



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, December 10, 2024

9:00 AM

Community Hall Room (Limited Seating)

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[24-0393](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Ms. Joan Farrell, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard and Mr. Kevin Engelke

### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Finance Director Linda Senne, and Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark.

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Firemedic Paul Lauffer.

### I. RECOGNITION

[24-0394](#)

Swearing In Firefighter/EMT Ryan Burns and Victor Snyder

**Deputy Clerk Barcia performed these swearing ins.**

[24-0395](#)

Swearing In Firefighter/Paramedic Alejandro Lopez, Christopher Thall, Mackenzie Dunlap, Christine Grundner, and Ryan Perez

**Deputy Clerk Barcia performed these swearing ins.**

Recess was taken from 9:10 a.m. until 9:25 a.m.

### II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Tracy Kehoe, 428 Shore Road, spoke on progress with jet traffic compliance in her neighborhood, complimented the Community

Outreach Manager and Airport Director, and noted issues with the flight school can still be remedied.

Jason Barnard, 816 Pineland Avenue, read an apology to the City and expressed remorse about actions leading to his charges of criminal mischief in relation to defacing public property within the City.

Jerianne Warren, 405 Shore Road, spoke regarding the flight school, and hopes that the new Community Outreach Manager can start soon and make progress.

Mark Warren, 405 Shore Road, spoke on the flight school, noise issues, complimented the Airport Director Cervasio, and suggested the flight school become part of the community.

### III. CONSENT SECTION:

**A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to approve items in the Consent Section, with the exception of Item No. 24-0400. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

#### A. CITY CLERK

[24-0396](#) Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Certification of Election Results and Regular Meeting

**These minutes were approved in the Consent Section.**

[24-0397](#) Re-appoint Deborah Kelly to the Citizens Tax Oversight Committee to Serve a Term from December 1, 2024 to November 31, 2028

**This reappointment was approved in the Consent Section.**

[24-0398](#) Re-appoint Aundria Castleberry to the Venice Housing Authority to Serve a Term from December 1, 2024 to November 30, 2028

**This reappointment was approved in the Consent Section.**

[24-0399](#) Re-appoint Lorna Hunter to the Venice Housing Authority to Serve a Term from December 1, 2024 to November 30, 2028

**This reappointment was approved in the Consent Section.**

#### B. CITY MANAGER

##### Engineering

[CON. NO. 004-2024](#) Execute Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 19ST4 Between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and City of Venice to Extend the Beach Renourishment Funding Agreement to December 31, 2026

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

Finance

[24-0401](#) Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Hurricane Helene Agreement Z4422 and Hurricane Milton Agreement Z4436

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

Police

[24-0402](#) Approve Grant Agreement Between Sarasota County and the City of Venice for the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Waterway Development Program Project Agreement for the Police Public Safety Dive Team, Project No. S-448, not to Exceed \$138,800

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

[24-0403](#) Approve Grant Agreement Between Sarasota County and the City of Venice for the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Waterway Development Program Project Agreement for the Police Marine Patrol, Project No. S-483, not to Exceed \$149,730

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

**IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

[24-0400](#) Approve Appointment of Captain Andy Leisenring as Police Chief

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to approve Item No. 24-0400. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

***ORDINANCES – FINAL READING***

[ORD. NO. 2024-28](#) An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2024-25, Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2024 and Ending September 30, 2025; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$8,350,500 and Total Expenditures by \$8,350,500; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no communications.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Ordinance No. 2024-28 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO.  
2024-26](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Authorizing the Venice City Council to Participate in a Joint Meeting with Sarasota County, the Cities of North Port and Sarasota, the Town of Longboat Key and the Sarasota County School Board to Receive, Discuss and Act Upon Matters of Mutual Interest; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

There was no public comment.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Resolution No. 2024-26 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

[RES. NO.  
2024-27](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Approving Amendment No. 2 to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Project Number 452977-1-94-01 by and Between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Venice, Florida for the Venice Municipal Airport Master Plan Update; Authorizing Appropriate City Officials to Execute it; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

There was no public comment.

**A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Resolution No. 2024-27 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

[RES. NO.  
2024-29](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of The City of Venice, Florida, Authorizing City Council Members to Serve as Liaisons to Designated Boards, Commissions and Committees; Superseding Resolution No. 2014-24 and all Other Policies in Conflict Herewith; and Providing an

Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

There was no public comment.

**A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Resolution No. 2024-29 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

## **B. PRESENTATION**

[24-0404](#)

Finance Director Linda Senne: Quarterly Financial Update (10 min)

Finance Director Senne provided a presentation to include general fund revenues and general fund expenditures, and reviewed fund and reserve balances.

Discussion took place regarding the budget overage due to utilizing a lobbyist, the increased funds it resulted in, and the increased interest earned on investments.

Recess was taken from 10:00 until 10:10 a.m.

## **C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION**

[24-0405](#)

Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark: Potential Rezoning of the Venice Bay Mobile Home Park Area

Planning and Zoning Director Clark provided a presentation regarding potential rezoning of the Venice Bay Mobile Home Park to allow for additional types of housing, current permitted types, maintaining affordability and density, importance of not taking options away from residents, and responded to Council questions regarding whether other manufactured home communities could benefit from the same rezone and stated the focus has been on this park due to its location on coastal high hazard area, but other parks could be possible.

Discussion took place regarding current zoning and code, having more resilient options, architectural requirements, and resident interaction and feedback.

City Attorney Fernandez responded to a Council question regarding combining lots, stating that would be a private process that does not involve the City.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark responded to a Council question about permitting site built homes and elevating structures, stating the

City cannot violate the Comprehensive Plan and must maintain affordability, lot size requirements will not be increased, and lots are already platted.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark responded to a question regarding what the downside would be, and noted there was not any for the City, each condo association would direct their own requirements, current lot sizes would remain the same, and density must be maintained.

City Attorney Fernandez responded there could be a maximum lot size regulated.

**A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Engelke, to approve the initial project concept and authorize staff to proceed with the City-initiated rezone work.**

Discussion took place regarding the commendability of ideas, concerns about elevating homes, and need for further details.

**The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

**No:** 1 - Ms. Farrell

[24-0406](#)

Review of Venice Charter Article III, Legislative, Section 3.02(b)  
Vice-Mayor (City Attorney Fernandez)

City Attorney Fernandez stated the Vice Mayor appointment is now a two year term based on language in the City's Charter which indicates the selection of Vice Mayor be held following the certification of election results. She shared the language from other cities, the option for doing an annual election of Vice Mayor which would involve a choice of having a special election or deferring to 2026 election.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to direct the appropriate charter officer to propose a charter amendment that would provide for an annual election of the Vice Mayor for the next regularly scheduled election in 2026.**

Discussion took place regarding best practices in the area, giving Council the option of appointment every year, any other issues that should be addressed in the next election, a charter review board review, clarifying this would not be a special election, would still go through the ordinance process, and the former charter review committee was sunsetted in 2022.

City Attorney Fernandez commented the previous charter review committee did not recommend the regular convening of a charter review committee.

**The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

**No:** 2 - Ms. Farrell and Mr. Smith

[24-0407](#) Approve 2025 Meeting Schedule (Clerk Michaels)

Clerk Michaels introduced the yearly meeting calendar for 2025 and offered the opportunity to make changes.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to approve the 2025 meeting schedule, with the removal of the March 25, 2025 City Council meeting.**

Discussion took place regarding the Mayor and City Manager being at Legislative Action days on March 25th, and the meetings not being reduced or increased besides the proposed change.

**The motion carried by the following electronic vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

**VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS**

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee thanked council for approving his Police Chief appointment, reported on Florida League of City (FLC) policy meetings, and a visit to Orange County solar array powered water plants.

**VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS**

***Council Member Smith***

Mr. Smith had no report.

***Council Member Farrell***

Ms. Farrell commented on hurricane recovery, and a public records request she made.

***Council Member Engelke***

Mr. Engelke had no report.

**Council Member Howard**

Mr. Howard gave accolades to City staff for hurricane recovery, requested cohesiveness for the betterment of the city and residents, and commented on the incredible holiday parade and boat parade.

**Council Member Frank**

Mrs. Frank thanked staff for Christmas events.

**Vice Mayor Boldt**

Vice Mayor Boldt wished everyone happy holidays, thanked staff for information, and encouraged donations to the police departments' Blue Santa toy drive for children of all ages.

**Mayor Pachota**

Mayor Pachota reported on water plant solar arrays in Orange County, FLC Legislative Conference and presentation on emergency management, tree lighting, success of holiday parades, staff involvement, recognized Master Police Officer Paul Joyce 2024 Marine Intelligence Officer of the Year award for the state of Florida, 2025 City calendar available, and upcoming meetings and events.

**IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no public comment.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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