



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, April 28, 2020

9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

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### VIRTUAL MEETING (See Instructions Below)

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

[20-4476](#)

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

Ms. Fernandez referenced Executive Order No. 20-69 issued by Governor DeSantis and Executive Order No. 2020-04 issued by the city regarding public meetings, and commented on public participation in public meetings.

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ROLL CALL

**Mr. Pachota joined the meeting at 9:29 a.m.**

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Council Member Richard Cautero, Vice Mayor Charles Newsom, Dr. Margaret Fiedler, Council Member Helen Moore, Council Member Nick Pachota and Dr. Joseph Neunder

#### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Finance Director Linda Senne, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

#### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Feinsod.

#### I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Kara Morgan, CEO of Venice MainStreet (VMS), commented on business closures, external appearance of vacant buildings in downtown, and the organization's mission and history.

Rod Nafziger, on behalf of VMS Board of Directors and Ciao Gelato, suggested VMS and the city work together to adopt guidelines for property

owners in downtown on the external appearance of vacant building storefronts.

## **II. CONSENT SECTION:**

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve items in the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **A. MAYOR**

[20-4477](#)

Reappoint Ernest Booker to the Code Enforcement Board to Serve a Term from May 1, 2020 Until April 30, 2023

This reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

### **B. CITY CLERK**

[20-4478](#)

Minutes of the April 14, 2020 Virtual Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

### **C. CITY MANAGER**

#### Airport

[20-4479](#)

Approval to Submit an Application for Federal Assistance to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Accept a Grant Offer to Design the Extension of Taxiway E at Venice Municipal Airport in the Amount of \$175,019.00

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

#### Engineering

[20-4480](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute Amendment No. 1 to Work Assignment No. 2019-05ENG with Atkins North America, Inc., in the Amount of \$19,950.00 for Engineering Services for the Capri Isles Bridge Replacement Project

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

## **III. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

There were none.

## **IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING**

[ORD. NO.](#)  
[2020-07](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Annexing Certain Lands Lying Contiguous to the City Limits, Pursuant to Petition No. 19-28AN by SSD

Land Holdings, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, W. Russell Snyder and Iralyn M. Snyder, Jason Milton Kramer and Jonathan Sol Kramer, Into the Corporate Limits of the City of Venice, Florida, and Redefining the Boundary Lines of the City to Include Said Additions; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Feinsod opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer read written communication received.

No one signed up to speak.

Mayor Feinsod closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Newsom, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Ordinance No. 2020-07 be approved and adopted.**

Discussion followed regarding city services provided to annexed properties, including reclaimed water.

Mr. Shrum advised the Technical Review Committee (TRC) flags issues on providing services and information is included in the staff report.

Discussion continued regarding reclaimed water supply to properties.

Ms. Fernandez noted the city's code controls over usage and connection to reclaimed water.

Mayor Feinsod commented on property values and suggested the city take a slower approach on growth and development at this time.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Dr. Neunder

**No:** 1 - Mayor Feinsod

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Pachota

**ORD. NO.**  
**2020-11**

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 46, Parks and Recreation, by Creating Article V, Camping and Storage of Personal Property on Public Property; Providing for Definitions; Providing for the Restriction of Camping on City Owned Property and Rights-Of-Way; Providing for the Restriction of Storage of Personal Property on Public Property; Providing for Enforcement and Penalties; Providing for Severability; Providing for the Repeal of Ordinances in Conflict; and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Feinsod opened the public hearing.

No written communication was received and no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Feinsod closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Newsom, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Ordinance No. 2020-11 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore and Dr. Neunder

**Absent:** 1 - Mr. Pachota

[ORD. NO.  
2020-12](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida Amending the Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Administration, Article IV, Finance, Division 2, Purchases, to Allow for more Effective and Efficient Procurement Procedures; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing An Effective Date

Mr. Pachota joined the meeting.

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Feinsod opened the public hearing.

No written communication was received and no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Feinsod closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Council Member Moore, seconded by Dr. Neunder, that Ordinance No. 2020-12 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota and Dr. Neunder

[ORD. NO.  
2020-13](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Establishing the Laurel Road Community Development District; Establishing the Boundaries of that District; Appointing the Initial Board of Supervisors; Providing for Powers of the Board; Consenting to Exercise of Certain Special Powers by the Board; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Feinsod opened the public hearing.

No written communication was received and no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Feinsod closed the public hearing.

**A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Dr. Neunder, that Ordinance No. 2020-13 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota and Dr. Neunder

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. ORDINANCES**

#### [ORD. NO. 2020-14](#)

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2019-32 Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2019 and Ending September 30, 2020; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$3,536,482.00 and Total Expenditures by \$3,536,482.00; and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only, and read written communication received.

**A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Cautero, that Ordinance No. 2020-14 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota and Dr. Neunder

### **B. RESOLUTIONS**

#### [RES. NO. 2020-09](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Authorizing Appropriate Government Officials to Execute a Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Project Number 447219-1-94-01 By and Between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Venice, Florida, to Provide Participation in an Aviation Project to Construct Parallel Taxiway E Extension at the Venice Municipal Airport; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

**A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Vice Mayor Newsom, that Resolution No. 2020-09 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota and Dr. Neunder

#### [RES. NO. 2020-10](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Sarasota County, Florida, Amending the City of Venice Personnel Procedures and Rules, 2013 Edition, Section 2.17, Employee Recognition Programs; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

**A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Vice Mayor Newsom, that Resolution No. 2020-10 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota and Dr. Neunder

Recess was taken at 9:44 a.m. until 9:49 a.m.

### **C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION**

#### [20-4481](#)

#### Response and Actions Related to COVID-19

Mr. Lavallee commented on communication with Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and COVID-19 reports sent to staff on a daily basis, food trucks licensed by the state operating remotely, availability of the Venice Community Center (VCC), employees working from home, virtual and on-site meetings, beach openings and parking access, and requested council's input on beach parking.

Discussion followed on mirroring the county for public safety.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on circumstances that led to beach closures.

Discussion ensued on opening beach parking lots on a limited basis, the governing authority to open parking lots during emergency conditions, residents following current guidelines, nearby street parking, including beach parking information on the city's website, opening handicap parking spaces, Nokomis and Venice beaches, keeping in sync with the county, and providing accessible handicap parking.

Mr. Lavallee confirmed only handicap parking will be allowed at the beach, and noted he will convey the city's position to the county.

Chief Carvey reported on the spike in positive COVID-19 tests, public test sites throughout the county, hospital capacity, and personal protective equipment (PPE) shipment and shortage.

Discussion continued regarding the increase in positive COVID-19 cases.

#### [20-4482](#)

#### Direct Staff to Research and Develop Minimum Standards for External Appearance of Vacant Buildings in Downtown Area (Feinsod)

Mayor Feinsod spoke on his observations of sidewalk conditions and external appearance of vacant storefronts.

Discussion followed regarding establishing minimum standards for building aesthetics, working with downtown property owners, incorporating standards in the land development regulations (LDRs), the city's sign

ordinance, and partnering with VMS to help develop standards.

**A motion was made by Mayor Feinsod, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to approve Item No. 20-4482. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Vice Mayor Newsom, Dr. Fiedler, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota and Dr. Neunder

Recess was taken at 10:39 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

#### **D. PRESENTATIONS**

##### [20-4483](#)

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

Ms. Senne reviewed FY20 general fund revenues, budget, expenses, unassigned fund balance, and reserves.

Discussion followed regarding general fund reserves, conserving cash, delaying uncommitted capital projects, hiring freeze, retaining fleet vehicles, prioritizing city expenses, adopting a flexible budget for FY21, contingency plan to mitigate revenue losses, cash conservation fund, economic recovery, and the city's eligibility for federal aid.

**A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Vice Mayor Newsom, for staff to present council with cash conserving options for FY20, and continue process for the FY21 budget. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Discussion continued on staff's timeframe to provide information to council.

Ms. Senne commented on capital projects in the general fund.

Discussion ensued regarding uncommitted capital expenditures in the general fund, cash savings, reviewing and freezing open positions, tax revenues, one-cent sales tax revenue, budget projections, prioritizing capital projects for FY21, hiring freeze, and projects funded by the one-cent sales tax.

Ms. Senne commented on the one-cent sales tax fund.

#### **VI. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS**

##### City Attorney

Ms. Fernandez had no report.

##### City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer had no report.

City Manager

Mr. Lavallee had no report.

**VII. COUNCIL REPORTS*****Council Member Moore***

Ms. Moore had no report.

***Council Member Cautero***

Mr. Cautero had no report.

***Council Member Neunder***

Dr. Neunder had no report.

***Council Member Pachota***

Mr. Pachota thanked council for their support during this time.

***Council Member Newsom***

Vice Mayor Newsom reported on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting.

***Council Member Fiedler***

Dr. Fiedler commented on upcoming virtual planning commission meetings in May.

***Mayor Feinsod***

Mayor Feinsod commented on residents bringing issues to the city's attention.

**VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.



**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk