



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, February 11, 2020

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Newsom called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Council Member Richard Cautero, Vice Mayor Charles Newsom, Dr. Margaret Fiedler, Council Member Helen Moore, Council Member Nick Pachota and Dr. Joseph Neunder

**Absent:** 1 - Mayor Ron Feinsod

### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, and for certain items on the agenda: Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, and Controller Joe Welch.

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Bramble.

### I. RECOGNITION

[20-4380](#)

Proclaim the Week of February 16-22, 2020 as "Engineers Week", Presented to Marquis Bing, P.E., Sarasota County Public Works Transportation Planning, Chris Sharek, P.E., Florida Section President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Assistant City Engineer Jonathan Kramer, Stormwater Engineer Steve Berens, Public Works Director and Asset Manager James Clinch, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Assistant Utilities Director Tom West, Utilities Project Manager Patience Anastasio, and Planning/GIS Analyst II Kelsey Mahoney

**Dr. Neunder presented this proclamation to Marquis Bing, Chris Sharek, and engineers employed by the city.**

**II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.**

Chris Johnson, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, provided an update on homelessness in Sarasota County and responded to council questions on providing council with statistics by municipalities and Robert Marbut, Executive Director of United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Janice Schippert, Venice, expressed opposition to eliminating prayer from council meetings.

**III. CONSENT SECTION:**

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Dr. Neunder, to approve items in the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item Nos. 20-4387 and 20-4390. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**A. MAYOR**[20-4381](#)

Appoint Deborah Kelly to the Citizen Tax Oversight Committee to Complete the Unexpired Term of Verna Silk from February 11, 2020 Until November 30, 2020

**This appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

[20-4382](#)

Reappoint Victor Manning to the Citizen Tax Oversight Committee to Serve a Term from February 29, 2020 Until February 29, 2024

**This reappointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

[20-4383](#)

Appoint Brian Kelly to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals to Serve a Term from February 11, 2020 Until February 28, 2023

**This appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

[20-4384](#)

Appoint Nancy Joy Bush to the Environmental Advisory Board to Complete the Term of David Stone from February 11, 2020 Until November 30, 2020

**This appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

[20-4385](#)

Appoint Thomas Cookingham to the Historic Preservation Board to Complete the Term of Mack (Curt) Whittaker from February 11, 2020 Until June 30, 2022

**This appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

[20-4386](#)

Appoint John Hinshaw to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to Complete the Unexpired Term of Joan Piper from February 11, 2020 Until August 31, 2021

**This appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

**B. CITY CLERK**

[20-4388](#) Minutes of January 17, 2020 Convocation of Governments and January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

**C. CITY MANAGER**Historical Resources

[20-4389](#) Approve "Red Butterfly" and "Torso" Sculptures by Luis Fernandez Lugefelo to be Placed at the Venice Arts Center

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Police

[20-4395](#) Approval of a Change Order in the Amount of \$7,248.72 for the Purchase of Audio Visual and Data Systems for the City of Venice Public Safety Facility from Audio Visual Partners

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT****MAYOR - Continued**

[20-4387](#) Appoint Fred Fraize to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals to Serve a Term from February 11, 2020 Until February 28, 2023

A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to approve Item No. 20-4387.

Discussion took place regarding comments made by the applicant on social media, implementing a process to interview candidates prior to board appointments, and delaying approval of appointment.

Ms. Fernandez responded to council questions on whether there is criteria on reviewing social media for advisory board appointments.

Discussion continued on code of ethics applying to advisory board members, applicant's conduct and service on council, considering a city policy on social media, and advisory board appointments.

Ms. Fernandez responded to council questions on the city's liability for denying a board appointment.

Discussion ensued on addressing advisory board appointments during

strategic planning.

The motion failed by voice vote 2-4 with Mr. Cautero and Dr. Fiedler in favor.

### ***CITY MANAGER - Continued***

#### 20-4390

Approve Combined Mutual Aid Agreement and Voluntary Assistance Agreement for Law Enforcement Services During Special Events

**A motion was made by Council Member Pachota, seconded by Dr. Neunder, to approve Item No. 20-4390.**

Chief Mattmuller responded to council questions on funding of law enforcement services during special events.

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

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### 19-4295

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Locally Funded Agreement for Use of Park Impact Fees Between Sarasota County and the City of Venice for ADA Mobility Mats at Beach Parks

**A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve Item No. 19-4295.**

Discussion followed regarding mobility mat cost, liability concerns with using volunteers, mat maintenance, and staffing.

Ms. Weeden advised one mat will cost less than \$50,000 through park impact fees and there is no cart proposed for this project.

Mr. Clinch spoke regarding volunteers assisting with daily maintenance of mat, weekly inspection of mat by city staff, having a mat at one location and reporting back to council on maintenance requirements, Sarasota County's feedback on mats, and responded to council questions on estimated yearly maintenance costs.

Discussion continued on placing a mat at Venice Beach on a trial basis and staff reporting back to council six months after installation.

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

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION**

#### 20-4391

Discussion on Youth Advisory Board (Pachota)

Mr. Pachota commented on the theory behind a youth advisory board and noted young members in the community want to be involved.

Discussion followed on youth advisory board, bringing this item up at strategic planning, board ideas, how to address longevity issues, partnering with local schools, Chamber of Commerce leadership program, student member positions on advisory boards, advisory board feasibility study, staff involvement in advisory boards, articulating a clear mission and goal, engaging student interest, funding, and board concept.

**There was consensus to discuss youth advisory board at strategic planning.**

Discussion continued on Ms. Stelzer distributing a copy of Mr. Lavallee's report on annual hours and cost of staff time for advisory boards to council.

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

### [20-4392](#)

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

Mr. Welch reviewed the quarterly financial to include general fund reserves, one-cent sales tax, building permit fees, airport, utilities, solid waste and stormwater funds, and capital projects.

Discussion followed regarding estimated property values and new construction, communication service tax, balancing the general fund budget, building fund balance reserves, discussing financial goals at the budget workshop, unassigned fund balance, natural disaster and target reserves, increasing reserves, solid waste and stormwater reserves, status of road impact fees, Pinebrook Road at East Venice Avenue and Ridgewood Avenue intersection project, and staff providing council with an update on impact fees that can be implemented FY21.

Mr. Welch provided a status update on government use fees, solid waste and recycling fees, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) fees for new construction.

Discussion ensued on staff providing council with the projected number of new construction at the budget workshop.

## **VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS**

### City Attorney

### [20-4393](#)

Update on the Post Office Parcel (Fernandez)

Ms. Fernandez provided an update on the post office parcel and recommended she contact the property appraiser's office to confirm vacation of the alleyway.

**There was consensus for Ms. Fernandez to contact the property appraiser's office on the post office parcel.**

Ms. Fernandez noted the U.S. Government raised the minimum age requirement to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21, the county stood down from taking further action on vaping at their last meeting, and suggested council not do anything further since the minimum age requirement was raised.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer had no report.

City Manager

Mr. Bramble commented on parking at Village on the Isle (VOTI) for next week's strategic planning session.

Ms. Stelzer noted she will provide parking information to council.

**VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS**

***Council Member Fiedler***

Dr. Fiedler noted planning commission will be meeting with the Architectural Review Board (ARB) and Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) regarding the land development regulations (LDRs).

***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 had no report.

***Council Member Newsom***

Vice Mayor Newsom had no report.

***Mayor Feinsod***

Mayor Feinsod was absent.

**IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk