.

Discussion ensued on fire assessment funding and fire impact fees.

Mr. Roe spoke on the calls for service and availability methods, which have been validated and upheld by the Supreme Court, condominium assessments, property appraiser data, lawsuit protection, and bond validation.

Mr. Fraize left the dais at 10:57 a.m.

Discussion continued regarding bond validations and addressing condominium land values.

Mr. Fraize returned to the dais at 10:59 a.m.

Mr. Roe commented on having a fair and reasonable basis for the assessment.

Discussion ensued regarding Florida law and state regulations, stakeholders group, adoption of a different methodology, fair and reasonable approach, tax bill, maximum assessment amount, and rate structure in other jurisdictions.

Ms. Gates left the dais at 11:11 a.m. and did not return.

Discussion continued regarding rate structure, process and timeframe to adopt a fire assessment, and public input.

Mr. Roe spoke on calls for service.

Ms. Anderson left the dais at 11:17 a.m. and did not return.

Discussion followed regarding availability and calls for service methodologies, county fees, public education, citizen stakeholder group, property taxes, funding public safety, and impact fees.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

ATTEST:

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

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