



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Monday, December 9, 2013

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAXING UNIT (MSTU) WORKSHOP

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

- Present:** 6 - Council Member Emilio Carlesimo, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member David Sherman, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels and Mayor John Holic
- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Jim Bennett

#### Also Present

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Administrative Services Director Alan Bullock and Recording Secretary Judy Gamel.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Gates.

#### I. PRESENTATIONS

**14-0656** Howard Kunik, City Manager, City of Punta Gorda

Mr. Kunik commented on Punta Gorda's property tax rates of the city versus unincorporated Charlotte County, and Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTUs), displayed tax records from Punta Gorda with emphasis on city, school district, and Charlotte County millage rates, and noted expenses that the city does not fund. He answered council questions regarding county taxes applied for road patrol, sheriff assistance within the city, city population, and staffing.

Mr. Bullock reviewed the city staffing numbers based off of data reviewed on the Punta Gorda website.

Mr. Kunik answered further council questions on equipment, and the history of the development of MSTUs within the county.

Mr. Persson clarified the definition and process of dual taxation.

Mayor Holic referenced classes he attended in regards to the sheriff's department, and commented on equitable treatment with the county, and the unilateral decision to remove the School Resource Officers (SROs).

**14-0657**

Ken Small, Financial Technical Assistance Manager, Florida League of Cities

Mr. Small noted that in Sarasota County city and non-city residents pay the same amount to fund the sheriff's department, commented on Charlotte County taxes, and answered council questions regarding other services provided by the sheriff's department. He continued his presentation with emphasis on double taxation, MSTU statutes, commented on various counties uses of MSTUs, and answered council questions on total registered voters in the unincorporated county compared to collective registered voter totals in the cities, and county services that the city may be able to receive.

## **II. DISCUSSION**

**13-0280**

Mayor Holic's Handouts for Workshop

Discussion took place on residents taxes being used fairly.

Mr. Small stated that it depends on how the Board of County Commissioners fund the sheriff.

Discussion followed on the removal of the SRO and funding.

Recess was taken at 10:15 a.m. until 10:20 a.m.

Discussion continued with the suggestion that the city mayors meet for further discussion, county wide millage rates, the need to obtain the city tax figures, studies within the state that show a county board having control over schools and sheriffs, and allocation of sheriff expenses.

Mr. Bullock provided the county and city millage rates.

Mr. Persson provided clarification on the procedure for consensus during the workshop.

Further discussion on the pros and cons of an MSTU continued.

## **III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Don O'Connell, city resident, commented on previous dual taxation cases and expressed support for the city.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk

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