



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[21-5346](#)

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Vice Mayor Nick Pachota, Dr. Joseph Neunder, Dr. Margaret Fiedler, Council Member Jim Boldt and Helen Moore

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Clerk in Training Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Administrative Coordinator Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Airport Director Mark Cervasio, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Information Technology Director Christophe St. Luce, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Barcia offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Lavalley.

AMEND AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Feinsod, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to amend the agenda to include "Filling Councilmember Kelly's Seat" under Council discussion/action. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

I. RECOGNITION

[21-5347](#)

Proclaim December 11, 2021 as Julia Cousins-Laning Day, Presented to Jimmy Cousins, Julia's Nephew

Mayor Feinsod presented this proclamation to Jimmy Cousins.

[21-5348](#) Council Member Brian Kelly: Certificate of Completion of the 2021 Institute of Elected Municipal Officials

This item was removed from the agenda.

[21-5349](#) Swearing in: Police Officers Donna Carter and Ron DePaula, Venice Police Department

Officer Ron DePaula was unable to attend.

Mayor Feinsod swore in Officer Donna Carter.

[21-5350](#) 15-Year Service Recognition Award, Bill Long, Police Officer, Venice Police Department

Mayor Feinsod presented this award to Officer Bill Long.

[21-5351](#) 20-Year Service Award and Retirement Tribute, Marta Ugas-Carpenter, Administrative Coordinator, Airport Department

Mayor Feinsod presented this award and retirement tribute to Marta Ugas-Carpenter.

[21-5352](#) 30-Year Service Award and Retirement Tribute, Tom Mattmuller, Police Chief, Venice Police Department

Mr. Lavalley presented this award and retirement tribute to Police Chief Tom Mattmuller.

[21-5353](#) Stacey Johnston, President, Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC) Presentation and Retirement Tribute, Lori Stelzer, City Clerk

Stacey Johnston presented a proclamation to Ms. Stelzer and Mayor Feinsod presented a retirement tribute.

Recess was taken from 10:00 a.m. until 10:13 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Kit McKeon, 628 Granada Avenue, spoke regarding the Charter Review Committee, filling council vacancies, correcting section 3.07 in the charter and the proposed, revised charter going to referendum.

Jeri Fagerbaum, 340 Altair Rd, Venice, spoke regarding the Family Promise transitional housing project and affordable housing in Venice.

Jeffery A. Boone, 1001 Avenida Del Circo, spoke regarding Ms. Stelzer, commending her on her work, and expressed how much she will be missed.

John Goldener, 15137 Vivaldi Dr., Nokomis, President of the Sarasota County Croquet Club (SCCC), spoke regarding the club, local charities,

dues, noted it is the largest club in the US Croquet Association, and the need for facilities.

Toni Marie Gelineau, 605 Harbor Dr. South, member of the SCCC, discussed membership and guests, equipment, and the need for facilities and lighting.

Mark Claff, 1520 Jasper Court, spoke regarding the SCCC, exercise, volunteers, and programs.

Ellen Goldener, 15137 Vivaldi Dr., Nokomis, spoke regarding the SCCC, the origin of the club, and growth.

Linda Banister, 1126 Cypress Pt. Dr., Venice, spoke regarding the Warehouse of Venice, working with teenagers and croquet, and the partnership with the SCCC.

Mike Sarback, 321 Lansbrook Dr, Venice, spoke regarding the SCCC and expansion.

Michael Albert, 1613 Bay Point Ct., Sarasota, spoke regarding the SCCC, the United States Croquet Association, the need for facilities and amenities, improvements, and the international impact.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Vice Mayor Pachota, to approve items in the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

A. MAYOR

[21-5354](#)

Appoint Jen Archer to the Environmental Advisory Board to Serve a Term from December 14, 2021 to December 31, 2024

This appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[21-5355](#)

Appoint Debby Miller and Sandra Sibley to the Public Art Advisory Board to Serve a Term from December 14, 2021 to November 30, 2024

This appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY CLERK

[21-5356](#)

Minutes of the November 16, 2021 Certification of Election Results and November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGER

Engineering

[21-5357](#) Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Locally Funded Agreement for Use of Park Impact Fees Between Sarasota County, Florida, and the City of Venice for the Purchase of the Northeast Park for \$1,550,000

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[21-5358](#) Authorize the Mayor to Sign Acceptance by Grantee for Utility Easement from Capri Isles Golf, Inc.

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[21-5359](#) Authorize the Mayor to Sign Acceptance by Grantee for Utility and Access Easement Agreement Between Sarasota County and the City of Venice

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS***ORDINANCES – FINAL READING***

[ORD. NO. 2021-45](#) An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2020-21 Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2020 and Ending September 30, 2021; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$2500 and Total Expenditures by \$2500; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Feinsod opened the public hearing.

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

Mayor Feinsod closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Vice Mayor Pachota, that Ordinance No. 2021-45 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[21-5324](#) Mayor and Council Liaison Appointments

Discussion took place regarding the liaison appointments, the process,

and issues with utilizing a ranking system, and current vacancies.

Ms. Fernandez stated there is nothing in the city charter about how council liaison appointments are to be conducted.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Dr. Neunder to postpone council liaison appointments to a future meeting or workshop to be determined in the near future. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

No: 1 - Mayor Feinsod

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

ORD. NO.
2022-01

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2021-32 Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2021 and Ending September 30, 2022; By Increasing the Total Revenue by \$1,450,000 and Total Expenditures By \$1,450,000; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

No one signed up to speak.

A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Vice Mayor Pachota, to approve Ordinance No. 2022-01 on first reading and schedule it for final reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

B. RESOLUTIONS

RES. NO.
2021-34

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Neal Signature Homes, LLC and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date (Aria Phase 4)

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Council Member Pachota, that Resolution No. 2021-34 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

RES. NO.
2021-35

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Authorizing the Venice City Council to Participate in a Joint Meeting with Sarasota County, the Cities of North Port and Sarasota, the Town of Longboat Key and the Sarasota County School Board to Receive, Discuss and Act Upon Matters of Mutual

Interest; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pachota, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Resolution No. 2021-35 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

RES. NO.
2021-36

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Approving the Appointment of Toni Cone as a Deputy City Clerk for the Purpose of Authenticating Any Written Instrument Obligating the City for Payment of Money, Attesting Signatures on Official Documents and Administering Oaths of Office; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Council Member Boldt, that Resolution No. 2021-36 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

RES. NO.
2021-37

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the City of Venice Personnel Procedures and Rules, 2020 Edition, Section 1.3 Employment Process; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Boldt, that Resolution No. 2021-37 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

RES. NO.
2021-38

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, Approving a Convenience Fee for Credit Card, Charge Card and Debit Card Payments Processed Through Trackit; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

Ms. Senne responded to council questions regarding costs and fees for credit cards and noted that there are costs associated with accepting payments by check.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pachota, seconded by Dr. Neunder, that Resolution No. 2021-38 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

Recess was taken from 11:22 a.m. until 11:35 a.m.

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[21-5360](#)

Approve Park Impact Fee Projects for Submittal to Sarasota County for Fiscal Year 2023

There was consensus that the audience speakers may have five minutes.

Hans Peterson, 12467 Harvey Street, Venice, provided a presentation regarding the Sarasota County Croquet Club (SCCC) and park impact fees, community engagement, the world championship, plans, shade, lighting, restrooms, timing of the project, and requested approval of city park impact fees to get the project started immediately.

Pat Neal, 5800 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Sarasota, spoke regarding park impact fees, Sarasota County Commission and request for Laurel Road, budget stimulus, multi-use recreation trail (MURT), and request to put MURT/linear park in the budget.

Mr. Clinch and Ms. Weeden provided a presentation on park impact fees, adding capacity, and answered council questions regarding Venezia Park, accessibility, the increased request from the SCCC, linear park and time frame, revenue estimates, and time frame for Service Club parking area.

Discussion took place on Resolution No. 2021-28 regarding Laurel Road expansion and funds allocation.

Mr. Peterson addressed council questions regarding the costs, lighting, court space, and the request for funds.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Moore, to accept FY 2023-2024 priorities and authorize staff to submit the 5-year park impact fee request to Sarasota County based on council directed priorities determined at the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

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

D. PRESENTATIONS AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION WILL BE HEARD AT 1:00 P.M. - AGENDA ITEMS MAY BE DELAYED OR MOVED FORWARD TO ACCOMMODATE PRESENTATIONS

[21-5364](#)

Dorothy Korwek, Venice Heritage Inc., and Harry Klinkhamer, Historical Resources Manager: Updates and Future Plans for the Lord-Higel House (10 min.)

Ms. Korwek and Mr. Klinkhamer provided a presentation to include Lord Higel House status, sources of funding and financial status, current status of renovations, future uses of the house, and staffing.

[21-5365](#)

Jean Trammell, Chair of the Historic Preservation Board, and Frank Wright, Board Member: Historic Preservation Board's Annual Report (10

min.)

Ms. Trammell provided a presentation to include the Historic Preservation Board's accomplishments for the year, including the local register owners packet, the Legacy Award nominee, response to planning commission's Land Development Regulation (LDR) draft, request for the mayor to sign a letter regarding, public outreach program to public for local register. 2022 goals are to develop a timeline, outreach program, brochure, Certified Local Government (CLG), historic structure survey, historic preservation division marketing plan, and answered council questions regarding request for funding and staff.

Mr. Lavalley discussed annual presentations from the advisory boards.

Dr. Neunder left the dais at 2:18 p.m and returned at 2:21 p.m.

[21-5366](#)

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

Ms. Senne provided a presentation on the quarterly financial update, reviewed revenue, expenses and variances, and answered council questions regarding road and park impact fees.

COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION CONTINUED

[21-5362](#)

Approve 2022 Federal Legislative Priorities

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pachota, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve Item No. 21-5362. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

[21-5361](#)

Funding Support for Family Promise Housing Project

Discussion took place regarding funding, Sarasota County's grant as a template, the comprehensive plan, transitional housing versus affordable housing, providing funds, budget, request staff recommendation, and the need for a methodical process.

Dr. Fiedler recommended giving the organization \$250,000 to match Sarasota County's grant.

Mr. Lavalley spoke on the budget process.

Discussion took place regarding options for future funding and the comprehensive plan.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pachota, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve giving Family Promise a \$5,000 grant, authorize staff to draft a budget amendment ordinance in the amount of \$45,000 for the next meeting, and begin a process to incorporate this item into the comprehensive plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

Recess was taken from 3:42 p.m. until 3:52 p.m.

There was consensus to continue the meeting past 5:00 p.m. to address all agenda items.

21-5363

Topics for Convocation of Governments January 21, 2022 Agenda (Lavallee)

Mr. Lavallee addressed Convocation of Governments and shared resources offering to host utilities department intern for high school students, contract opportunity for recycling at the schools in Venice, and other accomplishments.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pachota, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to approve the letter to Dr. Asplen regarding the topics for the Convocation of Governments meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Dr. Fiedler, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore

Filling Councilmember Kelly's Seat

Ms. Fernandez stated a majority vote would be needed for the selection and noted there was not a process in place so the council must decide on the process and fill the seat within 30 days or have a special election.

Discussion took place about the process of filling a council vacancy, ranking, transparency, a ballot process, and simplifying the process.

Mayor Feinsod noted there were three candidates who ran for council and recommended appointing the person who had the most votes from the last election.

Ms. Stelzer explained the staff recommendation and noted a special election would not be possible within the 60 days.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler to direct the charter review committee to reconvene and provide a recommendation on how to fill Councilmember Kelly's seat.

It was explained that you could do that for the future, but there would not be time to do that for Councilmember Kelly's seat.

Dr. Fiedler withdrew her motion.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pachota, seconded by Dr. Neunder, to direct staff to announce and receive letters of interest to fill the remaining year of Councilmember Kelly's seat within 14 days, and compile a ballot for council to vote on.

An amendment to the motion was made by Vice Mayor Pachota, seconded by

Councilmember Moore, that council will announce and receive resumes and letters of interest for 14 days to fill Councilmember Kelly's seat, and each council member is to bring a nomination which will require a second from another member to be placed on a ballot to be voted on at the special meeting. The amendment carried by voice vote unanimously.

The amended motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

There was consensus to schedule a special meeting for January 6, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

VIII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

Ms. Fernandez thanked Ms. Stelzer for years of diligence and working closely together.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer thanked council for their support.

City Manager

Mr Lavallee thanked Ms. Stelzer for her professionalism and wisdom. He discussed scheduling a budget workshop on roads, prior to the strategic planning meeting and conducting those meetings on the same day.

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Boldt

Mr. Boldt thanked Ms. Stelzer for her service and assistance during the campaign.

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore reported on the Architectural Review Board (ARB) meeting, noted there has not been any recent Venice Housing Authority (VHA) meetings, received feedback on a successful holiday parade, thanked Ms. Stelzer for her work, and welcomed Ms. Michaels to the city.

Council Member Fiedler

Dr. Fiedler thanked Ms. Stelzer and welcomed Ms. Michaels. She discussed sustainability and asked Mr. Lavallee to obtain a speaker on the topic from Sarasota County government.

Council Member Neunder

Dr. Neunder welcomed Ms. Michaels and wished Ms. Stelzer a great retirement, congratulated Mr. Boldt and Ms. Moore on their election, and

noted his good wishes to Mr. Kelly.

Council Member Kelly

Councilmember Kelly resigned December 9, 2021.

Council Member Pachota

Mr. Pachota discussed Mr. Kelly's resignation and the role of the charter review committee. He requested staff collect information from council for the charter review committee to review and recommend changes to the charter regarding filling a council vacancy.

Mr. Pachota discussed the impact of Ms. Stelzer on his life with his start on the Youth Advisory Board.

There was consensus to reconvene the Charter Review Committee and direct staff to collect information from Council to provide to the committee for direction on what to evaluate.

Mayor Feinsod

Mayor Feinsod reported on the Council of Governments meeting which was held at the school board in Sarasota and thanked Ms. Stelzer for her assistance and support.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vice Mayor - City of Venice



City Clerk Kelly Michaels