



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[24-0155](#)

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

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Ms. Joan Farrell, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith and Mr. Rick Howard

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Clerk, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Finance Director Linda Senne, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ashlee Castle, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Smith.

I. RECOGNITION

[24-0156](#)

Proclaim April 26, 2024 as "Arbor Day", Presented to Scott Gorski, Tree Crew Leader and Jim Yelverton, City Arborist

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[24-0157](#)

Proclaim May 2024 as "Historic Preservation Month, Presented to Historic and Architectural Preservation Board Vice Chair Jean Trammell

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[24-0158](#)

Proclaim May 2024 as "Building Safety Month", Presented to Deputy Building Official Paul Rakes and Building Department Staff

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

[24-0159](#)

Proclaim the Week of May 5-11, 2024 as "Municipal Clerk's Week",
Presented to City Clerk Kelly Michaels and City Clerk Staff

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

Recess was taken from 9:20 a.m. until 9:31 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Joan Roscoe, 882 Wood Sorrel Lane, spoke against any audience participation changes.

Jan Vertefuille, 321 Pedro Street, spoke against changing the election terms.

Jenny Heussner, 1100 Tarpon Center Drive, spoke on having dedicated pickleball courts at Hecksher Park and recommended a dispute resolution process between the city and county.

Tom Gualdoni, 636 Valencia Road, spoke on audience participation and continuation, and against changing the elections terms.

Curt Whittaker, 613 West Venice Avenue, spoke against the extension of council terms, and changing the election process.

Anthony Demeo, 249 Mestre Place, spoke on term limits and against changing the voting process, and against changing audience participation.

Tracy Ivey, 120 Base Avenue E, spoke in favor of the butterfly sculpture, expressed concerns about the proposed placement, and recommended another location in the park away from the children's play area but still in the arboretum.

Larry Wilson, 601 Armada Road South, spoke on audience participation and the election terms and against changing them.

Ruth Cordner, 246 Montelluna Drive, spoke against changing the election terms.

Nancy Deforge, 332 Laurel Hollow Drive, spoke in favor of keeping the general audience participation procedure as it currently is, and recommended returning to paper speaker cards.

[24-0168](#)

General Audience Participation

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Ms. Moore, that items on

the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[24-0160](#)

Minutes of the April 4, 2024 Unified Control Workshop and the April 9, 2024 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY MANAGER

Public Works

[24-0161](#)

Authorize Sale of EMS Rescue Van Unit 16-188 to the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO.
2024-11](#)

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Accepting Utilities and Improvements from Rustic Oaks Community Development District and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date (Magnolia Bay North Phase 1)

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Resolution No. 2024-11 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

B. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[24-0162](#)

Tyler Eaton, Chair of the Fire Pension Board of Trustees: Board's Annual Report and Council Feedback

Tyler Eaton provided a report on the Fire Pension Board, investments, target allocations, and funding.

[24-0163](#)

Consider the Citizen Advisory Board's Recommendation for City Council to Approve Placement of a Butterfly Sculpture in West Blalock Park

Historical Resources Manager Klinkhamer and Assistant Director of Public

Works Castle answered Council questions regarding the location of the butterfly sculpture, and the possibility of continuing the item to a future meeting so Public Works may evaluate alternative locations for placement within the arboretum.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to continue the placement of a butterfly sculpture in West Blalock Park to the next meeting in order to give City staff time to evaluate location and placement of the sculpture. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Howard

No: 1 - Mr. Smith

[24-0164](#)

Discuss General Audience Participation Procedures (Attorney Fernandez)

City Attorney Fernandez stated the recommendation is not taking away public comment rights, but seeking to remove inconsistencies in the code.

Discussion took place on citizen engagement, not restricting input, speaking on agenda items, and cleaning up code language.

City Attorney Fernandez addressed issues that were in conflict, public hearings, general audience participation, Council commenting on audience participation, allowing citizens to speak on an agenda item if they want to, and speaking on others behalf.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Farrell, to not make any changes. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

No: 2 - Mayor Pachota and Mrs. Frank

Recess was taken from 10:37 a.m. to 10:47 a.m.

[24-0165](#)

Report Back on Charter Officer Directive from January 23, 2024, to Research the Expansion of City Council Terms to Four Years with Term Limitations of Two Consecutive Four Year Terms Coinciding with the County Commissioner Election Cycles (Clerk Michaels)

Clerk Michaels provided a presentation on the transitional adjustment to terms in order to move to an even year election cycle coinciding with Sarasota County Commissioner election and reducing the term limits from three consecutive times to two consecutive times. Four implementation options were presented showing the following cost considerations: Option 1 showing elections in 2025 and 2027 at a cost of \$100,000; Option 2 eliminating the election in 2027 at a cost of \$50,000; Option 3 eliminating both elections in 2025 and 2027 at a cost of \$0; Option 4 also eliminating both elections at a cost of \$0.

Discussion took place regarding turn out numbers in odd election years versus even election years, information from the Supervisor of Election, annual accountability, non-partisan races, term limits, adjustments to terms during the transitional period, 4 year terms versus 3 year terms, difficulty getting candidates to run, the learning curve for new members, the benefits of vote by mail, disagreement with the pace of implementing the change, data in support of giving voter's the right to choose by referendum vote, and other municipalities in Sarasota County already changed to even-year election cycles, potential costs savings for taxpayers, canvassing board resources, turnout numbers for even years greater than for odd years, partisan politics, referring matter to Charter Review Board or Citizen Advisory Board for recommendation, the cost of elections and allowing voters to decide the matter by referendum vote.

Mrs. Frank called for the question.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to proceed with Option 3 by placing the matter on a future agenda for an ordinance to hold a referendum empowering the voters to decide if the charter should be amended. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank and Mr. Howard

No: 2 - Ms. Farrell and Mr. Smith

Recess was taken from 11:38 a.m. until 11:50 a.m.

C. PRESENTATION WITH ACTION

[24-0166](#)

Mara Skadden, Director of Science with the Marine Resources Council: Developing New Shoreline Protection Techniques (Ms. Farrell)

Mara Skadden, Director of Science for the Marine Resources Council, provided a presentation to include the Marine Resources Council information, Shoreline Development in Florida, Shoreline Hardening Stabilization Techniques, Living Shoreline Restoration, examples of a living shoreline, a partial living shoreline, and a no living shoreline, benefits of mangroves, 2024 Reef Arch Hybrid Deployment, and answered Council questions regarding meaning of overtopped in storm events, public response to project, length of sections installed, wildlife activity, adding mangroves after sediment buildup occurs, varieties of mangroves, whether smaller installations are effective, ability to reuse materials, reason for concrete material versus plastic, where concrete arches are produced, and working with Mang mangrove operation.

A motion was made by Ms. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Smith, to direct the City Manager to negotiate with the Marine Resources Council on an hourly consultation fee, to conduct a survey of Venice shorelines for the purpose of identifying appropriate sites for planting mangroves and establishing living shorelines.

Discussion took place regarding a project in Punta Gorda, and source of funding.

City Manager Lavallee complimented the presentation, and noted the procurement process would have to be followed.

Discussion took place regarding concerns for sufficient City-owned eligible shorelines, financial impact, use of grants, being in favor of additional research, cost involved, and getting the City Engineer's input.

Ms. Farrell amended her motion to direct the appropriate Charter Officer to bring back pertinent information including any financial impacts related to the feasibility of conducting a survey of Venice shorelines for the purpose of identifying appropriate sites for the planting of mangroves and establishing living shorelines.

There was consensus to accept the amendment.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

D. PRESENTATION

[24-0167](#)

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

Finance Director Senne provided a second quarter financial update presentation to include General Fund Revenues, Inter-governmental Revenues, Charges for Services, Miscellaneous Revenues, General Fund Expenditures, budgeted expenses, required reserves, upcoming agreements, projects affecting 2025 budgeting, and reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

VI. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez spoke on sharing information on legislative updates when appropriate and the judge's pending decision for Milano Planned Unit Development (PUD) appeal on whether there will be oral arguments.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels reminded Council of the May 8, 2024 Ethics Training, and spoke on Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) student applications.

Discussion took place regarding the principal's recommendation requirement, Council's review and ranking of student applications, and defining a process for the future.

City Clerk Michaels spoke on vacancies for a regular seat on the Citizen's Advisory Board and the Historic Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB), and numerous repeated recruitments for HAPB without any applicants.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee stated Council will receive a copy of a letter he sent in response to a public comment regarding fencing at Higel Park and will continue to share with Council when staff responds to public comment on operational matters.

VII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore spoke on the Sharks Tooth Festival hosted by Venice MainStreet, Public Safety Day, and HAPB and Planning Commission meetings.

Council Member Farrell

Ms. Farrell had no report.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard reported on a Coastal Advisory Committee meeting, Venice Jetty repairs update, and County Commission's approval of the Robert's Bay Anchoring limitation.

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith reported on the Earth Day celebration at the arboretum, the Sharks Tooth Festival, and follow-up to public comment on Pickleball at Hecksher Park.

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank thanked staff for Public Safety Day.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on Tiger Bay meetings with government leaders and legislative updates, and upcoming Tourist Development Council and Manasota League of Cities meetings.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on opening the Shark Tooth Festival, Citizen's Police Academy graduation, upcoming Teen Leadership graduation, Public Safety Day, and Economic Outlook breakfast.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no one signed up to speak.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk