



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, September 22, 2015

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### Broadcast

#### 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 Lavalley, Recording Secretary Edward Klotz, and for certain items on the agenda: Utilities Director Tim Hochuli, Finance Director Jeff Snyder, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, Public Works Director John Veneziano, Airport Administrator Chris Rozansky, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Information Technology Director Jeff Bolen, Stormwater Engineer James Clinch, Director of Administrative Services Alan Bullock, Marketing and Communications Officer Pam Johnson, Grants Administrator Linda Westlake and Director of Historical Resources James Hagler.

#### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Earl Midlam.

#### I. RECOGNITION

15-1483 Proclaim October 4-10, 2015 as "Fire Prevention Week" Presented to City of Venice Fire Chief James Warman

**Mr. Carlesimo presented this proclamation to Battalion Chief Steve Armstrong.**

15-1484 Proclaim October 15-18, 2015 as "Venice High School All Class Reunion Days" Presented to the Committee Alumni Members Reunion

**Mayor Holic presented this proclamation.**

15-1485 Oath and Presentation of Code Enforcement Officer Badges to Code

Enforcement Supervisor Paul Iannelli and Code Enforcement Inspectors George Nixon and Debbie Sanacore

Mayor Holic read the Oath and Mr. Lavalée presented Badges.

## II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Roger Effron, 293 Mestre Place, thanked Council Member Bennett for his service and the finance department customer service staff for the excellent service he received when dealing with an issue. He stated that his community association board is in support of the utilities department program to make aesthetic improvements to lift stations and requested that the city change the code regarding the addition of screening to lift stations to blend in with the environment.

Discussion followed regarding several lift stations which are old and unsightly and the city code is antiquated and needs updating.

Mayor Holic read citizen emails giving kudos to the Engineering and Police Departments.

## III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Gates to approve items on the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item Nos. 15-1489 and 40-2015. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

### A. MAYOR

[15-1486](#)

Reappoint Victoria Dietz to the Public Art Advisory Board to Serve a Term from November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2018

This Appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### B. CITY MANAGER

[15-1487](#)

Approve Agreement Between the School Board of Sarasota County and the City of Venice Which Provides that the School Board Agrees to Pay \$103,113.00 to the City of Venice for School Resource Officer Services from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

This Agreement was approved on the Consent Agenda.

## Administrative Services Department

[15-1488](#)

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Venice and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1718, Relative to Collective Bargaining Proposed Terms for Wage Reopener for October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

This Memorandum of Understanding was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### Engineering

15-08FP

Accept the Completion Bond and Declaration of Maintenance Responsibilities from Neal Communities of Southwest Florida, LLC, Accept the Stormwater Flowage Easement, and Authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to Sign the Final Plat for Villages of Milano

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

15-09FP

Accept the Completion Bonds in the Amounts of \$106,174 and \$8,740 and Declaration of Maintenance Responsibilities from Tra Ponti Villaggio, LLC, and Authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and City Engineer to Sign the Final Plat for Tra Ponti Villaggio

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### Utilities

15-1490

Request Permission to Apply for and Accept Funds if Selected from the Southwest Florida Water Management District Cooperative Funding Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2017 Funding for the Water Treatment Efficiency Improvement Feasibility Study and the Toilet Rebate and Retrofit Projects

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### Airport

CON. NO.  
40-2015

Approval of Agreement with the Venice Municipal Mobile Home Owners Association, Inc. for Maintenance of Venice Municipal Mobile Home Park for Fiscal Year 2016

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo to approve Con. No. 40-2015. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

## IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

15-1491

Authorize the Mayor to Execute Solar Lease and Easement Agreement and All Related Documents with Florida Power & Light Company to Place Solar Panel Covered Parking Structure in the South Parking Lot of the Venice Community Center

Ms. Stelzer read the agreement by title.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer stated no written communications had been received and no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, that Item No. 15-1491 be approved. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

## **A. RESOLUTIONS**

### RES. NO. 2015-21

Relating to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency State Revolving Fund Load Program; Adopting the City of Venice Drinking Water Improvements, Facilities Plan 2015; Making Findings; Authorizing of Facilities Plan and Business Plan; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Westlake and Julie Karleskint, Hazen and Sawyer, provided a presentation of the Water Systems Facilities Plan highlighting the proposed projects, water supply wells, water main replacements, environmental impacts, estimated costs and the anticipated impact to rate payers.

Discussion following with it being noted that the estimated cost of the total loan will be approximately \$28 million, which, will assist in hurricane preparedness and variable speed pumps with their associated cost savings.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Bennett, that Resolution No. 2015-21 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

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. COUNCIL ACTION**

#### 15-1492

Authorize the Mayor to Execute a License Agreement Authorizing Villages of Milano Neighborhood Association, Inc. to Install a Corner Sign, Landscaping and Electrical Service on City-owned Property Adjacent to E. Laurel Road and Jacaranda Boulevard

Attorney Jeffrey Boone provided an overview of the Villages of Milano Neighborhood Association, Inc. request for permission for the installation of a corner sign, landscaping and electrical service on city owned property adjacent to Fire Station #3 at the intersection of E.

Laurel Road and Jacaranda Boulevard. It was noted that the applicant has agreed to remove existing landscaping, replace with city approved materials and be responsible for all maintenance costs associated with the proposed improvements. Mr. Boone also stated that subsequent to the initial request it was discovered that the proposed location is on top of utilities and the position of the sign will be adjusted north, closer to Laurel Road.

Discussion followed regarding the sign will be on Jacaranda Boulevard, signs in the median had been rejected, benefit of the sign for motorists traveling on Laurel Road, more descriptive maps and diagrams needed, with further development of additional signage being required and landscaping of utility lift stations.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to approve Item No. 15-1492.**

Discussion ensued with it being noted the possible safety issues of the sign located near the fire department and that the citizens have not had the time to review and the need for a second reading.

**Council Member Anderson moved to postpone Item No. 15-1492 to the next meeting to give residents enough time to review and provide council with their comments. The motion failed for lack of a second.**

Discussion continued in regards to the extension of Jacaranda Blvd. to Laurel Road, the possible addition of garbage truck traffic, evacuation route and the Planning Commission minutes should be included in the agenda packet.

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

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

15-1493 Planning Commission Chair Barry Snyder and Development Services Director Jeff Shrum: Comprehensive Plan Update (10 min.)

Recess was taken from 10:24 a.m. until 10:36 a.m.

Planning Commission Chair Barry Snyder provided an update on the current Comprehensive Plan noting that the Planning Commission kick-off was in August, scope of service contract, budget, Kimbley-Horn updating maps, analysis of current plan will be presented at the October 22, 2015 planning commission meeting, analysis of changes since creation of last comprehensive plan, the first public meeting to be held on September 24, 2015 by staff and Kimbley-Horn, public meeting will include an overview of where the project is going and hold a "table-top" exercise dealing with comprehensive plan issues, the city has been separated for analysis and input into seven neighborhoods, neighborhood forums will begin in December with the second set of forums to be held in March, electronic survey created with eight potential

areas identified with associated questions, identified seven of the city advisory boards that will be affected by the comprehensive plan, members of the planning commission have been assigned to a respective advisory board as liaison and gather information, stake holder groups, market survey analysis of what the city should be preparing for and tax revenue generation task.

Discussion proceeded with it being requested for more visual aids, amount of public meetings to be held in December, appropriateness of meetings being held in December, capital improvements are included in the comprehensive plan, the online survey has room for comments, council will be involved in the process and ways to advertise the meetings to positively affect attendance.

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear Item No. 15-1496 at this time.

#### **A. COUNCIL ACTION - Continued**

##### 15-1496

Approve Expenditure of \$10,000 for Netting at Wellfield Park for the Soccer Fields (Holic)

Mark Reese, Venice Area Youth Soccer Association, provided background as to why a net is needed and informed council that a recent quote received exceeded the original \$10,000 that is being requested.

Discussion ensued regarding the new quote being \$16,897.00 with Mr. Reece questioning the validity of the quote without further parameters researched, the need for pictures and graphs provided, supervision of youth soccer players and additional quotes needed.

Mr. Lavallee stated that this is considered an emergency situation and the city has the ability to correct and asked the city council for their approval.

Discussion ensued with council noting that staff should work with Sarasota County and Mr. Reese in addressing this issue.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Gates, to support the city manager working with Mr. Reese in taking the steps necessary to resolve the dangers at the Wellfield Park Pond not to exceed \$30,000.**

Discussion followed regarding the need for netting due to safety issues and park usage fees are paid to Sarasota County.

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

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

15-1494 Utilities Director Tim Hochuli: Lift Station Improvements (10 min.)

Mr. Hochuli provided an overview of the lift station improvements noting that in an effort to address their aesthetic condition, a program has been implemented to visit each site to determine what improvements are needed. He noted that a punch list has been created and to date fifty-eight of the eighty-seven lift stations have been visited and improvements have been completed.

Discussion ensued with it being suggested that the city code should be updated to require developers to be responsible for lift station installation and continued maintenance of landscaping.

**C. RESOLUTIONS**RES. NO.  
2015-24 Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Tra Ponti Villaggio, LLC, and Accepting the Grant of Easement, a One Year Developers Cash Maintenance Bond, and Bill of Sale, 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 Daniels, that Resolution No. 2015-24 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.  
2015-22 Providing for the City of Venice General Municipal Election to be Held on November 3, 2015, to Elect Two Councilmembers, for Three-year Terms; and Designating Polling Places for the Election; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

Mr. Carlesimo questioned if he should recuse himself from the vote due to being one of the candidates running for re-election. City Attorney Persson stated that Mr. Carlesimo can vote.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Resolution No. 2015-22 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

**A. COUNCIL ACTION - Continued**15-1495 Determine Whether to Mail a Sample Ballot to Every Registered Voter Household for the November 3, 2015 Municipal Election, at an Approximate Cost of \$3,000

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item at this time.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon to not mail a sample ballot to every registered voter household for the November 3, 2015 municipal election, at an approximate cost of \$3,000.**

Discussion followed regarding the city clerk's office being responsible for mailing, the mailing will inform those residents who do not receive the newspaper, the city is solely responsible for mailing out ballots, including the sample ballot with water bills with it being noted that not all residents would receive the ballot, it is not required to send out a sample ballot, the ballots will be mailed to households and not individual voters and that the ballot will only include the name of the candidates.

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

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon to mail a sample ballot to every registered voter household for the November 3, 2015 municipal election, at an approximate cost of \$3,000. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

### **RESOLUTIONS - Continued**

RES. NO.  
2015-23

To Update the City of Venice Section of the Sarasota County Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group Project List, to Update the Floodplain Management Plan, to Include the Updated Sarasota County Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group Project List and Floodplain Management Plan as Portions of the Sarasota County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy 2010, and for the Updated Floodplain Management Plan and Sarasota County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy 2010 to Serve as the Formal Guides for the City of Venice's Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Activities; Superseding Resolution No. 2014-39; and Providing an Effective Date

Recess was taken from 11:56 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Without objection Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item at this time.

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Carlesimo, that Resolution No. 2015-23 be approved and adopted.**

Discussion followed regarding the importance of growing the city's financial reserves, financial reserve requirements per Florida statute, city credit rating and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) repayments of funds expended from a disaster.

In response to council questions regarding resolution wording and inconsistencies in sections of the document regarding hardening of city

hall and the 2010 budget, Ms. Weeden and Mr. Lavallee stated that the roof is an ongoing item with significant sections already completed and the document will be reviewed and corrected if needed.

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels to call the question. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

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

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

### **COUNCIL ACTION - Continued**

#### 15-1497

Direct the City Manager to Investigate the Utilization of Recreational Facilities Subject to the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Venice and Sarasota County Regarding Parks and Recreation Service and Provide a Quarterly Report to City Council (Holic)

Mayor Holic provided an overview of this item emphasizing that stakeholder groups were created to represent the various sport groups in the interlocal agreement using wording that is broad enough to allow the city manager to communicate so as to not violate sunshine laws. Each of the sports groups are to be provided information regarding their respective fields with the process to get input from their organizations and report back to the city.

Discussion resulted the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to be included in correspondence, board members have never been involved in the active parks and need to know what the teams feel are important regarding the fields.

After Mr. Lavallee thanked all of the park volunteers, he noted that the city does not have a department of recreation and suggested creating a parks position to be the city's representative.

Discussion ensued regarding adding a new position or turning the parks over to the county.

Bob Lentz, 1258 N Indies Circle, president, Sarasota Croquet spoke about the lack of city and county communication stating that Sarasota County informed him they cannot take any action regarding parks without first receiving direction from the city.

Discussion ensued that Wellfield Park usage is not well defined and this item will help with clarification

**A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Item No. 15-1497 be approved. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

[15-1498](#)

Discuss and Gain Consensus on 2016 State Legislative Priorities

Subsequent to Mayor Holic stating that the city needs to set legislative priorities, discussion ensued with the council developing a list of their top nine priorities.

Mr. Daniels left the meeting at 2:20 p.m. and returned at 2:21 p.m.

There was a consensus for the Legislative Priorities as follows:

1. Support Home Rule
2. Oppose Shifting Cost of Relocating Utilities
3. Transportation Funding
4. Beach Renourishment
5. Increase Programs to Help Homeless, Mental Illness and Addiction
6. Increase Opportunities for Historic Preservation
7. No Oil or Gas Drilling
8. Incentives for Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation and Efficiency Improvements
9. The City of Venice Supports the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Priorities for 2016.

[15-1499](#)

Direct Staff to Issue a Request for Proposal for an Engineering Firm to Develop a Plan for Wellfield Park Drainage Issues and Field Placements, to Include Placement of Sufficient Parking for Normal Sports Activities Within the Park (Holic)

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to approve item No. 15-1499.

Discussion followed regarding drainage issues for the entire city being addressed with it being suggested that funding should focus on neighborhoods first.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[15-1500](#)

Direct the City Manager, in Cooperation with Sarasota County, to Research a Lightning Proximity Warning System for Wellfield and Chuck Reiter Parks, with a Report to City Council by October 27, 2015 (Holic)

Subsequent to Mayor Holic introducing the item, discussion ensued with it being noted that Capri Isles has a lightning warning system that the teams often use.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Bennett, to approve Item No. 15-1500. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

## VII. COUNCIL REPORTS

### *Council Member Anderson*

[15-1502](#)

Discussion on Pocket Parks

Recess was taken from 2:48 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., with Ms. Anderson

absent.

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the proper naming and definition of pocket parks versus green space.

Ms. Anderson returned to the dais at 3:01 p.m.

Ms. Anderson opened the discussion by noting the perceived lack of knowledge by the citizens of the existence of the pocket parks, that she had difficulty locating many of the pocket parks, the pocket parks should be marked with signs, the historical significance of the John Nolen plan and the pocket parks and the pocket parks being considered as open spaces.

Subsequent to Ms. Anderson questioning if the city can legally sell the properties and that the open spaces are not easy to find due to the lack of signage it was suggested that Ms. Anderson place on the next agenda a request for the city to place signage at the entrance of the open spaces indicating public parks.

### III. CONSENT SECTION: Continued

#### B. CITY MANAGER: Continued

##### Engineering-Continued

###### 15-1489

Request Permission to Apply for and Accept Funds if Selected from the Southwest Florida Water Management District Cooperative Funding Grant Program for FY2017 Funding for the Ponce de Leon Water Quality Improvements Project

A motion was made by Council Member Carlesimo, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve Item No. 15-1489.

Discussion proceeded regarding maintenance by the city and adjoining property owners and the concern of setting precedence.

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

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

### VI. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

#### City Attorney

Mr. Persson reported that the city is the owner of the Hamilton Court

building, that he issued a letter regarding Mr. McKeon and one relative to charging for long term rentals with it being noted that the city of North Port and city of Sarasota do not charge for long term rentals while the town of Longboat Key does. He stated that the letter included how to modify long term rentals, if desired.

#### City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer reminded the council of the September 23, 2015 budget hearing.

#### City Manager

Mr. Lavalley provided an update of the Fire Department Feasibility Study noting the strict timeline to allow for inclusion on the March ballot for the charter change, the resort dwelling target date to enforce the rules which the council approved in January, 2015 will begin on October 1, 2015.

Discussion ensued with it being requested that Mr. Lavalley provide a report to council of those entities identified as short term rentals that are not in compliance.

#### 15-1501

#### Turtle Lighting Update

Mr. Lavalley reported that a work order was issued to FPL to remove 39 shrouds on selected street lights to provide illumination in those areas that do not impact turtle nesting, with this being the first phase of possible future adjustments to include the installation of amber lights which do not affect turtles.

### **VII. COUNCIL REPORTS - Continued**

#### ***Council Member Anderson-Continued***

Ms. Anderson had no report.

#### **Council Member Daniels**

Mr. Daniels reported on the Sarasota County Sports Commission FY2016 Grant Application Summary, the Tourist Development Council (TDC) update on the Sarasota Economic Impact on Tourism for Calendar Year 2014, Argus Foundation and he and Mr. Lavalley visited a local records storage company that is offering to store free for the first year historic preservation records.

#### ***Council Member Gates***

Ms. Gates had no report.

**Council Member McKeon**

Ms. Gates left the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Mr. McKeon reported on the Economic Development Advisory Board regarding a "Visit Sarasota County Tourism" update presentation, special event policy review, Chalk Festival sponsorship request, Rotary Art Fest sponsorship request and the Venice Area Historical Society Train Car funding request. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council legislative priorities and Manasota League of Cities.

**Council Member Bennett**

Mr. Bennett reported on the Community Alliance of Sarasota County still working on a restructuring study, the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization), the Community Alliance of Sarasota County is working on studying homeless veterans in Sarasota County and Doug Logan will present on the homeless at the October 13, 2015 city Council Meeting.

Ms. Gates returned to the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

**Council Member Carlesimo**

Mr. Carlesimo provided an update on the plaque for the recipient of the Medal of Honor which will be located in Veteran's Park, the Coastal Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding the "Venice Cares" website for volunteering.

**Mayor Holic**

Mayor Holic reported on for the next council meeting an agenda item regarding "sister cities", lights for Wellfield Park, Parks Master Plan, a letter from Wayne Applebee regarding homelessness, Council of Governments meeting with it being noted that the city will host the next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the Uber taxi service with a request for the city attorney to report to council with a one page brief on the city's ordinance, a discussion on the quality and number of benches placed on a future agenda and the city manager to provide an update regarding a tree that is impacting a city walkway.

**VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

No one signed up to speak.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk