



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

---

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:00 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: Utilities Director Tim Hochuli, Interim Finance Director Linda Senne, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, and Assistant City Manager Len Bramble.

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Carlesimo and Mr. Bennett.

Prior to recognition, Mayor Holic noted that Council Member Elect Fred Fraize is attending the Venice Elementary School's Veteran's Day Program, congratulated Mr. Caution on his election, stated that Item No. 15-1493 was removed from the agenda at the request of the presenters and suggested that Item No. 15-1605 be continued to a later meeting.

**A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Item No. 15-1605 be moved to the November 18, 2015 meeting. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

### I. RECOGNITION

#### 15-1568

Recognition of the Utilities Department's First-Place Award for Public Works Projects Less than \$10 Million

**Mayor Holic and Assistant City Manager Len Bramble presented this award to Tim Hochuli.**

#### 15-1597

Proclaim November 18, 2015 as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day and the Week of November 16 through 20, 2015 as Geography Awareness Week, Presented to Gillian Carney, Stormwater Engineer

Analyst, Damien Stillings, GIS Analyst, and William Smith, GIS Technician

**Mayor Holic presented this proclamation to Gillian Carney, Damien Stillings, and William Smith.**

[15-1598](#)

Recognition of Councilmember Jim Bennett in Appreciation of his Service on City Council

**Mayor Holic presented this recognition to Jim Bennett.**

[15-1599](#)

Recognition of Councilmember Emilio Carlesimo in Appreciation of his Service on City Council

**Mayor Holic presented this recognition to Emilio Carlesimo.**

## II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Bob Vedder, 603 Four Bays Dr., Nokomis, thanked Mr. Carlesimo and Mr. Bennett for their service and presented a trophy that the city received for the "America in Bloom" competition.

Jeff Boone, city resident, thanked Mr. Carlesimo and Mr. Bennett for their service and commented on milestones during their time in service.

## III. CONSENT SECTION:

**A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Bennett to approve items in the Consent Section. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

### A. MAYOR

[15-1600](#)

Appoint Bill Ahern to the Economic Development Advisory Board to Complete the Term of Bob Cushing from November 10, 2015 until March 31, 2017

**This Appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

### B. CITY ATTORNEY

[15-1601](#)

Request Private Attorney Client Session: Anthony Lorenzo and Citizens for Sunshine, Inc. vs. City of Venice, et al

**This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

### A. PRESENTATIONS

[15-1602](#)

Ellen Hillstrom, President, Venice Chapter, Florida Council of the Blind and Kate Antolak, Venice High School Student: Visually Impaired

Challenges in Venice and US 41 ByPass Project (10 min.)

Ms. Hillstrom provided information on visually impaired persons in Venice to include results of the two pedestrian crosswalk signals in the city, requests filed to install an additional signal on the Venice ByPass, requested action be taken regarding blind friendly round-a-bouts, and provided white cane safety day brochures.

Ms. Antolak commented on the need for people to be aware of the rules, the need to publicize city events such as construction, construction interference with students commuting to school and the need for signs to reroute, and the "BRAILLE" Challenge.

Discussion followed regarding the need for communication, supporting the signalization, round-a-bout and keeping the public informed, and Ms. Hillstrom's column in the Venice Gondolier.

[15-1493](#)

Planning Commission Chair Barry Snyder and Development Services Director Jeff Shrum: Comprehensive Plan Update (10 min.)

**This item was continued to the November 18, 2015 Regular Meeting.**

[15-1603](#)

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden: Bond Referendum Road Project Additional Information and Request for Council Direction Related to City Roads to be Included in the Bond Referendum, Inclusion of Private Roads Substation Road and Hauser Lane, Upgrade of the Downtown Corridor and Related Ancillary Improvements

Ms. Weeden provided an update regarding the bond program to include the road program, funding, crack sealing, the downtown corridor, use of road impact fees, current conditions, downtown district upgrades, failing private roads, request received to transfer to city ownership, estimated cost to upgrade, and council direction options.

Discussion followed regarding Hauser Lane being a separate item on the bond referendum, the county repairing roads, impact fees collected from private roads, funding constraints, setting aside money for roads in the budget each year, spending money now to reduce maintenance costs later, cost to property owners, contributions, enhancing all of the city's roads, repayment from the general fund, and impact fees charged to residents on Hauser Lane.

Ms. Serne responded to council questions regarding determining the amount of bond issue.

Ms. Weeden commented on the procedure regarding debt millage and ordinance drafting.

Mr. Lavalley stated that the amount per resident will vary based on

property value.

Discussion ensued on the cost to the homeowners, timeframe for road completions, the need for a pre-determined plan, staff to provide an estimated cost to homeowners, and current bond rates.

Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, commented on the paved portion of Hauser Lane to include heavy commercial use and council history.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Bennett to approve Option No. 6 with Substation Road and Hauser Lane as a separate line item for the same bond issue.**

Discussion continued on the need for more information.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo to amend the motion to include Substation Road and Hauser Lane. The motion failed due to lack of a second.**

Discussion continued regarding the need for residents to be informed, concern with amount of bond, and obtaining further information prior to voting.

Mr. Lavallee stated that staff would present individual cost estimates to council to determine the total cost of the bond.

Discussion continued regarding fire department consolidation and potential savings.

**The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

Recess was taken from 10:45 a.m. until 10:56 a.m.

## **B. ORDINANCES**

### ORD. NO. 2015-22

Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Venice, Florida, Chapter 70, Traffic and Vehicles, Article I, in General, by Adding Section 70-8 Entitled Traffic Control Devices; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels that Ordinance No. 2015-22 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.**

In response to council questions, Mr. Persson clarified the purpose of the ordinance.

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

ORD. NO.  
2015-21

Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2014-25 Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2014 and Ending September 30, 2015; by Increasing the Total Sources of Funds by \$1,119,707 and Total Uses of Funds by \$1,119,707 as Detailed in Exhibit "A", Attached Hereto; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Bennett, that Ordinance No. 2015-21 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.**

Discussion took place regarding Chalk Festival funding.

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**C. COUNCIL ACTION**

15-1605

Select Topics for Joint Meeting with Sarasota Board of County Commissioners

**This item was discussed prior to recognition.**

**V. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS**

City Attorney

15-1606

Utility Relocation Bill - SB 416

Mr. Persson commented on the utility relocation bill to include a background and the purpose of the bill.

**VI. COUNCIL REPORTS**

***Council Member Anderson***

Ms. Anderson reported on complaints received regarding traffic due to two special events being held at the same time.

**CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS - Continued**

City Attorney - Continued

Mr. Persson continued his report to include the connection with freedom of speech and quasi-judicial topics and the reason why he asked for the private attorney client session to take place today.

**Ms. Anderson left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.**

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer did not have a report and responded to council questions regarding the status of minutes.

City Manager

Mr. Lavallee reported on the Traffic Advisory Task Force meeting.

Mr. Daniels requested council be provided a copy of the trolley specifications and an update on the Hamilton building.

**COUNCIL REPORTS*****Mayor Holic***15-1607

## Liaison Appointments 2016

Mayor Holic requested that council members provide their top five choices for liaison appointments and return them to him by November 13, 2015 to be approved on the December 8, 2015 agenda.

Mayor Holic reported on resident concerns to include police department access and homeless issues.

Discussion ensued regarding accommodating people with mental health issues, communication with the county, the Salvation Army's desire to use the Venice facility, the need to keep the public informed and find a permanent solution, enforcement at the beach, county responsibility for transporting, vandalism, installation of security cameras, and Mr. Lavallee providing council a list of options and costs.

Mayor Holic notified council that he will be attending the Fly-In on January 13 and 14, 2016, stated he would like to consider ideas for state legislature priorities to include permanent funding of transportation tax and the redirection of funding to important areas such as mental health, and asked council to provide him with topics for the Fly-In. He asked for council support to discuss with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation the use of road impact fees to help pave the road that would go through The Bridges as an incentive for them to get someone to develop it into workforce housing and affordable housing.

Discussion followed on topics to include extraordinary mitigation fees, including in the contract that homes purchased may not be sold for profit within a certain time period and ways to incentivise.

**There was consensus for Mayor Holic to have further discussion with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation regarding incentives for workforce and affordable housing.**

15-1608

12:00 P.M. OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER - PRIVATE  
ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION, PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE  
286.011(8), TO DISCUSS ANTHONY LORENZO AND CITIZENS FOR  
SUNSHINE VS. CITY OF VENICE, et al

In attendance will be City Attorney Dave Persson, Attorney Steven Chase, Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Jeanette Gates, Council Members Jim Bennett, Emilio Carlesimo, Kit McKeon, Deborah Anderson and Bob Daniels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, and Roberts Court Reporting.  
(Expected Duration 1 hour)

Recess was taken from 12:00 p.m. for the Private Attorney-Client Session. Ms. Anderson returned to the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Mayor Holic announced that a Private Attorney-Client Session would be held pursuant to Florida Statute 286.011(8) to discuss Anthony Lorenzo and Citizens for Sunshine, Inc. vs. City of Venice, et al.

In attendance will be City Attorney Dave Persson, Attorney Steven Chase, Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Jeanette Gates, Council Members Jim Bennett, Emilio Carlesimo, Kit McKeon, Deborah Anderson, and Bob Daniels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, and Roberts Court Reporting.

The session will last approximately one hour, after which the council meeting will reconvene in Council Chambers.

Mayor Holic announced at 12:57 p.m. that the Private Attorney-Client Session was over and the meeting was reconvened. All were present.

***Council Member Carlesimo***

Mr. Carlesimo did not have a report.

***Council Member McKeon***

Mr. McKeon reported on the planning commission meeting regarding the school board ten year projection and the need for three new schools.

***Council Member Daniels***

Mr. Daniels did not have a report.

***Council Member Gates***

Ms. Gates opined the need for a workshop on the fire department merger due to having new facts and council members.

**There was a consensus to hold a workshop to discuss the fire department**

merger.

Ms. Gates thanked all service members for their service, stated she would serve on any board as needed, reported on Shop with a Cop scholarships, the economic development advisory board meeting regarding the Chalk Festival funding, Fox Lea Farm and the comprehensive plan update.

Mr. McKeon informed council that he will not be able to attend the November 18, 2015 meeting.

***Council Member Bennett***

Mr. Bennett did not have a to report.

**VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

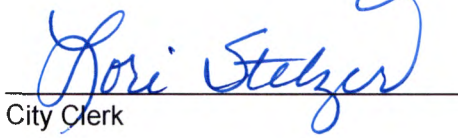
No one signed up to speak.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor - City of Venice

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk