



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

8:30 AM

Community Hall

One Cent Sales Tax and Capital Improvements Program Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Causero and Council Member Fred Fraize

ALSO PRESENT

Kelly Fernandez, Assistant City Attorney, City Manager Ed Lavalley, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Public Works Director John Veneziano, Information Technology Director Jeff Bolen, and Fire Chief Shawn Carvey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Earle Kimel, reporter for Sarasota Herald Tribune.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[16-1951](#)

Updating the One-Cent Sales Tax Planned Project List

Discussion followed on Surtax III and funding sources.

Ms. Anderson arrived at 8:35 a.m.

At the request of the mayor, Ms. Weeden discussed funding sources for Legacy Park.

Discussion followed on county surtax vs. city surtax and whether the county can spend surtax funds in the city limits.

Mayor Holic asked for a creation date on the original and revised one-cent sales tax list document.

Mr. Daniels arrived at 8:45 a.m.

Ms. Weeden provided a handout on the sidewalk gap project list and discussed items on the list to include accomplishments planned for this year, existing sidewalk repairs, possible additional sidewalks, Valencia Road and Firenze being completed this year, Jacaranda extension sidewalks, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), putting monies aside for conservation, replacing existing sidewalks, filling sidewalk gaps, and safety issues.

There were no questions on the voted one cent sales tax list.

Discussion followed on the city manager and directors' proposed projects FY 2017 funded by one cent sales tax, including conservation, Sharky's revenue, Service Club Park improvements, sources of revenue taking care of sources of expenses, fishing pier repairs/replacement, delaying fountain replacement at Fountain Park until FY 2018, sponsorship of Fountain Park, and playground equipment.

Discussion followed regarding Replacement of IBM AS400 and council members accepted Mr. Bolen's suggestion to remove the \$150,000 and include maintenance in the operating budget. Mr. Bolen reported on efforts being made with Sarasota County on technology upgrades.

Discussion ensued on data retrieval in the current system, and business system vs. financial system.

Discussion ensued on Service Club Park Boardwalk decking and rails, city design increasing the longevity, possibly delaying this item, with Ms. Weeden noting the county may close the park if it is determined unsafe, and establishment of a pier fund.

Mr. Lavalley noted lack of funds in operating fund if revenue is designated specifically to a pier fund.

It was noted that the use of impact fees does not qualify for Service Club Park, an existing facility.

Discussion continued on request for beach access for disabled individuals, possibility of expanding for the disabled, mobi-mats, ramping and ADA structure.

Ms. Weeden spoke in regards to the downtown corridor enhancement, MPO funding, pedestrian traffic on south side of W. Venice Avenue, narrowing the median and widening the sidewalk, prohibiting restaurants from expanding into the widened area, and funding source in the event the road bond referendum does not pass.

Discussion continued on rationale, cafe permits, proposing rent for restaurants using the sidewalks, objecting to improvements for downtown businesses, sidewalk cafes, ADA compliance for pedestrian safety enhancements downtown, requiring detailed plans, and palm tree removal and replacement.

Discussion ensued on removing the sidewalk expansion and focusing on the other enhancements, and doing a budget amendment, leaving \$921,000 in reserves, and itemized details with costs. Ms. Weeden suggested keeping the downtown enhancement separate from the road bond referendum, and commented on concerns with parallel parking next to dining, delaying to FY 2018, funding constraints with \$1.3 million received from the state, design and conceptual plans, leaving this project in the proposed budget, and keeping \$100,000 for a conceptual plan.

There was **consensus** by council to move forward with the rendering of the downtown corridor enhancement and itemized costs. Mayor Holic requested the downtown corridor enhancement be placed on the next agenda.

Discussion continued on timing of this project with the bond referendum, removal of diseased trees, removing this project and replacing it with a conceptual plan, retaining funding in the event the project proceeds at a later date, and changing the title to "conceptual evaluation of downtown upgrades".

Ms. Weeden expressed the importance of addressing ADA Improvements for Sidewalks/Parks/Buildings and the need to continue with the project for the entire city. Ms. Weeden discussed bike lane evaluation/upgrades for the entire city, and bicycle coordinator position being eliminated.

Discussion followed in regards to parking under Venice Avenue Bridge on the east side. Mr. Fraize requested information on parking under the north bridge and having egress for fire department.

Discussion continued on the Venice Community Center roof repairs and replacements, drainage, mold, previous inspections, neglect, interlocal agreement with Sarasota County, quarterly park inspections, county's responsibility, city taking over the facility, and warranties.

Mr. Veneziano reported on Decorative Streetlight Repairs and noted a more aggressive approach on repairs, discussed LED lights and type of light on Border Road being used.

Mayor Holic noted CIP backup sheets have not been revised to reflect

use of one-cent sales tax.

Chief Carvey spoke on roof repairs and replacements of Fire Station 1, noted staff did not review replacement of the station, need for a generator, timing for the November bond referendum, and possible revenue bond or loan.

Discussion continued on the needs of the fire department, having a comprehensive plan, roof replacement, funding, and possible fire tax. There was council **consensus** to leave this item on the list.

Discussion ensued on type of donations being accepted for Fountain Replacement at Fountain Park. There was council **consensus** to leave this item on the list.

Discussion followed on Fencing Repair and Replacement, current condition of fence, visibility and usage of area surrounded by fence, and preventive maintenance plan. There was council **consensus** to leave this item on the list.

Mr. Veneziano reported on the neglect of maintenance on playground equipment and the need for new equipment. Discussion continued regarding replacement plan, county's responsibility, parks master plan timing, and design for special needs children.

Discussion followed on the Chuck Reiter Sports Lighting project, concerns with expenses, \$775,000 project, less expensive option, results of master parks plan and who will take the lead on sports fields, necessity of lights, who pays for electricity costs, and use of regional parks. There was council **consensus** to remove this item from the list.

Discussion followed on Beach Renourishment, quality of sand, and sources pursuant to Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

Chief Carvey reported on the need to replace two fire station air conditioning units, local vendors, age of the units, and SEER rating.

Discussion followed regarding Station 1 Generator and Room, "room" means structure that houses the generator and storage, generator cost, and city hall generator being delayed.

Discussion followed on Replacement Vehicles, depreciating vehicles for enterprise funds as a starting point, mowers and bucket trucks, auctioning vehicles, trade-in revenue going in the fleet maintenance fund, and depreciation. There was council **consensus** to leave this item on the list.

Discussion followed on Police Vehicle Replacements, depreciation schedule, vehicles being funded from one-cent sales tax for the next few years until there is adequate depreciation funds.

Mr. Daniels spoke on wood fencing, security, painting, mold and landscaping.

[16-1952](#)

2017 Capital Improvements Program

There was no discussion on this item.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk