



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

These minutes include the following dates: August 25, 2015 and August 28, 2015

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Jim Bennett, Council Member Emilio Carlesimo, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels and Council Member Deborah Anderson

Also Present:

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Edward Klotz, and for certain items on the agenda: Police Chief Tom McNulty, Finance Director Jeff Snyder, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Archives Director James Hagler, Finance Controller Linda Senne, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble and Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Holic announced the passing away of Ms. Rose Dickerson and requested a moment of silence.

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Klotz.

Council Member Jim Bennett arrived at 9:04 a.m.

I. RECOGNITION

There were no items.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sophia Mikula, 902 Golden Beach Boulevard, relayed her and her daughter's negative experience with Karl Burton at the Venice Tennis Courts.

Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, provided an overview of Hauser Lane which is a private road and the need for a road maintenance agreement.

Matt Setter, 260 Sorrento Ranches Drive, owner of Top Notch Car Wash, commented on the history of the commercial section of Hauser Lane and requested that the city look at the situation and possibly make it a city road.

Discussion followed regarding having the city look at this road, including in repaving projects, investigate background of road, concern expressed regarding using bond (public) monies, including this on the ballot, and city manager review prior to any council action.

Barry Zamoff, 408 Park Lane Drive, commented on SCAT and the Bus 13 restructured route.

Discussion ensued with it being noted that the SCAT issue is included in the engineering department's council updates with a request from council to hear Item No. 15-1432 following Audience Participation.

Bill Loader, 3351 Sunset Beach Drive, commented on Hecksher Park Tennis Courts, Karl Burton, proposed police department report and posting of occupational license requirement notices.

Angel Cancino, El Paso, Texas provided an overview of the program "Up with People", their purpose and new show thanking Venice and the 52 host families.

Mark Reese, 275 Mission Trail West, of the Venice Area Youth Soccer Association spoke about the need for soccer field lighting on the third soccer field and provided an overview of the program noting the importance of soccer to area youth. Discussion ensued to include, only sport program that runs year round, condition of fields, future indoor facility, Sarasota County funding of lights, the need to fix the funding of sports facilities in the city with the council thanking Mr. Reese for his service.

Nick Carlucci, 1335 Horizon Road, made comments regarding the safety issues of the proposed skydiving enterprise at the Venice Municipal Airport.

Judy Keeler, 217 Park Boulevard from Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI), provided an update of the project to provide lighting to the banyan trees located at Park Avenue and West Venice Avenue with the council thanking VABI for their work.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

Ms. Anderson requested that Item No. 15-1420 be pulled from the consent section.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member McKeon to approve items in the Consent Section with the exception of Item No. 15-1420.

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson to amend the motion and pull Item No. 15-1424. Seconded by Council Member Carlesimo. The motion carried on voice vote with Mr. McKeon opposed.

The original motion with the exception of Item Nos. 15-1420 and 15-1424 carried on voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

A. MAYOR

[15-1419](#)

Reappoint Joan Piper to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to Serve a Term from September 1, 2015 until August 31, 2018

This Reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1421](#)

Reappoint Jean Trammell to the Historic Preservation Board to Serve a Term from September 1, 2015 until August 31, 2018

This Reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1422](#)

Reappoint William Swanson to the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals to Serve a Term from August 25, 2015 until July 31, 2018

This Reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1423](#)

Approve Letter of Support to the Office of Criminal Justice Grants for the Distribution of \$106,212 of Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Justice Assistance Grant Program Funds for Mental Health Court

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGERAirport

[15-1425](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Second Amendment of the Lease Between Agape Flights, Inc. and the City of Venice

This Lease was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Engineering

[CON. NO.
38-2015](#)

Request Council Approval to Increase the Contract Amount with Creative Mailbox Designs d/b/a Creative Sign Designs in the Amount of

\$20,000 Funded From Reserves for Two Additional Wayfinding Signs and Acknowledge that a Future Budget Amendment Will Be Provided

This Contract was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1426](#)

Request to Transfer \$100,000 from Capital Project GF0006 for Parking Areas 1-4 to Construct Temporary Parking Improvements at the Lord-Higel House Parking Area

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Finance

[15-1427](#)

Request Council Declare the Listed Vehicles and Equipment as Surplus and Direct the Finance Department to Properly Dispose of the Items

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

[15-1428](#)

Request Council Approval to Increase the Blanket Purchase Order for Innovative Metering Solutions in the Amount of \$30,000 to Cover the Anticipated Costs for the Procurement of Water Meters and Related Items

This Agreement was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1429](#)

Request Council's Execution of Atkins North America, Inc. Work Assignment No. 10 for the Replacement Well 7W in the Amount of \$135,384.00

This Work Assignment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[15-1430](#)

Request Council Approval of Change Order No. 1 to Work Assignment No. 3 with MWH Americas, Inc. for the Eastside Wastewater Reclamation Facility Aeration System and Headworks in the Amount of \$50,345.00 for a New Contract Total of \$1,100,120.00

This Work Assignment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

A. PRESENTATIONS

[15-1432](#)

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden: Update on Engineering Projects (10 min.)

Recess was taken from 10:17 a.m. until 10:25 a.m.

Upon Mayor Holic requesting to rearrange the agenda to hear Item Nos. 15-1432 and 15-1438,

There was a consensus to reorder the agenda to hear Item Nos. 15-1432 at this time, followed by Item 15-1438.

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden provided an update on SCAT routes noting that Council was not invited to the ride-along due to sunshine laws, different routes presented, changes to north bound route to include a stop on the southside of plaza with an ADA ramp, change to the southbound route will add eight minutes to the route.

Discussion ensued regarding using Indian Avenue, safety concerns, using smaller buses, preferred route by residents is through the shopping plaza, ADA and disabled riders, and SCAT Plus Bus for disabled individuals. City resident Barry Zamoff was requested to present citizen ideas and concerns on the proposed bus routes.

After Mr. Zamoff presented a proposed route, discussion continued with Mr. Bennett stating that he will bring the issue to the next public transportation meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in late September, SCAT's proposed route described by Ms. Weeden with Mr. Zamoff noting that route was acceptable.

Ms. Weeden continued the project updates noting the Venice Beach parking lot is complete, Venice Theatre and gravel lot is complete, Lord Higel House temporary improvements and the North Pier parking overflow are complete.

Ms. Weeden noted that the gravel for the Lord Higel House parking lot is temporary and will be removed when the parking lot is completed, quotes have been received regarding the Venice Beach sidewalks, parking lot #1 improvements and parking lot #3 change order to install gravel driveway. She also reported beach renourishment, wayfinding signs, Legacy Park, Hatchett Creek dredging project, the Granada sidewalk construction to begin fall 2015, Outfall 1 and 2 - Water Quality Improvements, Westgate Drainage Improvements, Stormwater Geodatabase Project, Stormwater Management Plan, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Compliance (2014-2019), Community Rating Systems (CRS), FEMA Flood Map Updates, and Coastal A Zone - Risk Mapping with a draft map anticipated in 2016.

Questions ensued regarding wayfinding maps, Wellfield drainage issues and money in proposed public works budget for surveying and evaluation of current drainage issues, FDOT brown historic signs, Legacy Park bandshell, parking spaces for recreational vehicles, lack of signage for recreational vehicle parking, Legacy Park parking under Venice Avenue Bridge and it was noted that all land used for the park were public lands.

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Gates, that the City of Venice send a letter of appreciation to the Sarasota County Commissioners for the hard work their staff did in bringing to resolution the bus route situation in the city. The motion failed by voice vote 5 to 2 with Mayor Holic, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Daniels, Mr. McKeon and Mr. Bennett opposed.

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Manager

[15-1438](#)

Update on Activities at Hecksher Park Tennis Courts

Chief McNulty presented an overview of the situation which included a report was compiled and presented to the city manager, Mr. Burton's trespass warning was rescinded per legal advice, he met with Mr. Burton who stated he will stay away from the tennis courts, the police department has interviewed those citizens who have contacted the city and after polling users of the tennis courts Mr. Burton has not been seen for the last three weeks.

Ms. Fernandez added that the city does not have a trespass ordinance and that Sarasota County's trespass ordinance has been used which is designed for those parks with on-site staff. If city authorized personnel are not present to witness an incident, it is possible to have a trespass warning issued based on an affidavit issued by a person who witnesses the incident.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding signs posted on site, amount of hours spent by the police department, Mr. Burton is a victim and the need to have proper documentation before a trespass warning is issued or arrest made.

Public Comment:

Sunny Seabrook, 309 Sorrento Street, noted that she spoke before council a month ago regarding Mr. Burton stating that she has not received a response regarding calls to the Venice Police Department (VPD) and what can the citizens do to correct this situation.

Discussion ensued with it being questioned if there are bullying laws, citizens to call 911 if Mr. Burton returns to the tennis courts, safety issues and the need for witnesses to document incidents.

Rumen Tchor, 1264 Porpoise Road, stated that the police chief and city attorney have presented false information to council with Chief McNulty and Ms. Fernandez responding.

Joseph Kent, 4324 Nizza Court, Venice stated that he witnessed the incident between Mr. Burton and Mr. Tchor and that it appears to be a

common practice of coaches at the tennis courts.

Recess was taken from 12:10 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Al Veltri, 1207 Mango Avenue, questioned back flow preventers, billing and asked for assistance, with Mr. Lavallee stating that he will look into the situation and contact Mr. Veltri with his findings.

III. CONSENT SECTION: Continued

MAYOR: Continued

15-1420

Reappoint Jon Steketee to the Architectural Review Board to Serve a Term from September 1, 2015 until August 01, 2018

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates to approve Item No. 15-1420 in the Consent Section.

Ms. Anderson questioned Mr. Steketee's conduct relative to a property he owned that was demolished, and the case appearing before the architectural review board (ARB).

Mr. Hagler noted that the building was not an historic structure nor on the national or local historic registry.

The motion carried with Ms. Anderson opposed.

B. CITY CLERK

15-1424

Minutes of the May 22, 2015, June 10, 2015, June 11, 2015, and July 8, 2015 Special Meetings, June 23, 2015 and July 15, 2015 Regular Meetings, July 1, 2015 Joint Meeting, and July 8, 2015 and July 10, 2015 Budget Workshops

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member McKeon to approve Item No. 15-1424.

Subsequent to Ms. Anderson raising concerns regarding the May 22, 2015 minutes, discussion ensued regarding wording of minutes with it being suggested that these minutes be pulled and brought back for approval on a future agenda.

Council Member Gates withdrew her motion, seconded by Council Member McKeon.

Discussion continued with Mr. Persson suggesting that Ms. Anderson submit any additions to the city clerk who will verify before any updates are made to the minutes.

Ms. Anderson then pulled the July 8, 2015 budget minutes for

discussion where she expressed concern regarding the minutes reflecting statements made during the meeting with Mayor Holic suggesting that these minutes be pulled from the agenda, reviewed and brought back for approval at a later meeting.

Mayor Holic raised a question on the July 10, 2015 budget workshop minutes regarding the mayor and Mr. Lavallee creating a resolution on the one cent sales tax and Mr. Lavallee confirmed this would take place after the upcoming budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo to approve Item No. 15-1424 with the exception of the May 22, 2015 Special Meeting and July 8, 2015 Budget Workshop Minutes. The motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

[CON. NO.
39-2015](#)

To Consider the Purchase of Units A, B, C1, C2, D, E and F, Hamilton Commercial Condominium, Commonly Referred to as the Hamilton Building Located at 245 North Tamiami Trail from Geoffrey Morris, Pamela Morris, Just Qual LLC, Rodney L. Salvati, and Vincent Capano in the Amount of \$995,000

Ms. Stelzer read the notice of public hearing.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Mr. Persson provided a background of the property including enhancement of access to the city owned VABI building.

Discussion ensued regarding appraisal of property, combination of public and private property, history of the Hamilton building and mediation between property owners and the city creating the purchase solution.

Ms. Stelzer stated that no written communication had been received.

Joseph Kent, 4324 Nizza Court, commented on the creation of a parking garage, removing a tennis court and basketball court on West Venice Avenue and Harbor Drive and his preference to create a parking lot and not spend the money on buying the Hamilton property.

William Bouman, 210 Santa Maria St #249, opposed the purchase citing the potential problem of accessing U.S. 41 from Tampa Avenue and Nokomis Avenue with the increased traffic.

Jack Sullivan, 256 Pensacola Road, supported the purchase noting that this would be a good location for downtown employees to park which will make additional parking available close to businesses for the patrons.

Recess was taken from 2:33 p.m. until 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Persson restated that the major consideration for the purchase is the issue of access to the VABI building which is currently a liability to the city.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon to approve the purchase of Units A, B, C1, C2, D, E and F, Hamilton Commercial Condominium, Commonly Referred to as the Hamilton Building Located at 245 North Tamiami Trail from Geoffrey Morris, Pamela Morris, Just Qual LLC, Rodney L. Salvati, and Vincent Capano in the Amount of \$995,000.

Discussion followed with concern raised that there is no definitive plan for the usage of the Hamilton building, the purchase can present significant attributes to the city, need for a right-of-way due to limited access to the VABI building, the need for additional parking spaces, current lack of emergency vehicle access, loss of taxes, invest money in other alternative transportation resources, questioned the cost per parking space for money expended on purchase and the possibility of renting out the first floor.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels to call the question. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Bennett, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates and Mr. Daniels

No: 2 - Mr. Carlesimo and Ms. Anderson

B. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO. 2015-16](#)

Establishing Criteria for the Placement of Wayfinding Signs on the State Highway System and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Bennett, that Resolution No. 2015-16 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carlesimo, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels and Ms. Anderson

[RES. NO. 2015-18](#)

Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Toscana Isles Community Development District, Toscana Isles - Unit 1, and Accepting the Bill of Sale and a One Year District Utility Maintenance Bond, and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Resolution No. 2015-18 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carlesimo, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels and Ms. Anderson

RES. NO.
2015-20

Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Neal Communities of Southwest Florida, LLC, Accepting the Bill of Sale and a Developers Maintenance Bond, and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, that Resolution No. 2015-20 be approved and adopted.

Subsequent to Mayor Holic noting a blank line on the "bill of sale" on page 2 of 5, Mr. Persson prompted that the lines are for witness signatures which Ms. Weeden stated will be completed.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carlesimo, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels and Ms. Anderson

PRESENTATIONS-Continued

15-1431

Venice Heritage, Inc. President Larry Humes: Update on Lord-Higel House (15 min.)

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to continue with presentations.

Larry Humes, president of Venice Heritage, Inc., provided an update on the Lord-Higel House project noting that the public/private partnership began over ten years ago with the project nearing completion, development of an agreement between the city and Venice Heritage, Inc., displayed a sign highlighting the 60th anniversary of the founding of the city, suggested that the city provide financial support and Venice Heritage will operate the house with the same agreement as the Triangle Inn.

Discussion ensued regarding concern for using taxpayer money and Venice Heritage paying Mr. McKeon's sister for services rendered with the Lord Higel House project with Mr. McKeon asking the city attorney to review the concern.

There was a consensus to direct the city attorney to determine the facts of the propriety of Council Member McKeon's sister being contracted to do work by Venice Heritage Inc., and based upon those facts, give an opinion whether there was an ethics violation.

COUNCIL ACTION

[15-1435](#)

Women's Sertoma Club of Venice: Appeal Decision of the Economic Development Advisory Board and Request Special Event Sponsorship in the Amount of \$5,148.00 for Sun Fiesta 2015

Mayor Holic provided an overview that marketing of the city is an economic driver and the Economic Development Advisory Board should be the body to look at the requests for money and make their decision on the amount of funds to be dispensed. He stated that this is an appeal to the amount awarded with a request for additional funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the board was given a budget, levels of sponsorship and the maximum amount was exceeded.

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo to approve the full amount of \$5,148.00 as requested. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Lavallee clarified the maximum amount of funding that is authorized and when an amount above that is granted the request must go before council for approval.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels to accept the Economic Development Advisory Board recommendation of a \$3,500.00 sponsorship.

Mr. Wilcox, Economic Development Advisory Board chair came forward and spoke on the guidelines developed, levels of sponsorships and how the levels of sponsorship are figured.

Discussion ensued with it being noted that the current policy is to follow the recommendation of the Economic Development Advisory Board and it was requested the city manager provide the return on investment for providing funding for events.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

[ORD. NO.
2015-16](#)

Providing an Annual Update of the Five Year Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS) for Fiscal Years 2015-2019 Including a Long-Range Schedule of Capital Improvements Contained in Volume 1, Appendix C of the City of Venice Comprehensive Plan

Council Members Bennett and Carlesimo left the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Recess was taken from 4:06 p.m. until 4:12 p.m.

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer stated that there were no written communications and no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Ordinance No. 2015-16 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carlesimo, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels and Ms. Anderson

PRESENTATIONS-Continued

[15-1433](#) Code Enforcement Supervisor Paul Iannelli: Resort Dwelling Update (10 min.)

Mr. Iannelli provided an update on the resort dwellings stating that the first phase was advertising in the local newspapers and mailing notices to all interested parties the city's intent to enforce the resort dwelling ordinance, inspection followed with notices going to all dwellings that did not pass inspection.

Discussion ensued regarding the resort dwelling status continuing after the dwelling is sold with Mr. Persson responding that the resort dwelling status continues with whomever owns the property but if not used for a period of time then the right is lost.

Mr. Iannelli stated that the elimination of illegal resort dwellings is a high importance for the city code enforcement division.

[15-1434](#) Jeff Snyder, Finance Director: Monthly Financial Report (10 min.)

Mr. Snyder provided an update of the funds and operations through July including the building department is ahead of projected revenues by 33%, airport revenues low, utilities and solid waste departments working at budget and stormwater did not receive all of their anticipated grants.

Discussion followed regarding where BP monies are applied in the budget, utilities fire standby sprinkler charges and five year financial plan projection.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

C. COUNCIL ACTION-Continued

[15-1436](#) Airport Director Chris Rozansky: Request Approval to Submit Three Proposed Parachute Landing Area Sites and Draft Safety Risk Analysis to the Federal Aviation Administration for Review

Mr. Rozansky presented an overview of the proposed skydiving operation stating that after a consultant reviewed the issue a meeting was held with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) who requested three proposed parachute sites be submitted.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates that Item No.15-1436 be approved.

Discussion ensued regarding concern for allowing skydiving with Mr. Rozansky noting that the FAA currently does not have established standards for skydiving operations and the council action requested is the approval for submission of the three proposed landing sites as requested by the FAA.

Discussion continued that parameters will need to be developed, the need for an updated safety analysis, liability to the city and the need to resolve the city of any liability.

The motion carried by voice vote with Mayor Holic opposed.

[15-1437](#)

City Manager Ed Lavallee and Finance Director Jeff Snyder: Presentation for Council's Review and Approval of Suggested Adjustments and Changes to the FY 2015 Budget and FY 2016 Proposed Budget

Mr. Snyder and Mr. Lavallee spoke on possible changes to the Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget providing an overview of the requested changes including proposed changes of adding monies for a trolley service and to VABI (America in Bloom).

Subsequent to it being noted that proposed money is for VABI and not for America in Bloom the update continued with chairs for council chambers, bicycle program coordinator position moved to engineering, Ajax property and the parks master plan.

Discussion ensued with it being noted that Sarasota County has \$591,000.00 that is earmarked for Venice parks, the county is requesting the city pay for 50% of the new lights for Wellfield Park, county and city impact fees, different Sarasota County funds for parks, park survey, need to redesign Wellfield Park and increase capacity, city approval of lights at Wellfield Park should allow the city to control the expenditures.

Mr. Snyder continued presenting the Wellfield Park - croquet expansion, bandshell at Maxine Barritt Park, changing the bicycle program coordinator to full time, Venice Beach bathrooms and the traffic signalization study, Lord Higel House design and engineering and finding of necessity for Seaboard area.

Discussion ensued regarding the questioned \$50,000 to Lord Higel

House, traffic study and the soccer fields.

Mayor Holic left the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Mr. Daniels left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Mayor Holic and Mr. Daniels returned to the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Mr. Snyder continued by providing the change in dollar amounts for the use of additional ad valorem tax revenues, fund balance/reserves, use of the BP funds, 1 cent voted sales tax, street capital projects fund, airport fund, utilities fund and concluded with the total proposed operating budget.

Discussion followed regarding the excessive reserves vs. the required reserves, all monies from the BP to go to emergency fund and the need for continued discussion on the 29 budget updates and adjustments.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates to approve up to \$150,000.00 for Wellfield soccer field No. 3 lighting from reserves. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

There was consensus to recess the meeting until Friday, August 28, 2015 at 9 a.m.

CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS-Continued

City Manager-Continued

[15-1442](#) Health Care Fully Funded Rate

Jerry Collins of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) requested the city council not raise the insurance rates the total 15 percent as presented in the proposed 2016 budget.

The meeting went into recess at 5:57 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION-Continued

[15-1437](#) City Manager Ed Lavallee and Finance Director Jeff Snyder: Presentation for Council's Review and Approval of Suggested Adjustments and Changes to the FY 2015 Budget and FY 2016 Proposed Budget

Mayor Holic reconvened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. on August 28, 2015. All council members were present except for Mr. Daniels and Ms. Anderson. Linda Senne, Controller, replaced Mr. Snyder for the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Stelzer stated there were no written communications and no one

signed up to speak.

Mr. Daniels arrived at 9:03 a.m.

Mr. Lavalley noted that a new handout was provided to council with color highlights and continued the budget update and adjustments with council consensus to approve the police station upgrade study, wayfinding-phase 1: added signs, Miami Ave. sidewalk improvement, America in Bloom, Venice Community Center flooring, Lord Higel House parking lot and the Hamilton Condo purchase.

Ms. Anderson arrived at 9:14 a.m.

Mr. Lavalley continued with the 2016 budget adjustments with the Lord Higel House design/engineering and that the money slated for final engineering is not part of the parking lot, drainage, permitting, flooding and previous council direction to not spend any additional funds, Lord Higel House has done a great job raising funds towards the project, it was requested that a report be provided to the council on the hours Mr. Hagler spends on projects, public/private projects and the FDOT brown historic signs.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo to approve the Lord Higel House design and engineering for \$50,000.00.

Discussion ensued regarding using tax payer money, this item is a city project, who will be managing the project with it being suggested that Venice Heritage Inc. pay for the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson to amend the motion to have Venice Heritage, Inc. go to their donors and request for funds to pay for the Lord Higel House design and engineering for \$50,000.00. The amendment failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Bennett left the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

Mr. Lavalley stated that the BP funds were placed in reserves and five projects were designated to use the BP funds for tracking purposes. Discussion ensued on the Venice Beach restrooms including capacity, maintenance, responsibility and deterioration of facilities and the interlocal agreement.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon to approve \$120,000.00 for the Venice Beach restrooms. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

Mr. Lavalley presented an overview of a proposed trolley system noting that this will be for a trial period during the upcoming tourist season. Discussion ensued on the length of the trial period, city only funding for trial, leasing trolley services and routes will need to be determined.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates to approve the recommendation of \$75,000.00 for a trolley system in 2016. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on the Ajax property purchase noting that the funds would come from reserves with those funds being restored with mitigation fees from the northeast properties. Discussion followed regarding the option of additional athletic fields, potential location for the public works department and recreational area.

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member McKeon to approve the amount of \$850,000.00 for the Ajax property purchase. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

Mr. Lavallee noted the recommendation of \$42,000.00 for the Finding of Necessity - Update is for hiring Kimley-Horn to research and create the letter of necessity regarding the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) for the Seaboard area.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Gates to approve the Finding of Necessity for \$42,000.00. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

Mr. Lavallee stated the energy audit is to employ an independent contractor who will conduct an independent audit to locate energy savings.

Recess was held from 10:18 until 10:30 a.m.

There was consensus to accept the energy audit for \$50,000.00.

Mr. Lavallee presented the council chambers audio visual upgrade for \$80,000.00 and chairs for the dais at \$3,000.00.

Discussion ensued regarding audio for the hearing impaired, need for better microphones and research on various sources and types of systems are being researched.

There was a consensus to approve \$83,000.00 for council chamber audio visual upgrades and new chairs.

Mr. Lavallee stated that the Maxine Barritt Park bandshell budget adjustment is a place holder of funds to allow for investigation of placing a bandshell in Maxine Barritt Park.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to update the showmobile and it was requested that the showmobile be included when discussion of the bandshell comes before council.

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels to approve the Maxine Barritt Park bandshell for \$50,000.00. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Gates opposed.

Mr. Lavallee stated that the Traffic Signalization Study is a recommendation from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to

be conducted in conjunction with the Bypass improvement project and is a placeholder of funds and is an estimated cost.

Discussion ensued regarding monies already spent on traffic studies, traffic signalization study would signalize lights for season, tie into traffic management system, traffic counts with it being noted that the MPO plan will not be conducted until 2020-2021.

There was a consensus to approve the funding of the traffic signalization study.

Mr. Lavallee stated that the master parks plan budget adjustment is the second half of funds allocated from the 2015 budget, with the process starting in 2016.

There was consensus to approve the master parks plan for \$50,000.00.

Mr. Lavallee provided an overview of the festival grounds infrastructure noting that the requested funds are a place holder in anticipation of material costs.

Discussion ensued regarding use of airport funds and FAA regulations and sky diving not being included as one of the activities for the site.

There was a consensus to approve the festival grounds infrastructure for \$25,000.00.

Mr. Lavallee stated that the line item Wellfield Park - Croquet Expansion is a place holder for the city to provide funds in the amount of \$15,000.00 to be included with private and county funds for the creation of additional courts.

Discussion ensued regarding money being added for pickleball and use of impact fees instead of reserves.

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member McKeon to approve the Wellfield Park - Croquet Expansion for \$15,000.00 with staff to pursue other sources of funding to include impact fees and Sarasota County. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

Mr. Lavallee presented the public works relocation study budget adjustment and noted that this item has been incorporated into the current Fiscal Year 2016 budget and no action is required.

Mr. Lavallee continued with the VABI - Increase in funding by \$5,000.00 which is for reimbursement to VABI for expenses that would otherwise be paid by the city.

Discussion ensued with it being requested that the funding be for America in Bloom and should not be designated as a VABI reimbursement. There were no objections.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on the Personnel Payroll Audit noting that this would

provide better opportunities to manage personnel and keep track of their performance standards. There were no objections.

Mr. Lavalley noted that the Bike Coordinator position is a 20 hour part time position with a primary goal of applying for grants and performance work for the bicycle friendly program.

Discussion ensued with it being noted that the city has a grant writer position, the new position is a pilot position to last one year, the importance to the city of being a silver versus bronze bicycle friendly designation and its significance.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo to approve the Part-Time Bike Coordinator position for \$11,563.00.

Discussion ensued with it being expressed that funding should be used for bicycle safety.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

Mr. Lavalley stated that the Triangle Inn-File relocation/storage budget adjustment is for a team of archivist to remove all files and store them in a climate controlled facility. There were no objections.

Mr. Lavalley presented the City Hall Entrance: design and construction stating the intent to make city hall a welcome center for the city and a portico or some type of roofing be built to enhance the appearance of the building along with increased public space.

Discussion ensued regarding timing of construction with preference expressed for a 2016 completion and concern was expressed that security of city hall should be considered.

There was a consensus to approve the City Hall Entrance: design and construction in the amount of \$225,000.00.

Mr. Lavalley noted that the Airport Wash Rack item is in the current Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) where there is a provision to buy the wash rack. The updated cost is \$25,000.00 for the current CIP with a budget request to advance the project to 2016 and increase the cost which will be paid out of the Airport Enterprise fund. There were no objections.

Mr. Lavalley concluded the presentation noting the placeholder of \$150,000.00 for the Wellfield soccer field lighting from reserves with the city pursuing the county to pay for the total cost of the lighting.

Discussion ensued regarding the Venice Beach Restrooms and the Wellfield - Croquet expansion to be included in the request to Sarasota County to pay and it was noted that the reserves will show the budgeted amounts and if the county pays for these costs, the reserve account will be adjusted. There were no objections.

CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS-ContinuedCity Attorney

Mr. Persson stated that the police department is following the rules on dealing with the homeless sleeping on the beach and discussed impact fees.

Discussion ensued with a request that Mr. Persson review impact fees and Sarasota County's criteria for collection and distribution.

Mr. Daniels left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Mr. Persson stated that a letter was sent to the police department regarding donation of funds and his response on the matter. He noted that council is elected to create policy, not suited to solve these disputes i.e. tennis court bully, and a suggestion to contact Sarasota County to have someone at the park facility.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer stated that a letter had been sent to the council members requesting a volunteer to work the canvassing board.

City Manager-Continued[15-1439](#)

Fire Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Lavalley stated that he met with Mr. Tom Harmer to refine the list for the charter change and approval of consolidation. He noted that the process to include an interlocal agreement, charter amendment and approval by voters.

Discussion ensued regarding an interlocal agreement, levels of service, locations of fire stations, after transition county will have responsibility and make determination of service, charge of \$3 million from county to city for operating costs, fire pension fund, city contribution continuing with the city to determine criteria and it was noted that the 175 plan will continue.

[15-1442](#)

Health Care Fully Funded Rate

Mr. Lavalley provided an update stating that the actuary reexamined the numbers and determined that the revenue stream will be less than anticipated which will decrease the reserves and necessitate the increase in employee contributions. This information has been disseminated to city employees.

Discussion ensued with it being questioned if costs could be amortized with Mr. Lavallee responding that income would be short which would further deteriorate the reserves.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Holic

[15-1440](#)

Letters to 7-Eleven for Operation Chill

Mayor Holic stated that thank you letters have been sent to 7-Eleven for Operation Chill.

Council Member Carlesimo

Mr. Carlesimo reported that the Coastal Advisory Board met and discussed upgrading their operations documents, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's discussion on signs suggesting people walk their bicycles on sidewalks, bicycle group to visit the city and the Salvation Army is reaching out to the homeless with a program for teenagers 13-17 years old.

Council Member McKeon

Mr. McKeon reported on the Manasota League of Cities noting that the organization is moving from the City of Sarasota to the Town of Longboat Key and have updated their legislative priorities. Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council held a special meeting regarding selling their building to reduce expenses and the Planning Commission is working on the Comprehensive Plan update.

Council Member Daniels

[15-1441](#)

Discussion on Business Tax Receipts for Rentals Over Six Months

Mayor Holic noted Mr. Daniels' absence and moved this item to the next scheduled regular meeting.

Council Member Gates

Ms. Gates reported on the Economic Development Advisory Board discussion on the expenditure of funds to organizations for festival activities and stated that she will be unable to attend the next meeting and requested a council member to attend and the Historic Preservation Board voted to have on non-voting high school student to serve.

Discussion ensued regarding changing the ordinance to include youth members with it being suggested to place the topic on a future council agenda.

Ms. Gates stated that the historic markers list will be completed shortly, ownership of "Founder's Way" and the Certified Local Governments (CLG) process with it being requested to place on a future agenda.

Mr. Lavallee left the meeting at 12:27 p.m. and was replaced by Assistant City Manager Len Bramble.

Council Member Anderson

Ms. Anderson thanked Mr. Lavallee for his work on the proposed new ethics standards for the city which she will draft and noted her disappointment with the Traffic Advisory Task Force membership composition.

Council Member Bennett

Mayor Holic stated that Mr. Bennett was absent, will not be running for another term on Council and his position on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be open.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, commented on the need to research case law regarding the sunshine law and requested that the city write a letter of support for Sarasota City Commissioner Susan Chapman's sunshine allegations.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk