



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Wednesday, June 25, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### Special Meeting - Final Candidate Interviews and Selection of City Manager

[25-0268](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard, Mr. Kevin Engelke and Mr. Lloyd Weed

Vice Mayor Boldt attended virtually via Zoom.

Mr. Howard arrived at 10:06 a.m.

#### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, and Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pachota led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### I. INTRODUCTION OF PROCESS (Mayor Pachota)

Mayor provided opening comments, thanking the candidates, the public, and City Council.

#### II. CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

[25-0269](#)

Memorandum (Colin Baenziger & Associates)

[1.](#)

Sonia Alves-Viveiros

Ms. Alves-Viveiros provided introductory comments and answered Council questions regarding what energizes her, budgeting, the top three things she would bring to the City, management style, union negotiations,

balancing elected officials in a governmental body, and serving the demographics of the community.

Ms. Alves-Viveiros provided closing comments.

2.

Andrew Butterfield

Mr. Butterfield provided introductory comments, and answered Council questions regarding what brings him energy, experience with transitions and how it would benefit Venice, governmental relationships, the top three things he would bring to Venice, fiscal management skills, union negotiations, and boundaries with elected officials.

Mr. Butterfield provided closing comments.

Recess was taken from 9:54 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

3.

James Clinch

Mr. Clinch provided introductory comments and responded to Council questions regarding, what brings him energy, the budget process, what he can work on or learn about, what three things he brings to push the city forward, the risks of possible promotion, and self-evaluation.

Mr. Clinch provided closing comments.

4.

William Lawrence

Mr. Lawrence provided introductory comments, and answered Council questions regarding what energizes him, the budget process, the top three things he would bring to the City, the number of positions he has held, what types of new ideas and energy he would bring to the City, and union negotiations.

Mr. Lawrence provided closing comments.

Recess was taken from 10:58 a.m. to 11:03 a.m.

5.

Mark Sohaney

Mr. Sohaney provided introductory comments, and answered Council questions regarding what energizes him, budget process, identifying project to start with, the top three things he brings to the City, the difference between running a base versus a municipality, management style, and his experience.

Mr. Sohaney provided closing comments.

Recess was taken from 11:35 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

## **12:15 P.M. RETURN FROM LUNCH BREAK**

6.

Gustavo Zambrano

Mr. Zambrano provided opening comments, and answered Council questions regarding, what energizes him, the budget process, grants, the top three things he would bring to the City, the next step in his career and why, what his typical day as a City Manager would be like, union negotiations, motivation, and management style.

Mr. Zambrano provided closing comments.

## **III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no public comment.

## **IV. MAYOR'S DELIBERATION AND NOMINATION (PURSUANT TO SEC. 4.02 OF THE CITY CHARTER)**

Mayor Pachota offered Council the opportunity to express advice.

Discussion took place regarding the candidates, and support for the process.

Mayor expressed appreciation for the Council's support.

Recess was taken from 12:57 a.m. to 1:41 p.m.

**Mayor Pachota nominated James Clinch as the next City Manager and requested a motion of support.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Mr. Engelke, to accept Mayor Pachota's nomination and give him the authority to negotiate the City Manager's contract.**

**Mayor Pachota confirmed the authority to negotiate the City Manager's contract.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

## V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk