

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, VENICE, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held on this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Also present: City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Fire Chief Jim Warman and Finance Director Jeff Snyder.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Holic.

Mayor Holic stated that the purpose of this meeting is to adopt the budget and the millage rates for fiscal year 2014.

I. PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND TENTATIVE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2014

Ms. Stelzer explained that the current millage, which is 2.9653 mills, is the millage that was set last year, on which the last ad valorem taxes were calculated. The rolled-back millage is the rate required to collect the same amount of money as last year with this year's valuation, which is 2.8821 mills. The tentative operating millage is 3.100 mills, which was set by Council in July, sent out in the TRIM notices from the Property Appraiser's office and represents an amount 7.56% greater than the rolled back rate. The voted debt service is .2020 mills.

Mr. Snyder summarized the status of the budget.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer reported that no written communication was received.

Janice Collins, 908 Riviera Street, questioned specific guidelines regarding Economic Development Advisory Board funding, potential department additions and Circus arena timeline.

Council provided clarification on funding, the ten year plan for development, and the status of

the Circus arena.

Harry Humes, 240 Santa Maria Street #226, addressed the proposal for funding a permanent collections manager position for the Venice Museum and Archives.

Judith Keeler, 217 Park Boulevard South, expressed her support for a collections manager position in the historical resources department and two municipal service worker grade two positions in the parks department.

John Sullivan, 756 Pensacola Road, commented on the refuse collection cost and frequency, and the health care budget.

Mayor Holic further detailed health coverage and the expected savings to the city.

Charles McCracken, 649 Tamiami Trail Apt 104, commented on fire and police pension funding.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

Mr. McKeon **moved** that the additional positions in Historical Resources, Public Works, Parks Maintenance, and Information Technology be funded by ad valorem tax instead of reserves and to set the millage rate at 3.100 mills. **Seconded** by Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Daniels **moved** to amend the motion to include three positions for the fire fighters at \$41,000 plus benefits. **Seconded** by Ms. Gates.

Mr. Snyder stated that the first amendment would maximize the 3.1000 mill.

Mr. Daniels WITHDREW his motion.

Discussion followed on utility and airport positions, the need for public works positions, and effective information technology.

Mr. Holic spoke in opposition to the motion and suggested funds be taken from reserves instead of raising the millage rate.

Discussion ensued regarding the expectation of city residents, permanent employment, and the pension fund.

MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH MAYOR HOLIC, MR. DANIELS, AND MS. GATES IN OPPOSITION.

Mr. Daniels **moved** to fund three entry level firefighter positions at \$41,000 plus benefits out of

reserve funding. **Seconded** by Mr. McKeon.

Mr. Daniels spoke to employees out on sick leave, and workers compensation, future retirement, the current use of excessive overtime, firefighter safety and proper manning.

Chief Warman responded to council questions regarding eligibility for the SAFER grant, the expectation to have 15 personnel on scene within eight minutes, and provided detail on current staffing per day.

Mayor Holic commented on staffing for sick leave and vacation, the purpose of mutual aid, reduction of one vehicle, and stated opposition for the motion because it is coming out of reserve funds.

Discussion followed on temporary employee status, the use of reserve funding, and shortage in manpower.

MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE UNANIMOUSLY.

II. ORDINANCE NO. 2013-29 ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Ms. Stelzer read Ordinance No. 2013-29 by title only.

Mr. McKeon **moved** that Section 1 of Ordinance No. 2013-29 be amended to read "The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 operating millage rate is 3.100 mills, which is greater than the rolled back rate of 2.8821 mills by 7.56%." **Seconded** by Mr. Bennett. MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH MAYOR HOLIC OPPOSED.

Mr. McKeon **moved** that Ordinance No. 2013-29 be approved on first reading as amended. **Seconded** by Mr. Sherman.

ROLL CALL: MR. MCKEON, YES; MS. GATES, NO; MR. BENNETT, YES; ME. SHERMAN, YES; MR. DANIELS, YES; MR. CARLESIMO, YES; MAYOR HOLIC, NO. MOTION CARRIED.

II. ORDINANCE NO. 2013-30, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014; PROVIDING THAT DISBURSEMENTS SHALL NOT EXCEED FUND BUDGETS WITHOUT CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL, AND GRANTING THE AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE CERTAIN DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS WITHIN THE APPROVED FUND BUDGETS

Ms. Stelzer read Ordinance No. 2013-30 by title only.

Mr. Carlesimo **moved** that Ordinance No 2013-30 be approved on first reading. **Seconded** by Mr. Sherman.

ROLL CALL: MR. MCKEON, YES; MS. GATES, YES; MR. BENNETT, YES; ME. SHERMAN, YES; MR. DANIELS, YES; MR. CARLESIMO, YES; MAYOR HOLIC, YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Holic announced that the second and final hearing for the 2013 millage rate and budget for 2014 will be held Tuesday September 17, 2013 at 5:01 p.m.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before council the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor – City of Venice

City Clerk