



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING (See Instructions Below)

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

[20-4495](#)

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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, Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Finance Director Linda Senne, Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There was a moment of silence for former planning commission member Tom Murphy.

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

I. RECOGNITION

[20-4496](#)

Proclaim the Week of May 17-23, 2020 as "National EMS Week",
Presented to Fire Chief Shawn Carvey

Mayor Feinsod read the proclamation.

[20-4497](#)

Proclaim May 2020 as "National Preservation Month"

Mayor Feinsod read the proclamation.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

No one signed up to speak.

Recess was taken at 9:12 a.m. until 9:13 a.m.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Cautero, to approve items in the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item No. 20-4501. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. MAYOR

[20-4498](#)

Recommend Bicycle Pedestrian Program Coordinator Darlene Culpepper to the Sarasota County Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trail Advisory Committee to Serve a Term from June 1, 2020 Until May 31, 2023

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[20-4499](#)

Appoint Richard Lawson to Planning Commission to Complete the Unexpired Term of Tom Murphy from May 12, 2020 Until January 31, 2022

This Appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY CLERK

[20-4500](#)

Minutes of the April 28, 2020 Virtual Meeting

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGER

Engineering

[20-26FP](#)

Accept the Developers Completion and Payment Bond in the Amount of \$863,460.19, Developers Final Asphalt Lift Completion and Payment Bond in the Amount of \$144,404.58, Developers Sidewalk Completion and Payment Bond in the Amount of \$269,473.75 and Declaration of Maintenance Responsibilities from LALP Development, LLC, and Authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and City Engineer to Sign Toscana Isles, Unit 2, Phase 5 Final Plat

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

CITY MANAGER - Continued**Engineering - Continued****20-4501**

Authorize the Mayor to Execute Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF) SW580460 (Live Oak Stormwater Improvements) Loan Amendment 1, to Increase the Original Loan by \$87,081.00 and Making the Total Loan Amount \$611,063.00

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve Item No. 20-4501.

Per council's request, Mr. Lavalley explained project funding.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**A. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING****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.

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 Cautero, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2020-14 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

VI. NEW BUSINESS**A. RESOLUTIONS****RES. NO.
2020-11**

A Resolution of the City of Venice, Florida, Accepting Utilities and Improvements Installed by Neal Signature Homes, LLC and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond and Bill of Sale, and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Resolution No. 2020-11 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

B. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

20-4502

Response and Actions Related to COVID-19

Discussion took place regarding beach openings and restaurant outdoor dining.

Mr. Lavallee spoke to restaurants complying with outdoor dining social distancing standards, Coalition of Business Associations (COBA) letter received dated May 1, 2020 to include requests to expedite applications and waive permit fees, and responded to council questions regarding city's cost to waive fees, budget being affected, and the building department's enterprise fund balance.

Ms. Senne noted the ending fund balance for the building department's enterprise fund.

20-4503

Request Sending a Letter to the Governor Regarding COVID-19 Testing (Feinsod)

Mayor Feinsod spoke to his request for a COVID-19 test site in Venice.

Discussion followed on test sites in Sarasota County, the city's age demographic, testing first responders first, communicating request to the county, testing in pharmacies, and April 24, 2020 Executive Order No. 20-006 issued by Governor DeSantis allowing licensed pharmacists in Florida to administer COVID-19 tests.

Deputy Chief Giddens spoke to testing sites and communicating with the Department of Health (DOH) for a potential testing site in Venice.

Discussion continued regarding involving the county, pharmacists administering tests, Deputy Chief Giddens communicating with the DOH, Executive Order No. 20-006, and availability of test kits.

There was consensus for Deputy Chief Giddens to contact the DOH for a potential COVID-19 testing site in Venice.

20-4504

Discuss Assisting Businesses on West Venice Avenue (Feinsod)

Discussion followed regarding assisting downtown merchants, closing east side of West Venice Avenue to allow restaurants to expand outdoor dining, downtown survey conducted by staff, survey results, closing the street

during certain times, cost to close street(s), merchant support, resident feedback, parking concerns, equitability with other downtown businesses on Miami and Tampa Avenues, and concern with dining tables in the middle of the street.

Mr. Lavallee spoke to staff researching street closures, placing road barriers, cost to close one traffic lane, deliveries to merchants, emergency service access, parking, and allowing restaurants to expand outdoor dining areas along the sidewalk.

Discussion ensued on maintaining Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance, fee structure, obtaining feedback from neighboring merchants on expansion of outside dining areas, additional permitting costs, and charge for use of public space.

There was consensus for staff to research and obtain input on restaurants expanding outside dining areas along the downtown sidewalk.

Mr. Lavallee suggested scheduling a special meeting if results are favorable for council action.

Ms. Stelzer read written communication received from city resident Jackie Mineo.

Discussion continued regarding downtown sidewalk width, social distancing between diners and pedestrians, and personal responsibility.

Ms. Fernandez commented on the email included in the agenda packet between Mayor Feinsod and Vice Mayor Newsom on this topic.

Discussion took place on the mayor's response to emails addressed to council.

Recess was taken at 10:34 a.m. until 10:43 a.m.

C. PRESENTATION

[20-4505](#)

Finance Director Linda Senne: FY20 Budget Update (10 min.)

Ms. Senne spoke on general fund expenses to include COVID-19 related expenses and measures taken to conserve cash.

Mr. Pachota returned to the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Ms. Senne spoke on personnel costs, operating expenses, capital outlay, projected FY20 revenues, budget variance, proposed budget to city council in June, balanced budget, projected one-cent sales tax revenues, utilities

fund, state revenues, and responded to council questions regarding projected one-cent sales tax revenues.

Discussion followed regarding capital spending in the general fund, creating a flexible budget, and formulating a contingency plan for revenue degradation.

Mr. Lavallee spoke to the cancellation of the July 4, 2020 fireworks and requested council's input.

Discussion followed on delaying fireworks to a later date, cost of fireworks, and conserving money.

Ms. Stelzer read written communication received from city resident Mike Rafferty.

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

Ms. Fernandez spoke to virtual meeting process timeframe and upcoming quasi-judicial matters.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer had no report.

City Manager

Mr. Lavallee commented on the opening of city facilities, power washing of the pier, and staff's daily communication with Sarasota County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Fiedler

Dr. Fiedler reported on the planning commission meeting.

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore commented on beach turtle nests.

Council Member Cautero

Mr. Cautero inquired on a social distancing plan when meetings resume in council chambers.

Mr. Lavallee explained staff's plan for meetings in council chambers.

Council Member Neunder

Dr. Neunder had no report.

Council Member Newsom

Vice Mayor Newsom had no report.

Council Member Pachota

Mr. Pachota had no report.

Mayor Feinsod

Mayor Feinsod thanked residents for wearing face masks in public and maintaining social distancing.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk