



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[23-6182](#)

Meeting Instructions and Request to Speak Form

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

- Present:** 5 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Dr. Mitzie Fiedler, Ms. Helen Moore, Mrs. Rachel Frank and Mr. Dick Longo
- Excused:** 2 - Vice Mayor Jim Boldt and Mr. Rick Howard

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Ms. Moore, to excuse Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard's absence. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Captain Eric Hill, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Senior Planner Nicole Tremblay, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ashlee Castle, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Clerk Barcia offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Moore.

I. RECOGNITION

[23-6183](#)

Venice Fire Rescue Helping Hands Award Recognition: Ron Pearlman
Fire Chief Giddens and Mayor Pachota presented this recognition.

[23-6184](#) Swearing in: Police Officer Jeffrey Helms

This item was canceled.

[23-6185](#) *THIS ITEM IS POSTPONED TO THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING*

Recognition of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Designation: Mercedes Barcia, Records Manager/Deputy City Clerk

This item was postponed.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Ron Smith, 200 Park Boulevard North, Unit 108, spoke on the millage rate and budget, and requested a reduction of the tax rate.

Tommye Whittaker, 613 W. Venice Avenue, spoke regarding John Nolen, the local register application, in favor of historic preservation and the Sarasota Alliance grant support. She invited everyone to attend the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB) meeting on September 14, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Rosemary Nero, 336 Rio Terra, spoke in favor of a tax reduction.

Dusty Feller, 144 Avens Drive, spoke in favor of a millage rate reduction.

Larry Wilson, 601 Armada Road South, spoke in favor of a millage rate reduction.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Mr. Longo, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item No. 23-6193. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[23-6186](#) Minutes of the July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[23-6187](#) Nominate John Hinshaw to Serve as the City of Venice Representative on the Sarasota County Parks Advisory Recreation Council (PARC) from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[23-6188](#) Nominate Thomas Cookingham to Serve as the City of Venice Representative on the Citizens Oversight Committee for School Planning for an Unfinished Term Ending July 31, 2024

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[23-6189](#)

Reappoint Jean Trammell to the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board to Serve a Term from September 1, 2023 to August 30, 2026

This reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[23-6190](#)

Reappoint Jon Steketee to the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board to Serve a Term from September 1, 2023 to August 30, 2026

This reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY ATTORNEY

[23-6191](#)

Request Private Attorney-Client Session on September 12, 2023: Neal Communities of SWF, LLC et al. v. City of Venice

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGER

Human Resources

[23-6192](#)

Approve Workers' Compensation Claim Settlement Between the City of Venice and Former Employee Joseph Szejek in the Amount of \$15,000

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

Police

[23-6193](#)

Approve Interlocal Agreement Between Sarasota County and the City of Venice Regarding Installation of Automatic License Plate Reader Systems for the City of Venice Police Department

Captain Hill provided an overview of the license plate readers and answered a Council question regarding the interlocal agreement, stating it allows the City to attach the devices to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Sarasota County owned traffic signals.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Sarasota County and the City of Venice for Installation of Automatic License Plate Reader Systems for the City of Venice Police Department. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Recess was taken from 9:30 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.

V. PRESENTATION WITH ACTION

23-6194

Javier A. Vargas, Utilities Director, and Andy Burnham, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.: 2023 Utility Rate Study Presentation (15 min.)

Utilities Director Vargas and Mr. Burnham, Stantec Consulting, provided a presentation on the Utility Rate and Plant Capacity Charge Study, including water and sewer revenue sufficiency analysis, review of plant capacity fees, water treatment plant (WTP) financing plan, updated rate model, proposed rate increases, water and sewer increases nationwide, current monthly water and sewer rate survey, gap between Venice and Sarasota County over time, plant capacity fees (PCF) calculations, methodologies, water and sewer PCF calculation, Florida Impact Fee Act, waste and wastewater PCF Phasing Plan, current water and sewer PCF survey, miscellaneous fees, study process, miscellaneous fee analysis, and answered Council questions regarding relocation of the water plant, the fee study, proposed rate increases, prorating rates, incentivizing conservation, and fees for new meter installation, noting these are common in other municipalities.

Discussion took place regarding relocation of the water treatment plant and whether there may be other options.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Mr. Longo, to approve the 5-year financial plan and utility rate structure. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Mr. Longo

No: 1 - Mrs. Frank

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

Recess was taken from 10:05 a.m. to 10:17 a.m.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

ORD. NO.
2023-30

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending Chapter 74, Utilities, Article I, In General, Section 74-5, Potable Water, Irrigation Water, Reclaimed Water and Wastewater Tap Fees, Section 74-11, Water, Sewer, and Reclaimed Water Rates, and Article III, Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Section 74-162, Amount, by Modifying Utility Rates, Charges and Capacity Fees; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications and no one signed up to speak.

Council waived staff's presentation.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

Attorney Fernandez responded to a Council question regarding the utility rates being locked in for five years stating the schedule sets the next five years, and every year a new ordinance will be presented to Council to roll the schedule forward. The schedule can be readjusted each year as needed based on circumstances.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Ms. Moore, that Ordinance No. 2023-30 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Mr. Longo

No: 1 - Mrs. Frank

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

[ORD. NO.
2023-25](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Annexing Certain Lands Lying Contiguous to the City Limits, Pursuant to Petition No. 23-14AN, into the Corporate Limits of the City of Venice, Florida, and Redefining the Boundary Lines of the City to Include Said Additions; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications and no one signed up to speak.

Council waived staff's presentation.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Mr. Longo, that Ordinance No. 2023-25 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

[ORD. NO.
2023-26](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the 2017-2027 City of Venice Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Pursuant to Petition No. 23-15CP to Change the Future Land Use Designation of Specific Real

Property Located at 1545 East Venice Avenue (5.07± Acres), from Sarasota County Medium Density Residential to City of Venice Government (GOV); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications and no one signed up to speak.

Senior Planner Tremblay answered a Council question regarding the land being contiguous between the police station and the future fire station, and she confirmed it is.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2023-26 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

ORD. NO.
2023-27

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 23-16RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation for the Property Located at 1545 East Venice Avenue (5.07± Acres), from Sarasota County Open Use Estate 1 (OUE-1) to City of Venice Government (GOV); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-judicial)

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota announced this is a quasi-judicial proceeding and opened the public hearing.

City Attorney Fernandez questioned Council Members regarding exparte communications and conflicts of interest. Mr. Longo and Mayor Pachota disclosed site visits.

Council waived staff's presentation

There were no written communications and no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Mr. Longo, that Ordinance No. 2023-27 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion

carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

[ORD. NO.
2023-29](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Providing for Placement of the Structure Located at 721 Myrtle Avenue on the Local Register of Historical Resources Pursuant to Chapter 87, Historic and Architectural Preservation, Section 7.7, Local Register and Landmarks, of the City of Venice Code of Ordinances; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications.

Historical Resources Manager Klinkhamer presented the application and answered Council questions regarding the property site, and aerial photograph.

Stephanie Granat, property owner, noted the aerial photo is dated prior their ownership and renovation, and the property is in excellent condition currently.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Longo, that Ordinance No. 2023-29 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

B. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING

[ORD. NO.
2023-23](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 23-17RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation for the Habitat for Humanity of South Sarasota County, Inc. Property Located at 749 Knights Trail Road (1.95+ Acres) from Government (GOV) to Residential Multi-Family 3 (RMF-3); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-judicial)

Mayor Pachota announced this is a quasi judicial procedure.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

City Attorney Fernandez questioned Council Members regarding exparte communication and conflicts of interest. Mayor Pachota disclosed a site visit.

There were no written communications and no one signed up to speak.

There was no update by staff.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2023-23 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

Recess was taken from 10:37 a.m. to 10:46 a.m.

C. CONTRACT

CON. NO. 160-2023

THIS ITEM WILL BE RESCHEDULED AND RE-NOTICED FOR OCTOBER 10, 2023

Consider the Purchase of a 7.8-Acre Parcel of Land Located at 1795 East Venice Avenue (Parcel ID Nos. 0412080005 and 0415080006) from FNG Holdings-Land LLC, for a Purchase Price of 3,400,000

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

ORD. NO. 2023-28

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 30, Emergency Services, Article III, Emergency Medical Aid Fees, Section 30-40, Definitions, and Section 30-41, Emergency Medical Aid Fees; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Council waived staff's presentation.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Mr. Longo, that Ordinance No. 2023-28 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

[ORD. NO.
2023-31](#)

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2022-26, as Previously Amended, Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$670, 949 and Total Expenditures by \$670, 949; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Finance Director Senne answered a Council question regarding the grant funds for the Tarpon Center project noting the additional funds are for design for construction.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Ms. Moore, that Ordinance No. 2023-31 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

[ORD. NO.
2023-32](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22, Elections, by Deleting Section 22-7, Political Signs; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

City Attorney Fernandez confirmed there was a court case creating limitations on signage and the City code treats all temporary non-commercial signs the same.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2023-32 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

B. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO.
2023-30](#)

THIS ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending Resolution No. 2021-31 to Adopt Revised Uniform Patches for the Venice Police

Department; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the resolution by title only.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

[RES. NO.
2023-32](#)

A Resolution Relating to Meeting Attendance by City Council; Adopting an Amended Policy for Attendance and for Participation by Remote Electronic Means; Superseding Resolution No. 2023-01; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Mr. Longo, that Resolution No. 2023-32 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

[RES. NO.
2023-33](#)

A Resolution Providing for the City of Venice General Municipal Election to Be Held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, to Elect Two Councilmembers for Three-Year Terms; Designating Polling Places for the Election; and Providing an Effective Date

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Longo, that Resolution No. 2023-33 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[23-6195](#)

Approve Pre-Annexation Agreement Between the City of Venice and Douglas Girard Andrew for Oaks at Venice

Jeffrey Boone and Annie Boone, Agents, provided information regarding location, enclave, plans to assemble it with other properties nearby for development, and noted issue regarding verbiage on "water and wastewater utility pipeline and lift stations" versus "water and wastewater utility infrastructure."

Discussion took place regarding previous language and the language presented in the pre-annexation agreement.

City Attorney Fernandez spoke on protecting the City moving forward and stated the City could not require a developer to pay for other properties with either verbiage option.

Discussion continued regarding the language, previous requests, changing language, and City Attorney recommendations.

Mr. Boone stated the language has been in existence for decades and this is not an attempt to switch the burden to the City.

Discussion continued regarding the language, pre-annexation agreements, annexation ordinance include this agreement, willing to consider amendment as long as there would be no delays, and participation of Council Members who are not present.

City Attorney Fernandez stated any contract or agreement can be amended if parties agree on terms.

City Manager Lavalley stated a staff presentation will be provided at the next Council meeting regarding the language options.

Recess was taken from 11:30 a.m. to 11:36 a.m.

Mr. Boone suggested the pre-annexation be continued to the next Council meeting, as long as the other applications for the property can continue with processing and scheduling.

Planning and Zoning Director Cark requested clarification on proceeding with advertisement and scheduling of other applications for the property. City Attorney Fernandez confirmed it was.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to continue the Pre-Annexation Agreement between the City of Venice and Douglas Girard Andrew to the next Council meeting on September 12, 2023. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

23-6196 2024 State Legislative Priorities

Mayor Pachota thanked Council for approving these so the priorities could be communicated to legislators sooner.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the 2024 Legislative Priorities. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

23-6197 Request for a Letter of Support for Sarasota Alliance for Historic

Preservation to Apply for a Matching Grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources to Survey Manufactured Homes and Communities in Sarasota County (Mayor Pachota)

Mayor Pachota presented request from Sarasota Alliance.

Discussion took place regarding the partnership and funding, no City funds are being contributed, support for the grant application, and manufactured homes being part of the legacy and history of Sarasota County.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Ms. Moore, that the Mayor provide and sign a letter of support, on behalf of City Council, for Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation to apply for a matching grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources to survey manufactured homes and communities in Sarasota County. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

[23-6198](#)

Request for a Letter of Support for Venice Theatre (Mayor Pachota)

Mayor Pachota presented request of support for resiliency funds.

Discussion took place regarding funding source from Sarasota County Resilient SRQ, concerns with the number requests for these funds, including the City's request, and not being in conflict.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to approve the Mayor to provide and sign a letter of support, on behalf of City Council, for Venice Theatre to receive Resilient SRQ funds. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Longo

Excused: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Howard

Recess was taken for the Executive Session from noon to 1:15 p.m.

D. PRESENTATION WITH ACTION - CONTINUED

[23-6199](#)

Linda Senne, Finance Director: Approve Changes to FY2024 Budget Since Budget Workshops (10 min)

Finance Director Senne provided a presentation on changes since the workshop for the FY 2024 Proposed Budget, including property tax values, a scrivener's error, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) grant funding for Tarpon Center upgrades, airport master plan, wildlife security fencing project, Sarasota Resiliency Fund (SRF) funding, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grant Funding to remove

vegetation debris from waterways, expenses for interactive digital kiosk, Council Chambers security improvements, purchase of warehouse building, increased second force main under I-75, water treatment plant land acquisition, Knights Trail water main, increase in amount for replacing Kubota tractor for airport, and replacing tractor /loader for public works.

Discussion took place regarding capital improvement items and Finance Director Senne answered Council questions regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) refunds.

Assistant Public Works Director Ashlee Castle answered Council question regarding FEMA funds for Parks.

Discussion continued regarding FEMA, deductibles, stormwater, and parks.

City Engineer Weeden discussed replacing downtown trees, difficulty obtaining quotes, one proposal for \$600,000, general fund expense, estimate was \$250,000, wayfinding signage expense, two stormwater items, outfall at Osprey ditch, bank erosion at Pinebrook Park, mitigation, and attempts to get as much as possible reimbursed from FEMA.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to approve changes to FY 2024 Budget since the budget workshops. The motion carried by voice vote 4-1 with Mr. Longo casting the dissenting vote.

E. PRESENTATIONS

23-6200

Linda Senne, Finance Director: Quarterly Financial Update (10 min)

Finance Director Senne presented the quarterly financial report, including revenue, expenses, and reserves.

Discussion took place regarding general fund, emergency operations center (EOC) operations, and local expenses versus state expenses.

23-6201

Discuss Reducing the Ad Valorem Millage Rate to 4.1600 for Fiscal Year 2024 (Dr. Fiedler)

Dr. Fiedler noted the topic will be discussed and presented at the budget public hearings, stated the millage rate is too high, recommended lowering millage rate, and adding money to reserves if there is a surplus.

Discussion took place regarding not reducing the millage, reserve funds, previous recessions, the increasing number of natural disasters, pensions not being fully funded, Hurricane Ian damage, tree replacement, option of reducing the millage, and the financial health of the City.

City Manager Lavallee spoke on the budget process and the expanding reserve began with strategic planning instructions from Council two years ago.

Discussion continued regarding target reserves, options for excess reserves, details on tax bill, and current financial measures in place.

VIII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez reported she will schedule a shade meeting regarding the Milano PUD decision appeal when the timing is best.

City Clerk

Deputy Clerk Barcia had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee reported on the Florida League of Cities (FLC) conference and noted the importance of making the legislature aware of impacts to the City, providing our legislators a persuasive message early and often, and utilizing our lobbyists.

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank had no report.

Council Member Longo

Mr. Longo provided an update on the United Way long term recovery group, and the Economic Development Corporation.

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore had no report, but noted the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB) meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2023.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard had an excused absence.

Council Member Fiedler

Dr. Fiedler had no report.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt had an excused absence.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on the FLC and Florida League of Mayors (FLM) Annual Conference, lobbyists, more frequent trips to Tallahassee, meeting with Legislators, and upcoming conferences.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

ATTEST:



Mayor - City of Venice



City Clerk