



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[25-0161](#)

How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard and Mr. Kevin Engelke

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Assistant City Attorney Amy Farrington, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Police Captain Louis White, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planner Brittany Smith, and Special Events/ Marketing Coordinator Brianne Lorenz.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. RECOGNITION

[25-0162](#)

Swearing in Firefighter/Paramedic Runny Hernandez

Clerk Michaels performed this swearing in with the assistance of Mayor Pachota.

[25-0163](#)

Swearing in Firefighter/EMT Kevin Pierre and Williams Milian Perera

Clerk Michaels performed the swearing in of Williams Milian-Perera with the assistance of Mayor Pachota.

[25-0164](#)

Swearing in EMS Supervisor Donald Morrell

Clerk Michaels performed this swearing in with the assistance of Mayor Pachota.

[25-0165](#)

Swearing in Assistant Chief of EMS Steven Lambright

Clerk Michaels performed this swearing in with the assistance of Mayor Pachota.

[25-0166](#)

Proclaim the Week of May 11-17, 2025 as "Nurses and Hospital Week," Presented to Julie Polaszek, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Chief Nursing Officer and Tiffany Arnold, Inpatient Nursing Director

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[25-0167](#)

Proclaim the Week of May 18-24, 2025 as "Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week," Presented to Assistant Fire Chief, EMS Lambright

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[25-0168](#)

Proclaim the Week of April 2025 as "Records Information Management (RIM) Month" Presented to City Clerk Michaels and Records Information Management Staff

Vice Mayor Boldt, Mayor Pachota, and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[25-0169](#)

Proclaim the Week of May 4-10, 2025 as "Municipal Clerk's Week," Presented to City Clerk Michaels and Staff

Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[25-0170](#)

Proclaim the Month of May as "Building Safety Month," Presented to Building Official Derek Applegate and Staff

Vice Mayor Boldt, Mayor Pachota, and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

Recess was taken from 9:50 a.m. to 10 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Joan Iacono, 1132 Bird Bay Way, spoke on behalf of Venice Thrives, in support of Central Venice Coalition's presentation, and for resolving funding, ownership, and maintenance issues for Curry Creek, Flamingo Ditch, and Deertown Gully.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to approve items in the Consent Section. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

CITY CLERK

[25-0171](#)

Minutes of the April 3, 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Workshop, April 8, 2025 Regular Meeting and April 9, 2025 Appeal Hearing for Site and Development Plan Petition No. 22-40SP

These minutes were approved in the Consent Section.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

ORD. NO.
2025-15

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 24-36RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation for the Properties Generally Located at 3520 Laurel Road East (15.58 ± Acres), from Sarasota County Open Use Estate-1 (OUE-1) to City of Venice Laurel East (LE); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

City Attorney Fernandez questioned Council Members concerning ex-parte communications and conflicts of interest. There were none.

Mrs. Frank disclosed a site visit.

There were no written communications.

Planner Brittany Smith provided a presentation to include general information on the application, project description, existing future land use, existing zoning map, surrounding land uses, planning analysis, comparison of existing and proposed zoning, Comprehensive Plan consistency, conclusions and findings of fact, and Land Development Code Compliance.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that based on the evidence in the record, Ordinance No.2025-15 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.

Discussion took place on the value of rezoning properties within the City to a City zoning designation.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

B. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING**ORD. NO.
2025-09**

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the 2017-2027 Comprehensive Plan and Associated Pages Pursuant to Petition No. 24-52CP Specifically to Update Data for Each Mixed-Use Land Use Designation Within Each Neighborhood Area of the City as a Result of New Development through November 1, 2024; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Written communications were provided in advance.

There was no staff update.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-09 be approved and adopted.

Discussion took place on the update and the length of the document.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

No: 1 - Mr. Smith

**ORD. NO.
2025-13**

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 46, Parks and Recreation, Article V, Camping and Storage of Personal Property on Public Property, By Amending Section 46-201, Definitions, and Section 46-202, Camping Prohibited; Exceptions; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

There was no staff update.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Ordinance No. 2025-13 be approved and adopted with the revisions provided by staff.

Discussion took place regarding the ordinance language.

Mayor Pachota reopened the public hearing.

Captain Louis White responded to Council questions regarding standard Police Department procedure as it relates to implementing the policy.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

No: 1 - Mr. Smith

C. RESOLUTION

[RES. NO. 2025-10](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Vacating a Utility Easement Located at 775 S. Tamiami Trail, and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

There were no written communications.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Resolution No. 2025-10 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCE

[ORD. NO. 2025-18](#)

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2024-25, Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2024 and Ending September 30, 2025; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$1,494,951 and Total Expenditures by \$1,494,951; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-18 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.

Discussion took place regarding funding mechanism for Venice Fishing Pier.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

B. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO. 2025-09](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida Adopting the Special Events Guide to Establish the Criteria, Policies, Codes, Standards, Requirements, Fees, Public Space Use, and Eligibility for Special Event Permits and City Sponsorship Related to Proposed New Special Events and Recurring Special and Heritage Events and Creating the New Event Review Team; Authorizing Certain Revisions to the Special Events Guide by the City Manager's Office; Superseding In Part Resolution No. 2020-18; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

Assistant City Manager James Clinch and Special Events & Marketing Coordinator Brianne Lorenz provided a presentation on the new proposed program, the Special Events Guide, Special Events Review Team (SERT), history, 2024 events, need for comprehensive review and evaluation, webpage and permit, proposal requirements and evaluation criteria, updates to fees and City subsidy, restrictions and rules, safety requirements, special events trainings, networks, and industry standards, and requested approval of the resolution and staff recommendations.

Special Events & Marketing Coordinator Lorenz answered Council questions regarding Legacy Park, business input, bicycle/pedestrian entrance to festival grounds, VABI assistance, and road closures.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Resolution No. 2025-09 be approved and adopted.

Discussion took place regarding the depth of the comprehensive special events program and guide.

The motion carried in the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

[RES. NO.
2025-11](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Approving a Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Project Number 456529-1-94-01 by and Between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Venice, Florida, in the Amount of \$176,000 for the Venice Municipal Airport Runway 5-23 Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPIs) Replacement; Authorizing Appropriate City Officials to Execute it; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Resolution No. 2025-11 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

[RES. NO.
2025-12](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Approving Amendment No. 1 to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Project Number 451945-1-94-01 by and Between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Venice, Florida, for Venice Municipal Airport Safety, Wildlife, and Security Fencing, to Extend the Expiration Date; Authorizing Appropriate City Officials to Execute it; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Resolution No. 2025-12 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

C. PRESENTATIONS

[25-0120](#)

Presentation by Steve Carr, Central Venice Coalition Report (15 mins.) (Mr. Howard) (Postponed from the March 11, 2025 Council Meeting)

Steve Carr, Central Venice Coalition (CVC), provided a presentation on goals, priorities, and considerations, Pinebrook Road Mitigation Measures, Pinebrook Park, Wellfield Sports Complex, and recommended Land Use Regulations/Comprehensive Plan Amendments regarding fencing, and stormwater pond and drainage ditch regulations.

[25-0172](#)

Chris Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of United Way South Sarasota County: Progress Update from the Sarasota County Long Term Recovery Group (20 mins.) (Mr. Smith)

Chris Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of United Way South Sarasota County, provided a presentation on the Sarasota County Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG), National Disaster Recovery Framework, Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG), best practices, LTRG Structure, Hurricane Ian, rebuilding efforts, case management, cost per home, Hurricanes Helene and Milton, maps, Resilient SRQ, and responded to a Council question regarding the length of time for recovery from the 2024 storms.

[25-0173](#)

Finance Director Linda Senne: Quarterly Financial Update

Finance Director Senne provided the quarterly financial update including General Fund Revenues, General Fund Expenditures, and responded to a Council question regarding income variances.

D. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[25-0174](#)

Discuss Election Code Revisions (City Attorney Fernandez and Assistant City Attorney Amy Farrington)

City Attorney Fernandez and Assistant City Attorney Amy Farrington provided a presentation on Election Code revisions.

Clerk Michaels offered information on campaign finance reporting and answered Council questions regarding the ceremonial process and swearing in of a new Council member at the November meeting.

Discussion took place regarding Campaign Finance Reporting when there is no primary, and publishing notices of special elections in the newspaper.

[25-0175](#)

Direct the Appropriate Charter Officer to Seek Interested Applicants for Appointment to Vacant Council Seat 1 for Consideration and Selection by the Council Within the 60-Day Deadline of June 11, 2025, or a Date Certain Prior to Expiration of the 60 Days

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to make an appointment to vacant Seat 1, open the application acceptance in alignment with the normal board recruitment process, closing on May 2nd, at which time the Clerk will provide Council with the applications and a nomination can be made from the floor to serve the duration of the Seat's term until 2026 General Election.

Discussion took place regarding nominating a candidate, and the possibility of having a special election with a temporary appointment.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

No: 1 - Mr. Smith

[25-0176](#)

Direct the Appropriate Charter Officer to Evaluate the City's Stormwater Development Standards (Mayor Pachota)

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Mr. Howard, to direct the appropriate charter officer to evaluate the City's stormwater development standards and allow the Mayor to advocate on behalf of the City with the State Legislature.

There was no public comment.

Discussion took place regarding making changes to the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) when allowed, following the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Sarasota County's guidelines when those are changed, and considering the CVC's recommendations.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Engelke

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee reported on the Venice Aviation Society, Inc. (VASI) meeting and their concerns regarding hangar doors.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Engelke

Mr. Engelke had no report.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard commented on the hangar doors at the airport, and the turnout at the Venice Police Department fundraiser breakfast.

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith recommended the agenda review team look into the feasibility of providing estimated agenda times for outside presenters, and recommended Larry Humes as a Pillar of the Community.

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank thanked Ms. Farrell for her service.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on meeting with Florida Power and Light (FPL) regarding recovery efforts, and the Venice Theatre recovery progress.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota commented on the importance of Nurses/Hospital/EMS Week. He expressed appreciation for Ms. Farrell's service, and reported on correspondence from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding HVAC Systems not being exempted, the plaque unveiling Blackburn point, and upcoming events and meetings.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk