



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, June 23, 2022

8:30 AM

Council Chambers

Budget Workshop

[22-5671](#)

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

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Feinsod called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Vice Mayor Nick Pachota, Dr. Mitzie Fiedler, Mr. Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore and Mrs. Rachel Frank

Also Present

Finance Director Linda Senne, Airport Director Mark Cervasio, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Police Chief Charlie Thorpe, Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Public Works Director Charlie Mopps, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Building Official Stephen Beckman, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Information Technology Director Roger Navarro, Human Resources Director Alan Bullock, City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, Historic Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer and Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown.

In person: Mayor Ron Feinsod, Dr. Mitzie Fiedler, Mr. Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore and Mrs. Rachel Frank.

Via video conference: Vice Mayor Nick Pachota.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Boldt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER ED LAVALLEE

City Manager Lavallee recommended leaving the millage rate the same and spoke on pending contract negotiations for labor force, a new location for fire station two, relocation of fleet from the Seaboard area, support and development of a fleet management fund, unfunded pension liability for

police and fire, reserve for natural and economic disasters, strategic planning for external impact, migrating capital expenses into general operating budget, collaboration with Sarasota County, and the budget process.

II. PRESENTATIONS

[22-5653](#)

City Wide - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne thanked directors and staff for their work on the budget and commented on the funds budgeted, personnel funds, funding Emergency Medical Services (EMS), economic impact from Covid, water and sewer rates, storm water rates, building department discounts and fee schedule, mobile home park rates, solid waste fund, storm water operations and maintenance fees, personnel growth, and fleet replacement funds.

Council recognized the pension funding growth.

[22-5654](#)

General Fund - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne spoke to the changes from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023, increased revenue contributing factors of property taxes, property values, millage rate, communication taxes, half cent sales tax, planning fees, Venice Pier Group, increase of personnel expenses, fleet fund, Florida Retirement System (FRS), health contributions, pension plans, cyber security, IT department restructuring and improvements, capital funding, election costs due to charter changes, public works facilities assessments, engineering resiliency plan reductions, and Human Resources on-boarding software. She responded to Council's question on the 5.1% increase in the general fund, solid waste Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) expense, impact fees, and physical environment definition.

[22-5655](#)

CIP - Finance Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne spoke to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) changes from the budget workshop on March 29, 2022, items removed from general fund, one cent sales tax, no changes to building fund, items removed from roads fund, items added to utility funds, items added to storm water funds, items removed from fleet funds, and Wellfield park improvements with grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation. She answered Council's question on accident terms of the fleet fund.

Public Works Director Mopps responded to Council's questions on playground equipment expenses.

Chief Thorpe responded to Council's questions on a police playground.

City Engineer Weeden responded to Council's questions about delaying the rain garden plan to after the Master Parks Plan.

Assistant City Manager Clinch responded to Council's questions on the Lord Higel House, Venice Heritage Inc. (VHI) involvement, and use of Centennial Community fund.

There was a consensus to discuss the police playground at the strategic planning meeting.

[22-5656](#)

Airport - Director Mark Cervasio

Finance Director Senne and Airport Director Cervasio spoke on project changes.

Council recognized airport operations under Director Cervasio leadership.

[22-5657](#)

Utilities - Director Javier Vargas

Finance Director Senne and Utilities Director Vargas spoke to revenues and expenses, and high CIP.

Council recognized the reduced energy cost and operation innovations in the department.

[22-5658](#)

One Cent Sales Tax - Finance Director Linda Senne

This item was discussed under item No. 22-5655.

[22-5659](#)

Police - Chief Charlie Thorpe

Chief Thorpe responded to Council's question on traffic studies, deployment of speed sign data, and mitigating traffic on Pinebrook Road.

[22-5660](#)

Fire and EMS - Chief Frank Giddens

Fire Chief Giddens responded to Council's questions on station two's relocation, cost recovery, staffing additions, and Tele911 program. Council suggested a future goal of adding a fourth station in the Knight's Trail area.

[22-5661](#)

Public Works, Solid Waste, Fleet, and Historical Resources - Director Charlie Mopps

Public Works Director Mopps and Finance Director Senne spoke to facilities condition assessments, funding for a master park plan, promotional playground equipment, travel and training, administration costs, county building maintenance, fleet management division being under public works, and promotional playground.

Historical Resources Manager Klinhammer responded to Council's

questions on an inventory structure for historic resources, adding inventory program development to 2023 budget, public arts budget, and travel and training expenses.

Assistant City Manager Clinch relieved City Manager Lavalee on dais at 10:28 a.m.

[22-5662](#)

Engineering and Stormwater - City Engineer Kathleen Weeden

Recess was taken from 10:39 a.m. to 10:47 a.m.

City Engineer Weeden and Finance Director Senne responded to Council's questions on funds for resurfacing roads, one cent tax and gas tax resources, beach renourishment, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grants, gas tax revenue, interest on investments, status of fifty year plan on beach nourishment and renewal, and complete streets projects.

Assistant City Manager Clinch commented on the long term asset management fund for repaving of roads.

[22-5663](#)

Building Department - Building Official Stephen Beckman

Finance Director Senne and Building Official Beckman responded to Council's question on reducing fees, potential surplus funds, staffing, remote and virtual inspections, and expired permits.

Assistant City Manager Clinch commented on reducing reserves and digital applications.

[22-5664](#)

Planning and Zoning - Director Roger Clark

Planning and Zoning Director Clark responded to Council's questions on affordable housing incentives, possible component in height exception for lower cost housing, current density incentive, and tree mitigation funds.

[22-5665](#)

Information Technology - Director Roger Navarro

Information Technology Director Navarro responded to Council's questions on cyber security, staffing, and the Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) rollout.

[22-5666](#)

Human Resources - Director Alan Bullock

Finance Director Senne noted internal services fund (Health), workman's compensation and property and liability is under Human Resources.

Human Resources Director Bullock spoke on union negotiations.

[22-5667](#)

City Attorney - City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

There were no questions for City Attorney Fernandez.

[22-5668](#)

City Council and City Clerk - City Clerk Kelly Michaels

City Clerk Michaels spoke on the increase to expenses related to elections due to the costs for extended ballots wfor the charter questions.

Council recognized for the City Clerk and staff for their work.

[22-5669](#)

City Manager - City Manager Ed Lavallee

Assistant City Manger Clinch responded to Council's questions on promotional budget, fireworks budget, Venice Mainstreet Inc and Venice Area Beautification Inc (VABI).

There was a consensus to review an increase in budgets for Venice Mainstreet Inc and Venice Area Beautification Inc (VABI).

[22-5670](#)

Finance - Director Linda Senne

Finance Director Senne responded to Council's questions on electronic billing goals, potential incentive programs, and retirement liabilities.

City Manager Lavallee returned to the dias at 11:41 a.m.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk