



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

9:00 AM

Community Hall

One Cent Sales Tax and Capital Improvements Program Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the workshop 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 Lavallee, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Assistant City Clerk Heather Taylor, and for certain items on the agenda: Interim Finance Director Linda Senne, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden and Information Technology Director Jeff Bolen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Gates.

I. DISCUSSION ON USE OF ONE-CENT SALES TAX

[16-1951](#)

Updating the One-Cent Sales Tax Planned Project List

Mr. Lavallee reviewed the history of the one-cent sales tax to include the ordinance passed by Sarasota County, annual revenue estimates, annual allocation of funds to projects by subcategory, council determination of future allocations, categories and subcategories listed in the ordinance, defining monetary allocations to categories and the need to reevaluate the revenue estimate.

Council discussion followed regarding economic impact on the estimated revenue, finance review of the pattern of increase in sales tax collected and future use of the tax collector's numbers to determine revenue number projections.

Mr. Lavallee commented on the carryover fund balance and council's determination of whether there is a contingency fund.

Mr. Bramble reviewed the original project list and a summary of the one-cent sales surtax III, commented on projected versus actual revenue, adjusting the project list, and added projects and proposed additional projects and responded to council questions regarding changing projects by resolution.

Discussion continued regarding previous actions taken to add items to the list, council's opportunity to identify items that need to be adopted by resolution, concern with using reserves for projects that could be funded with one-cent sales tax, previous use of one-cent sales tax after the payoff of the Venice Performing Arts Center and utility project funding.

Mr. Bramble continued to review the actual project implementation list to include projected revenues.

Ms. Senne responded to council questions regarding distribution of funds from the state to the city based on population.

Discussion followed regarding involving the county tax appraiser in reviewing the project list and figures, the need for communication between the county and city finance departments, the 15-year projection, the need to obtain factual data, lack of definition regarding projects such as playground equipment and fencing, the need for a plan prior to approval of projects to avoid projects not being completed and funds being carried over, use of one-cent sales tax for public safety projects, funding for the replacement of items, current percentages allocated in the ordinance, phasing out operational items in the five year projection and depreciating equipment to offset use of the one-cent sales tax.

Mr. Lavalley commented on not using the sales tax as a capital line item for the general budget.

Mr. Bramble reviewed the proposed method for estimating category contingencies and future project needs to include historical distributions and proportion of total estimated remaining surtax III revenues and the original project list versus the proposed project list with emphasis on projects that have a status of complete and suggested projects to cancel.

Discussion continued regarding previous discussions by the citizen tax oversight committee and the committee presenting to council annually.

Recess was taken from 10:23 a.m. until 10:32 a.m.

Discussion took place regarding including conservation in the parks and

recreation heading, possibilities of receiving grants, revision of category headings and basing categories off of the Florida Statute opposed to Sarasota County's ordinance.

Ms. Fernandez spoke to the Florida Statute in regards to the city's category titles and the school board's distribution of the sales tax.

Discussion followed regarding the school board receiving 25 percent of the sales tax and the one mil tax and the project list with emphasis on Anita's Sandcastle and purchasing a new fire vehicle.

Ms. Weeden commented on Anita's Sandcastle to include a letter from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding removal from the easement at the time the lease expires and conversations with West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) regarding alternate options and suggested presenting to council at the May 10, 2016 council meeting. She further discussed conversations between the former city attorney and the Army Corps of Engineers, removal of the building, the need for an analysis on the building in the unlikely event it can stay, the portable restroom design and discussion with representatives from Jetty Villas.

Discussion continued regarding working with the residents, use of the area by residents and visitors, installing a gate to limit after hour use, discussion with Crow's Nest representative regarding food capabilities and use of their parking lot for fishermen, long term violations of public policy, correcting violations that the city may have and authority for a month to month lease.

II. 2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)

[16-1952](#)

2017 Capital Improvements Program

Ms. Senne requested council review the projects and provide their input.

Discussion followed regarding alternate funding sources for the Service Club Park boardwalk, roof repairs for Venice Community Center, building maintenance funds, depreciation funds, funds for IT replacement, obtaining a list of sidewalks to be improved, direction regarding bike lane evaluation upgrades, street light maintenance, fence improvements and replacement of playground equipment, concern with spending money on fire station one, relocation of fire station one, connectivity, what projects benefit the majority of the residents and the risk with delaying IT projects.

Mr. Bolen spoke to the IT item to include the current system and extending the life of the system for at least two years during the transition period of a new system.

Discussion continued on the downtown corridor and opposition with extending the sidewalk.

Ms. Weeden suggested council provide comments and questions to the city manager to distribute to staff for feedback to council.

Discussion continued regarding the revenue source fund for each project, having a comprehensive expenditure presentation at the budget meetings in June, use of reserves for capital items, having another workshop for further discussion, council availability, underfunded financial obligations and excessive use of reserves due to lack of contingency planning.

There was consensus to have another workshop as quickly as possible with a minimum of five council members present.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, commented on use of playground equipment and the need for benches in the historic parks.

Discussion followed regarding staff providing a bench inventory, use of parks with playground equipment, safety of equipment and the city not having an adopt a park program to help offset cost of equipment.

Ms. Fernandez spoke to the Anita's Sandcastle lease regarding the month to month option.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the workshop was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk