



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[26-0511](#)

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith, Mr. Rick Howard, Mr. Kevin Engelke and Mr. Lloyd Weed

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Gregory, and for certain items on the agenda: Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Senior Planner Nicole Tremblay, Planner Brittany Smith, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Rick Simpson, CRS Coordinator Christina Rimes, City Engineer Jon Kramer, and Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief Leisenring.

I. RECOGNITION

[26-0512](#)

10-Year Service Award: Lorraine Anderson, Public Information Officer

City Manager Clinch presented this recognition.

[26-0513](#)

Proclaim the Week of February 22-28, 2026 as "Engineers Week," Presented to City Manager James Clinch, PE, City Engineer Jon Kramer, PE, Stormwater Engineer Manager Steve Berens PE, Assistant Utilities Director Patience Anastasio, PE and Utilities Project Manager Jeff Sweater, PE

Mayor Pachota presented this proclamation.

[26-0514](#)

Proclaim the Week of March 9-15, 2026 as "Flood Awareness Week", Presented to CRS Coordinator Christina Rimes and Building Official Derek Applegate

Mayor Pachota presented this proclamation.

[26-0515](#)

Proclaim the Month of March as "Procurement Month" and March 11th as "Professional Buyer's Day," Presented to Procurement Manager Peter Boers and Procurement Specialist Sabrina Diaz-Gonzalez

Mayor Pachota presented this proclamation.

Recess was taken from 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Katie Gacobelli, 700 Golden Beach, expressed concerns regarding the Post Office, and businesses that are boarded up on Venice Avenue and Miami Avenue.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, to approve items in the Consent Section. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[26-0516](#)

Minutes of the February 2, 2026 Strategic Planning Workshop and February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved in the Consent Section.

B. CITY MANAGER

Human Resources

[26-0517](#)

Approve Workers' Compensation Claim Settlement Agreement for Ex-Employee Jasmine Diaz

This item was approved in the Consent Section.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[26-0518](#)

Mark Beebe, Chair of the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB): Board's Annual Report to Council and Approval of 2026 Proposed Agenda of Priorities

Chair Beebe presented his annual report for the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB) to include this year's accomplishments, and the upcoming year's priorities. He emphasized the board wants to make the process easier for applicants.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to accept the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board's Annual Report and approve their 2026 Proposed Agenda Priorities. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING

[ORD. NO.
2025-37](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Annexing Certain Lands Lying Contiguous to the City Limits, Pursuant to Petition No. 25-29AN by Abdelrahman Ayyad and Sara Ayyad, into the Corporate Limits of the City of Venice, Florida, and Redefining the Boundary Lines of the City to Include Said Addition; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

There was no staff or applicant update.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-37 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

[ORD. NO.
2025-38](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Amending the 2017-2027 City of Venice Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and Associated Pages Pursuant to Petition No. 25-30CP to Change the Future Land Use Designation of Specific Real Property Located at 2805 Curry Lane from Sarasota County Moderate Density Residential to City of Venice Institutional Professional (IP); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

There was no staff or applicant update.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Ordinance No. 2025-38 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

[ORD. NO.
2025-39](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 25-31RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation for the Property Located at 2805 Curry Lane (5.0 ± Acres), from Sarasota County Open Use Estate 1 (OUE-1) to City of Venice Office, Professional and Institutional (OPI); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing and announced this is a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

City Attorney inquired as to exparte communications since last hearing. There were none.

There were no written communications.

There were no staff or applicant updates.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Ordinance No. 2025-39 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

[ORD. NO.
2026-01](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 25-48RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation of the Property Generally Located at the Northeast Corner of Auburn and Border Road, South of I-75, from Sarasota

County Open Use Rural (OUR) to City of Venice Residential, Single Family 3 (RSF-3); Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing and announced this is a quasi-judicial hearing.

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

City Attorney Fernandez inquired as to exparte communications since last hearing. There were none.

There were no written communications.

There were no staff or applicant updates.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Engelke, that Ordinance No. 2026-01 be approved and adopted.

City Attorney Fernandez answered a Council question regarding the previous stipulation. She stated it was in the ordinance and Council is voting on the ordinance with the previously approved stipulation included.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

[ORD. NO.
2026-11](#)

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2025-32, as Previously Amended, Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025 and Ending September 30, 2026; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$265,015 and Total Expenditures by \$67,500; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Weed, that Ordinance No. 2026-11 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

B. RESOLUTIONS**[RES. NO.
2026-03](#)**

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Sarasota County, Florida, Adopting the 2026 Sarasota County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy Plan to Serve as the Formal Guide for the City of Venice's Hazard Mitigation Activities Including the City of Venice Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project List; Approving the Annual Report of the 2023-2028 Venice Floodplain Management Plan; Adopting the 2025 Unified Program for Public Information Including the Flood Insurance Promotion Plan; Superseding All Resolutions in Conflict Herewith; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michael read the resolution by title only.

CRS Coordinator Christina Rimes provided a presentation on the Flood Plain Management Plan, Sarasota County local mitigation strategy, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project list, the annual report, the Unified Program for Public Information and flood insurance promotion plan, reviewed the Floodplain Management documents, and requested adoption of the 2026 Unified Local Mitigation Strategy and the Venice Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project list, approval of the annual report of the 2023-2028 Venice Floodplain Management Plan and adoption of the 2025 Unified Program for Public Information including the Flood Insurance Promotion Plan.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Resolution No. 2026-03 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

Recess was taken from 10:13 a.m. to 10:19 a.m.

C. PRESENTATIONS**[26-0519](#)**

Justin Pachota, Venice Pier Group: Annual Update on Sharky's/Fins/Fishing Pier (5 min.)

Justin Pachota and Mike Pachota, of the Venice Pier Group, presented a recap of 2025 and the percentage of sales payable to the City. They spoke on recovery from the 2024 hurricanes, Sharky's renovation, 2025 business update, the Pier repairs, being steward's of the property, the impact of Casperson Beach being closed on the parking lots, public restrooms, street parking, beach renourishment, plans for 2027 and the 40-year anniversary of Sharky's, and acknowledged the Mayor.

[26-0520](#)

Jon Kramer, PE, City Engineer, and Ricky Simpson, Director of Public Works and Asset Management: Humphris Park: Status Update and Reconstruction Options (30 min.)

City Engineer Jon Kramer and Public Works Director Ricky Simpson presented on the Jetty History, hurricane damage, the bulkhead and rock revetment, United States Army Corps of Engineers: (USACE) easement, reconstruction of Humphris Park, design considerations, permitting considerations, construction considerations, order of magnitude cost estimates, Jetty repair by United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), conclusions and next steps, and answered Council questions regarding the cost, and rip-rap.

Discussion took place on cost, risk, the degree of damage, taxpayer money, the magnitude of the project, appreciation for staff work, support of Congressman Steube, catastrophic cost, size of the project, ownership of the Jetty, the easement ownership and maintenance, and the phases of the repair.

City Manager Clinch commented on the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), Congressman Steube's support, the Major Maintenance Report (MMR), funding, and a letter of support required from Council.

City Attorney Fernandez confirmed it would be appropriate to take action on this.

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to allow the Mayor to write letters of support in relation to funding needs for hurricane damage repairs at Humphris Park and the South Jetty.

A friendly amendment was adopted by consensus to allow the Mayor to communicate (in all forms) the Council's support in relation to funding needs for hurricane damage repairs at Humphris Park and the South Jetty. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

D. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[26-0521](#)

Centennial Park Rededication Plaque

City Manager Clinch stated there will be a rededication ceremony on April 15th at Centennial Park. The park is named after the centennial of the post office, and the rededication will recognize the City Centennial with a plaque, pavers, and benches.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Engelke, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the

Centennial Park Rededication Plaque as presented. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

[26-0522](#)

Invitation to Consider a Joint Meeting of the Sarasota County Commissioners and the Venice City Council (City Manager Clinch)

City Manager Clinch presented the County's invitation, and request for a response.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Howard, to direct staff to schedule a meeting and coordinate with the County Administrator to develop a mutually beneficial agenda focused on regional topics for Council's consideration.

Discussion took place on the productivity of last year's meeting.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

[26-0523](#)

Appoint Two Members to the Citizens Advisory Board to Serve a Term from March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2029

Mayor Pachota read the item.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to appoint Kaitlyn Panfil and Phillip Ellis to the Citizen Advisory Board to serve terms from March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2029. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

[26-0524](#)

Property Signage for Public Notice Requirements (Mrs. Frank)

Mrs. Frank requested Council consider the size requirements of public notice postings and bringing the size up to the Sarasota County posting size of 2x3 feet.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Mayor Pachota, to direct staff to change our Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to match Sarasota County for public notice requirements.

Discussion took place regarding whether changing the size of the posting notice would be more restrictive to applicants.

Planning and Zoning Director Clark responded to Council questions regarding the applicant costs, the application fee, considering changing the

policy as opposed to the Code and not charging the applicant, and being an increased cost to the City. He noted the current size of the postings are 11x17 inches, and a 2x3 feet would require new equipment and supplies.

Discussion took place regarding noticing, mail, radius of mailings, neighborhood meeting requirements, being consistent with other communities, 250 minimum feet property owner notification, some other circumstances applying to Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), neighborhood workshops being virtual, City Code allowing virtual neighborhood meetings, and modifying that would be dependent on SB 180.

A friendly amendment was adopted by consensus to direct staff to research bringing posting requirements for public hearings in line with Sarasota County government. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard, Mr. Engelke and Mr. Weed

VIII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez provided information on the state legislative session which is nearing the end, potential property tax changes, and potential changes in land use authority.

City Clerk

Clerk Michaels commented on the Legislative Referral Tracking report that was provided in the agenda packet.

[26-0525](#)

Legislative Referral Tracking Report

City Manager

City Manager Clinch thanked everyone for their time, commented on the shared City calendar with IT and City Manager's office, and annual city manager's conference attendance.

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Engelke

Mr. Engelke commented on the Venice Chorale, and the City Centennial song and proclamation.

Council Member Weed

Mr. Weed thanked City staff for the tour of the Jetty, the new fire station 52, and the new Fleet and Solid Waste facility.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard thanked City staff for the tour of the Jetty and City facilities, and reported on the Coastal Advisory Committee meeting, the John Nolen statue unveiling, and the new consolidated Council events calendar.

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith had no report.

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank had no report.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt thanked Public Works for the tour of their new facility.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on Centennial activities, the Downtown Venice Art Classic, Annual Bike Ride with the Mayor, Venice Airport Day, Movie in the Park, Venice Area Garden Club Home/Garden Tour, A Vette Together Corvette show, AACA Car show, the Venice Blues, Rock, Reggae, and Barbecue Festival, the Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival, and the success of the 1000 Miglia event that took place last weekend.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk