



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, June 30, 2025

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

Flamingo Ditch Workshop

[25-0270](#)

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pachota called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard, Mr. Kevin Engelke and Mr. Lloyd Weed

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Acting City Engineer Jon Kramer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pachota led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. BRIEF INTRODUCTION BY ACTING CITY ENGINEER JONATHAN KRAMER

Discussion took place regarding a citizen request for additional time during Audience Participation. There was consensus to allow all audience participants to speak for 10 minutes.

Discussion took place regarding a citizen's request to be given time allotted to another speaker. No time may given to another.

Acting City Engineer Jonathan Kramer introduced the Flamingo Ditch issues, history of 2024 hurricanes, preparation for upcoming storm season, grant applications, and funding.

City Attorney Fernandez introduced Special Counsel Derek Schroth and detailed his role in the workshop and on Flamingo Ditch issues.

II. PRESENTATIONS

[25-0271](#)

Attorney Derek A. Schroth: Legal Obligations

Special Counsel Derek Schroth provided information on Flamingo Ditch, the legal aspects, legal documents, current and future obligations, and answered Council questions regarding the legal implications of diverting stormwater, City's obligation, previous maintenance levels, not being required to enhance level of maintenance, limited easements, expenditures on private property, pumps, perpetual easements, temporary construction easements, and level of maintenance needing to be consistent with the original design.

[25-0272](#)

Coastal Protection Engineering (CPE): Flamingo Ditch Feasibility Study Findings

Thomas Pierro, PE, BC.CE, Senior Project Manager and Principal Engineer, and Captain Joseph Morrow, PE, Senior Coastal Engineer, Coastal Protection Engineering (CPE) provided a presentation regarding their findings in the Flamingo ditch feasibility study.

Their presentation included a historic aerial image of Flamingo Ditch, preliminary findings, the previous public comment meeting, grant application, additional data collection, Interconnected Channel and Pond Routing (ICPR) Model Development, ICPR model updates and refinements, model validation, existing conditions, Hurricane Helene Simulation, model simulation, outfall being open versus closed, selected rain and surge events for model, alternatives analysis, general findings, technical findings, overall study findings, discussion, and next steps.

Recess was taken from 2:23 p.m. to 2:33 p.m.

Mr. Pierro and Captain Morrow answered Council questions regarding property being contiguous to the ditch for increased storage, next steps, immediate items, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) being updated, the on-call contractor, grant applications, short term options, raising roads, improving storm water system in area, acquiring property for water storage, addressing issues in common rainfall events, costs, street flooding, time for streets to drain, property damage claims, one-way valves, impacts of raising City-owned roads, airport land as water storage, modeling for using the airport land, new pipes and grates, raising driveways if the road is raised, rainfall versus storm surge, and swale capacity being full due to low elevations.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

LueAnne Wood, 550 Flamingo Drive, spoke on experiences with her property, City maintenance, historic cost of maintenance, clearing the

ditch, and options for fixing the issue.

Israel Salinas, 591 Flamingo Drive, commented on his experience with Flamingo Ditch, offered conclusions regarding the cause of flooding, storm surge, history and recommended commitment from governing authorities.

Loretta Elliot, 601 Flamingo Drive, spoke on the news article, CPE findings, the legal memorandum, City maintenance, history, grant application, and recommended Council Members walk the ditch.

Marianne Robertson, 703 Golden Beach Boulevard, spoke on the history of Flamingo Ditch, street flooding, damage, her private culvert system cost, a retention wall, duo drains, car damage, clearing the ditch, grants, and infrastructure.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Discussion took place regarding civic responsibility, pursuing the best options, addressing rainwater flooding, funding, future obligations, and staff feedback.

Acting City Engineer Kramer expressed appreciation to receive Council's input for CPE to finalize their report.

Discussion continued regarding action for ordinary rain event flooding, short-term actions, stormwater system overall, debris clearing, staff maintenance, demucking if beneficial, concerns about the impacts of raising roads, learning more about airport land water strategy, short-term improvements, funding and expense, communication with residents, possibility of purchasing vacant lot number two for water retention, and City's liability.

Staff responded they have been in contact with the owners of lot number two and they are agreeable to discussing the sale of the lot to the City.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk