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Venice City Council*

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP  
CITY COUNCIL, VENICE, FLORIDA

APRIL 30, 2012

A workshop of the City Council to consider parking was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT**

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

Also present: City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavalley, City Attorney Robert Anderson , and for certain items on the agenda: Police Chief Tom McNulty, Captain Tom Mattmuller, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Building Official Vince LaPorta, Planning Administrator Chad Minor, Maintenance Superintendent Bobby Hirter, and Interim Fire Chief Shawn Carvey.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Holic.

Mayor Holic reviewed the procedure for this meeting.

**I. POLICE**

Chief McNulty provided historical background relating to downtown parking concerns including agreements made with First Baptist Church and Venice Theatre, formation of an Outreach Committee, parking enforcement efforts, signage, and striping.

Captain Mattmuller reviewed City of Sarasota parking regulations, monitoring equipment, suspension of paid parking, and parking enforcement.

Chief McNulty reviewed recommendations that included posting enforcement signage, advising downtown businesses of alternate parking and enforcement, amending parking fine ordinances, implementing no parking on the east side of Nassau Street, and hiring a seasonal parking enforcement specialist.

Chief McNulty and Captain Mattmuller answered council member questions relating to utilization of monitoring equipment, enforcement, signage, seasonal enforcement, downtown business employee parking, and utilizing data from the downtown mobility study and the Economic Development Advisory Board wayfinding proposal.

## **II. BUILDING AND ENGINEERING**

Mr. LaPorta reviewed handicap accessibility guidelines and provided details concerning the two-foot clear zone meant to provide access to parked vehicles.

Ms. Weeden provided an overview of Tampa and Miami Avenue improvements; funding and implementation of the downtown mobility plan and pedestrian improvement and enhancement project; and future enhancement recommendations.

Discussion followed regarding resurfacing schedule and Wade Trim mobility study recommendations.

## **III. PLANNING**

(9:34) Mr. Minor reviewed existing conditions and parking alternatives relating to the central business district including comprehensive plan and zoning regulations, parking space inventories, special event street closure and parking procedures, reconfiguring Centennial Park parking, proposed parking garage, satellite parking, vehicle circulation options, and shuttle services provided by private vehicles for hire.

Discussion ensued regarding residential multi-family parking, parallel versus angle parking, and meeting parking needs.

## **IV. PUBLIC WORKS**

(9:58) Mr. Hirter discussed coordinating sign installation with the police department, preparing city roadways for special events, cleaning up after special events, striping and additional parking spaces, and council creating a parking policy.

## **V. FIRE**

Chief Carvey advised that the fire department is governed under National Fire Protection Association standards for fire protection and infrastructure that includes parking, and noted that changing to angle parking may impact fire department response times.

Discussion followed regarding fire response times.

Mr. Bennett, referencing aerial maps of New Canaan, Connecticut, commented on parking issues faced in that city compared to the City of Venice, and expressed opposition to angle parking.

Discussion ensued regarding costs per parking garage spot and reconfiguring Centennial Park, initiating parking regulations, collaborating with county and state agencies, and implementing both short- and long-term solutions.

Recess was taken from 10:23 a.m. until 10:31 a.m.

## **VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Ron Cushing, Venice Street Legal owner, expressed his opinion that shuttle services were vital to alleviating parking problems.

Kay Kropac, Café Venice owner, expressed concerns regarding the lack of downtown parking and responded to council member questions concerning employee parking.

Morris Trumble, South County Jazz Club president, commented on providing adequate parking for special events and answered council member questions concerning alternate parking sites.

(10:57) Isaac Turner, representing First Baptist Church, read his April 30, 2013 letter concerning utilization of the church parking lot and responded to a council member question concerning temporary signage.

Rumen Tchor, AMI Valet Transport owner, discussed parking options including utilization of his valet service.

Greg Silvia, Althea's Restaurant owner, urged council members to re-write the existing parking ordinance, and commented on problems with the city parking lot on Miami Avenue and creating pay parking lots.

Sandy MGowan, Sandy's Designer Clothing owner, expressed concerns regarding speeding vehicles on West Venice Avenue and asked council members to consider angle parking.

Responding to council member questions, Earl Midlam, former Venice city council member, indicated there was no particular reason for a previous council decision to change from angle parking to parallel parking.

(11:26) Mindy Pieper, Venice MainStreet (VMS) Executive Director, commented on the VMS parking survey.

**VII. GENERAL**

Discussion followed regarding lack of response by businesses to the VMS parking survey, providing accessible parking, downtown business employee parking, utilizing public/private partnerships to resolve parking issues, locating off-site parking, valet parking, seasonal versus year-round parking options, special event parking, signage, providing charging stations, short- and long-term solutions, zoning requirements not requiring businesses to provide parking, future need for additional parking, forming a parking stakeholders' group, satellite parking locations, potential liability issues, alternate plans for special events, and utilizing private parking lots as public spaces.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor – City of Venice

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City Clerk