



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, May 15, 2017

1:30 PM

Community Hall

Fire Fee Assessment Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.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

City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Finance Director Linda Senne and City Attorney Dave Perrson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fire Chief Shawn Carvey.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[17-2625](#)

Erick van Malssen, Manager, Stantec Consulting: Review Scenarios and Request Council Direction on Next Steps

Mr. van Malssen spoke on the two previous workshops regarding methodologies and finalized numbers for preliminary calculations, scenarios revolving around the fiscal budget, needing Council advice on the next step, notifying property owners about rates, getting the final resolution written, and what a fire fee assessment offers.

Discussion took place regarding whether fire fee assessments are tax deductible, itemizing deductions, flat tax and ad valorem taxes, attorney and accountant opinions on whether assessments are tax deductible, ultimately not having the city form an opinion, and fire cost recovery.

Mr. van Malssen spoke about adopting a fire fee assesment, diversification in revenue, instability of ad valorem taxation, targeting a

cost recovery to meet a specific need, defining the goal of the city, refining the ways for the city to approach the fee and full cost recovery being attained by less than 25% of Mr. van Malssen's clients.

Discussion followed on private letter rulings, staff time guidelines, devoting enough time to get everything done, initial and final hearing dates, deadline to send out notices, adopting a not-to-exceed rate, transparency, possible increase in homestead exemption, lowering ad valorem rate, being revenue neutral, seasonal residents, non-profits benefiting without paying taxes, fighting the increase in homestead exemption, history of the city underfunding the fire department, capital, operational costs, and millage rate reduction.

Discussion continued on funding the fire department and making it a priority, picking a definitive plan by the end of the meeting, budgeting money towards the fire department rather than other projects, not using the unstable ad valorem tax to fund public safety, transparency and utilizing a two-step process to fund the fire department.

Anthony Pinzone, 978 Questa Avenue, spoke about the TRIM notices, manufactured homeowners needing pass through taxes lowered, residents previously disapproving the fire tax, and urged council not to jump to a maximum increase.

Mr. van Malssen clarified that a maximum rate increase in TRIM notices, is an option and not required.

Kathleen Wilson, 920 South Tamiami Trail, Village on the Isle, spoke about paying property taxes, taking a property tax reduction and being assessed from a business perspective.

Discussion took place regarding ad valorem taxes, tax reductions and a sustainable budget.

A motion was made by Mr. McKeon, seconded by Mr. Daniels, to proceed with a 50% fire cost recovery, with a .25 millage reduction as a recommendation.

Discussion took place on deadlines for exact terms and rates, staff requiring more information/detail about calculations, the ability to change the rate in the future, seeing the city's financial profile before making a concrete decision about a millage rate reduction, adopting the fee to allow for its own budget and the specific millage rate reduction being helpful to the finance department.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Caetero, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to have a millage rate yet to be determined. The amendment carried by voice vote 5-2 with Mr. McKeon and Mr. Daniels opposed.

Discussion ensued on the amendment to motion, having the option to reduce the millage rate more, revenue generations based on the

recovery rate of 50% and not publishing a specific millage rate in the motion.

The motion as amended carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion continued about feedback, millage reduction, accurate numbers, budget, including the fire department in continued discussions, fire impact fee, difficulty in making a decision and moving forward without all of the budget information.

[17-2699](#)

Determination on Including Adoption of the Fire Assessment Fee in Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

This item was discussed under item 17-2625.

[17-2700](#)

Determine Methodology for Recovery Rate for Fire Assessment Fee

This item was discussed under item 17-2625.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk