

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
CONVOCAION OF GOVERNMENTS
VENICE CITY COUNCIL

January 17, 2014

A Special Meeting of the Venice City Council, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota County School Board, City of Sarasota Commissioners, Town of Longboat Key Commissioners, and City of North Port Commissioners was held this date at the Sarasota County Technical Institute, 4748 Beneva Road, Conference Center, Sarasota, Florida.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT

The following officials were present: City of Venice Mayor John Holic, Council Members Jim Bennett, Emilio Carlesimo, Jeanette Gates, Kit McKeon, and David Sherman, City Manager Ed Lavallee and City Clerk Lori Stelzer; Sarasota Board of County Commissioners Chair Charles D. Hines, Vice Chair Christine Robinson, Commissioners Joseph Barbetta, Carolyn Mason, and Nora Patterson, and County Administrator Thomas Harmer; City of Sarasota Vice Mayor Willie Shaw, Commissioners Suzanne Atwell, Paul Caraguilo, and Susan Chapman, City Manager Thomas Barwin, and Deputy City Auditor and Clerk Karen McGowan; Town of Longboat Key Mayor Jim Brown, Vice Mayor David Brenner, Commissioners Jack Duncan, Terry Gans, and Lynn Larson, Town Manager David Bullock, Deputy Town Clerk Jo Ann Mixon, and Town Clerk Trish Granger; City of North Port Mayor Linda Yates, Vice Mayor Jim Blucher, Commissioners Cheryl Cook, and Rhonda Y. DiFranco, City Manager Jonathan Lewis and City Clerk Helen Raimbeau; School Board of Sarasota County Chair Jane Goodwin, Members Shirley Brown, Frank Kovach, and Caroline Zucker, School Board Chief Operating Officer Scott Lempe, Superintendent Lori White, Director of Long-Range Planning Ken Marsh, and Planning Analyst Micki Ryan.

I. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Goodwin called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., and following introductions, provided opening remarks.

II. CONVOCAION GOALS AND AGENDA

Sarasota County Schools of Career, Technical and Adult Education Executive Director Dr. Todd Bowden and Career Edge Executive Director Mireya Eavey reviewed agenda items and goals.

III. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Eavey discussed the Career Edge program, the funds raised that have been used to train 2,115 individuals, and the success of this training.

Dr. Bowden discussed Sarasota County Technical Institute's role in the training process, specifically the Precision Machining Lab program and its focus on job placement.

Discussion ensued regarding job placement success, program costs, the depth of training provided by the program, and gratitude for the program.

IV. TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR NORTH PORT, WITH A POSSIBLE JOINT-USE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. Marsh provided an overview of the analysis that was conducted for the North Port Economic Development Strategic Plan and its results.

Dr. Bowden discussed potential education that can be offered from a North Port SCTI location which will provide career development in the area.

Sarabeth Kalajian, Sarasota County Director of Libraries & Historical Resources, discussed the concept of a combined library and education institute media center and its success in other jurisdictions.

Discussion ensued regarding tax revenues and next year's legislative agenda, the plan for the library, possible funding sources, operational costs, availability of government owned land for the library site, growth potential for the city, Longboat Key's participation with tax revenue, the emerging demographics of North Port, forgetting jurisdictional lines, a tentative meeting in September 2014, and reinstatement of school taxes.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding the traffic issue at Venice High School.

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mireya Elvey discussed the sewer smell issue at LaMarque Elementary.

Discussion ensued regarding the sewer smell issue and other health issues that have arisen. Testing has been done on air quality and drywall, and the results have shown there is no drywall contamination.

Ms. Eavey commented on the need for an SCTI program in North Port.

Peter Straw discussed community support for the SCTI program.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor – City of Venice

City Clerk