



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, August 11, 2014

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Budget Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

- Present:** 6 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Emilio Carlesimo, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member David Sherman, Council Member Jeanette Gates and Council Member Bob Daniels
- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Jim Bennett

Also Present

City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Heather Taylor, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Jim Warman, Police Chief Tom McNulty, Finance Director Jeff Snyder, Airport Administrator Chris Rozansky, Building Director Vince LaPorta, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Information Technology Director Jeff Bolen, and Community Development Director Jeff Shrum

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Daniels.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak for audience participation.

II. PRESENTATIONS

14-0786

City Manager Ed Lavallee and Finance Director Jeff Snyder: Budget Introduction

Mr. Lavallee provided an overview of the meeting and informed council that Mr. Snyder will review Historical Resources due to Mr. Hagler's absence.

Mayor Holic commented on submissions received and queried council members if they would like to discuss questions and concerns at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for job descriptions and an organizational chart, justification in bringing back positions, and clarity of performance objectives and goals.

Mayor Holic discussed a memorandum received on August 8, 2014 regarding workers' compensation, noted the need for accuracy in the numbers presented for the budget, and commented on the response regarding audits.

Further discussion followed on worker's compensation reserves, the five year history of departments, the need to manage the reduction of workers' compensation plans, money spent on consultants and recommendations not being used, the previous process for reviewing the budget, and the cost of new employees.

Mr. Lavallee assured council that issues will be addressed prior to the next budget meeting, and commented on the fleet manager and code enforcement manager positions.

Mayor Holic emphasized the need to have budget guidelines.

14-0787

Fire - Chief Jim Warman

Chief Warman commented on grant awards, the development of a succession plan, and responded to council questions regarding the SAFER grant, reestablishment of the Deputy Chief position, and operating supply increases to include National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) compliant bunker gear and supply hose upgrades.

Discussion took place regarding additional funding needed for safety gear, benefit packages, staffing increases, and annual fire inspections.

Mr. Carlesimo left the dais at 9:49 a.m. and returned at 9:52 a.m.

Discussion ensued on fire station locations, training and equipment, fire pension plans, and the feasibility of the county taking over certain fire responsibilities.

There was consensus to discuss possible county assistance at a later date.

14-0788

Police - Chief Tom McNulty

Chief McNulty provided an overview of the departments budget, commented on the ability to purchase new equipment, and responded to council's questions regarding additional positions, promotions, training, and benefits versus wages.

Discussion followed on the consolidation of dispatchers and the savings

from the loss of those nine positions.

Chief McNulty responded to council's questions regarding part-time positions, the use of school resource officers (SROs) to offset special event costs, the costs incurred for transport to the North County Jail, the percentage of supervisory to non-supervisory positions, the communications manager position, additional equipment needed, and overtime expenditures.

14-0789

Airport - Administrator Chris Rozansky

Mr. Rozansky provided a brief summary of the airport's proposed budget to include airport improvements, revenues from grants, the airport access road project, potential for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) coordination for road alignment, noted the efficiency of the two proposed mowers, commented on t-hangar and pavement preventative maintenance, the status of the FAA grant application, and deeds of release for Sharky's and WCIND properties, and requested the reappropriation of an aircraft wash rack upgrade and relocation to the fiscal year 2015 budget. He responded to council's questions regarding the proposed mowers, administrative parking paving, impact from the loss of Sharky's revenue, landscaping, aeronautical parking, utilities expense reductions due to LED lighting, and marketing of the circus arena property.

14-0790

Building - Director Vince LaPorta

Ms. Gates left the dais at 10:40 a.m. and returned at 10:44 a.m.

Mr. McKeon left the dais at 10:41 a.m. and returned at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. LaPorta discussed the department's goals and objectives with emphasis on Contractor's Round Table meetings, online mapping technology and solar permitting process, and International Property Maintenance Code, responded to council's questions regarding expired permits, and discussed capital overlay and other expenses to include vehicle replacement, and elaborated on the Go Solar system.

Mr. Lavallee responded to council's questions regarding vehicle replacement.

Discussion followed regarding the former stakeholders group, frequency of the Contractor Round Table meetings, the inspection process and scheduling, revenue of auctioned vehicles, benefit cost percentages, and status of funds transferred from the general fund.

Mr. Snyder clarified the transfer was for support to the building department, and there was not an agreement for the funds to be repaid.

Mayor Holic requested Ms. Stelzer pull the records for clarification.

Mr. Lavallee commented on the justification of the fleet management position.

Discussion followed on consumer reports regarding vehicle purchases, and the transfer of vehicles within departments.

14-0791

Planning - Community Development Director Jeff Shrum

Mr. Shrum discussed changes in staffing positions, responded to council's questions regarding special event planning, cross training, noted that code enforcement will be under planning and zoning, reiterated the goal to complete the comprehensive plan, and requested to retain funds for fiscal year 2015.

Mr. Lavallee stated he will provide further clarification regarding the location of the requested funds.

Mr. Carlesimo left the dais at 11:32 a.m. and returned at 11:33 a.m.

Mayor Holic left the dais at 11:36 a.m. and returned at 11:39 a.m.

Discussion ensued on the need for proactive visits by code enforcement officers, and enforcement of the high grass ordinance.

Mr. Lavallee commented on the need for a supervisory position for code enforcement, and the proposed work schedule change to include weekends.

Mr. Shrum responded to council's questions on workers' compensation and benefits.

14-0792

Stormwater & Engineering - City Engineer Kathleen Weeden

Ms. Weeden commented on fiscal year 2014 accomplishments, noted the possibility of needing to carry over funds for engineering projects due to timing, and the reasons for higher bids for sharrows and bike lanes, commented on the additional grant coordinator position, and responded to council's questions on the road transfer agreement with regards to repaving of Pinebrook Road, and development of a bike lane upgrade. She clarified the job description of the engineer/stormwater analyst, and commented on the funding source for special event signalization plans.

Mayor Holic noted the benefits portion of the engineering department in comparison to the stormwater department.

Ms. Weeden further commented on a proposed stormwater utility rate study, flood maps, additional stormwater improvement projects, and vehicle replacement due to maintenance costs

There was consensus to further discuss funding needs for bicycle lane improvements and the repaving of Pinebrook Road.

14-0793 Information Technology - Director Jeff Bolen

Mr. Bolen reviewed the achieved goals and objectives for the 2013-2014 budget year to include laptop replacement, completion of the fiber optic project, cell phone migration, and replacement of network servers, noted the goals and objectives for the upcoming year to include replacing aging telephone systems, PCs, network servers, and equipment, and responded to council's questions regarding police dispatch support.

14-0794 Archives - Director James Hagler

Discussion took place regarding the inventory and budget of historical signs and markers.

Ms. Gates left the dais at 12:30 p.m. and returned at 12:37 p.m.

Further discussion followed on Sarasota County's interest in forming a study group to review the possibility of Venice being the central archive for the county, the use of library impact fees to build a new library with archives, and the city manager discussing further with the county.

Mr. Snyder provided clarification to Mayor Holic's question regarding the historical department budget being less than the amount requested, mostly due to utility costs being lower.

Discussion followed regarding funds spent to obtain donations, and the need for a checks and balance process for donations.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak for audience participation.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk
