



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Causero and Council Member Fred Fraize

Also Present

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Assistant City Clerk Heather Taylor, and for certain items on the agenda: Interim Finance Director Linda Senne, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, and Airport Property Administrator Heather LeDuc.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

I. RECOGNITION

[16-1777](#)

Proclaim February 21 through 27, 2016 "Engineers Week" Presented to Norman Robertson, Project Manager, Florida Water Infrastructure and Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Director of Utilities Tim Hochuli, Director of Public Works John Veneziano, Assistant City Engineer James Clinch, Utilities Project Manager Tony Wierzbicki, Stormwater Engineer John Monville and Stormwater/Engineering Research Analyst Gillian Carney

Mayor Holic presented this proclamation.

[16-1778](#)

Proclaim February 9, 2016 as Community Youth Development's (CYD) 20th Anniversary Day Presented to Suriya Khong, Program Director

Mayor Holic presented this proclamation.

[15-1649](#)

15-year Service Award, Jerald Manchester, Municipal Service Worker II, Airport

Mayor Holic presented this award.

[16-1779](#)

Council Member Deborah Anderson, Certificate of Completion of the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials

Mayor Holic presented this certificate of completion.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Robert Moist, 999 Inlet Circle Road, commented on temporary library locations and the impact on Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning (SILL) if the temporary library would be at the Venice Community Center.

Randy Mineo, 233 Sovrano Road, commented on the closing of the Venice Library to include issues such as moisture control, notification to residents, funding for a new library and air quality.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Fraize to approve items in the Consent Section with the exception of Item Nos. 16-1780 and 16-1781. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

B. CITY MANAGER

Engineering

[16-1782](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the First Amendment to Solar Lease and Easement Agreement with Florida Power & Light Company

This Agreement was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Fire

[16-1783](#)

Accept Sarasota County EMS Grant in the Amount of \$1,608.78 and Authorize Purchase of Pre-Hospital Emergency Services Equipment

This Agreement was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Police

[16-1784](#)

Accept and Spend Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the Amount of \$2,731 for Purchasing a Thermal Imaging Device

This Agreement was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING AND PUBLIC HEARINGORD. NO.
2016-01

An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Venice, Florida, Chapter 86, Land Development Code, Article II, Administration and Review Authorities, Section 86-28 Historic Preservation, Adding a Non-Voting Student to Historic Preservation Board Membership; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer stated no written communication had been received and no one signed up to speak.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, that Ordinance No. 2016-01 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Caution and Mr. Fraize

C. COUNCIL ACTION16-1793

Request Council Endorsement for the City Manager and City Attorney to Move Forward to Develop a Lease Agreement Between the City of Venice and Sarasota County for the Former Hamilton Building at 245 N. Tamiami Trail and Resolution of the Contingent Physical Improvement Details

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Item No. 16-1793 be approved.

Discussion followed regarding including the planting of safety landscaping during the remodeling phase to direct bicycles coming from Legacy Trail into the parking lot.

Mr. Bramble spoke to discussions regarding the responsibility of remodeling the building in a timely manner and funding.

Discussion continued on the city installing a fence to deter bicycles coming off of Legacy Trail, fast tracking the project, providing direction to bicyclists, pointing out areas of concern during the negotiation, leaving the library open until an alternate location is established, a location on the island being desirable, use of the community center as a temporary location, and square footage requirements.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

CONSENT SECTION - Continued**A. CITY CLERK**[16-1780](#)

Minutes of the January 26, 2016 Regular Meeting and January 15, 2016 Convocation of Governments

Mr. Daniels spoke to the January 15, 2016 minutes regarding an inclusion of an action item by the school board to train and certify fire and building inspectors through the county technical center.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Gates to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 regular meeting. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

CITY MANAGER - ContinuedAirport[16-1781](#)

Approve Joint Automated Capital Improvement Program (JACIP) Update for Venice Municipal Airport

Mr. Fraize spoke to items 11 and 18 in regards to building an access road and a previously conducted study.

Discussion followed on previous council discussion regarding the access road and future development of the property.

Ms. LeDuc commented on the Joint Automated Capital Improvement Program (JACIP) being a planning tool for grant funding purposes that includes all potential projects for potential grant funding.

Nick Carlucci, 1335 Horizon Road, commented on items in the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) and the requirement for projects to be listed on the JACIP to receive funding.

A motion was made by Council Member Fraize, seconded by Council Member Gates to approve Item No. 16-1781. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

VII. COUNCIL REPORTS**Mayor Holic**[16-1799](#)

Venice Library Update

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item.

Discussion took place regarding the county unilaterally taking action that impacts the city, keeping the library open until a new location is in place,

funding, extending times for school libraries, the building not being salvageable, possible locations for a temporary library, expediting the process, use of a shuttle service, working with the county to provide a temporary location, library funding through impact fees, use of meeting rooms, maintenance issues, discussion with library staff, and the air report not including the community room that was closed a year prior.

Recess was taken from 10:47 a.m. until 10:57 a.m.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

[ORD. NO.
2016-02](#)

An Ordinance Granting to Peoples Gas System, a Division of Tampa Electric Company, its Successors and Assigns, a Non-exclusive Natural Gas Franchise Agreement to use the Public Rights of Way of the City of Venice, Florida, and Prescribing the Terms and Conditions Under Which said Franchise may be Exercised; Making Findings; Providing for Repeal of all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing for an Effective Date

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item.

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only and stated no one signed up to speak.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member McKeon, that Ordinance No. 2016-02 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading.

Discussion followed regarding revenue received.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Caution and Mr. Fraize

COUNCIL ACTION

[16-1785](#)

Consider Policy Changes for Setting Agendas, Including Adding a Council Discussion Section and Content of Council Member Reports (Caution and Anderson)

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Item No. 16-1785 be approved.

Discussion followed regarding the addition of a council discussion section on the agenda, items in this section having the same guidelines as other agenda items, board member reports, making exceptions to items that are requested outside the guidelines, listing council members meetings in the report section, and the ordinance regarding order of business not being included as a topic of discussion.

Mr. Persson spoke to the provision in the charter and stated the ordinance is flexible in terms of reordering the agenda.

Discussion continued regarding inclusion of attachments for items that are to be voted on, requiring documents pertinent to the item, and the established time for lunch.

Ms. Stelzer commented on adding council discussion under unfinished business and new business and stated that including council meetings would add to the length of the agenda.

Discussion continued regarding review of the ordinance and external committees.

A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to amend the motion to include the addition of a council discussion section for future meetings. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

The motion as amended carried by voice vote unanimously.

COUNCIL ACTION - Continued

[16-1792](#)

Approve Request for the Friends of the Venice Library to Use Office Space Leased by Venice Area Beautification, Inc. for Use by Their Executive Director

Without objection, Mayor Holic reordered the agenda to hear this item.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Item No. 16-1792 be approved. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[16-1788](#)

Request from Ronald J. Siegrist TTEE to 1) Waive Public Workshop Requirement and Waive the Application Fee for Same (\$200); and 2) Waive Any Fees Associated with the Public Hearing Notice Requirements, including Public Notice in the Newspaper and Mailings for Adjacent Property Owners for Properties at 490 and 492 Hauser Lane

Mr. Siegrist stated he is representing himself for Item Nos. 16-1788 and 16-1789 and his neighbors in Item Nos. 16-1790 and 16-1791 and spoke to previous waivers approved by council.

Mr. Persson clarified that the fees would be waived and not the action of notices being sent.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Item No. 16-1788 be approved.

Discussion followed on the impact of waiving costs on residents, following precedence, waiving the public workshop, and the property

being involuntarily annexed.

Mr. Shrum responded to council questions regarding the number of properties on Hauser Lane that may come before council at a later date and the possibility to have a time period for properties to come in at no cost.

Ms. Stelzer spoke to past experiences where incentives were offered.

Recess was taken from 11:59 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Don O'Connell, 500 Hauser Lane, commented on the history of the properties involuntarily annexed into the city and opined it is unfair to these residents to not have a city zoning classification.

Discussion followed on the paying of city taxes and fees, waiving of public workshops, and environmental issues of septic tank use.

Mr. Daniels requested a point of order. Mayor Holic acknowledged the point of order and allowed discussion to continue.

Mr. Daniels called the questioned and Mayor Holic stated that everyone has not been afforded the opportunity to speak.

In response to council questions, Mr. Shrum commented on the current and requested zoning.

Mr. Persson clarified the procedure regarding rezoning.

Mr. Shrum commented on the waiver of the fees for the workshop and explained that the workshop was designed to notify neighbors and that notices will be sent to residents.

Ms. Stelzer clarified that Item No. 1 was to waive the fees that the city would incur that would normally be billed to the applicant.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson and Mr. Fraize opposed.

[16-1789](#)

Request from Ronald J. Siegrist, TTEE, to Waive Rezone Application Fee (\$2,908) and Public Notice Requirements, Including Newspaper Advertisements and Mailings to Adjacent Property Owners for Properties at 490 and 492 Hauser Lane

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Item No. 16-1789 be approved. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson and Mr. Fraize opposed.

[16-1790](#)

Request from George A and Noreen M Ronald to 1) Waive Public Workshop Requirement and Waive the Application Fee for Same (\$200); and 2) Waive Any Fees Associated with the Public Hearing

Notice Requirements, including Public Notice in the Newspaper and Mailings for Adjacent Property Owners for Property at 501 Hauser Lane

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Item No. 16-1790 be approved. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson and Mr. Fraize opposed.

[16-1791](#)

Request from George A and Noreen M Ronald to Waive Rezone Application Fee (\$2,908) and Public Notice Requirements, Including Newspaper Advertisements and Mailings to Adjacent Property Owners for Properties at 501 Hauser Lane

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Item No. 16-1791 be approved.

Discussion followed regarding residents having to pick up the cost of the waived fees.

Mr. Shrum responded to council questions regarding the fees collected going to the general fund, cost of mailing and posting in the newspaper.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson and Mr. Fraize opposed.

NEW BUSINESS - Continued

B. PRESENTATIONS - Will start at approximately 1:00 p.m.

[16-1786](#)

Greg Vine, Suncoast Reef Rovers, SCUBA Diving Club: Underwater Clean-up Efforts (10 min)

Mr. Vine provided a brief background of the Suncoast Reef Rovers, played a video of an underwater clean-up and explained the diving procedure.

Discussion followed regarding pickup of the items pulled from the dive, complaints received, mooring fields, and enforcement of illegally moored boats.

Mr. Vine responded to council questions regarding the cause of the sharks being mutilated near the pier and commented on the need to stop targeting the shark population for sport fishing.

[16-1787](#)

Interim Finance Director Linda Senne: Monthly Financial Summary

Ms. Senne reviewed the quarterly investment report to include the average weight of insured, cash and cash equivalents, and the percentage of each type of investment and responded to council questions regarding receipt of funds for beach nourishment, high balances with Suntrust Bank, required reserves, restricted funds for water and sewer, balance of reserves, and educating employees regarding flex spending accounts.

Discussion followed regarding including council in wellness meetings.

Ms. Senne continued her presentation on variances and responded to council questions regarding year to date general fund budget, special event fees, and including revenues from special mitigation fees in the budget.

COUNCIL ACTION - Continued

16-1794

Discussion and Approval of Federal Appropriations

Mayor Holic stated he will be delivering the fact sheet during the next council meeting.

Discussion followed regarding prioritization of beach renourishment, the post office distribution center relocation, homelessness and mental health, and workforce housing.

Mayor Holic reviewed the prioritization list and discussion continued on the post office not being a higher priority than other items.

A motion was made by Council Member Fraize, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that the top items for federal appropriations be 1.) Beach renourishment and preservation, 2.) Coordinate a program to end homelessness and treat mental illness, 3.) Help in establishing workforce housing, 4.) Explore the relocation of the federal post office distribution center from downtown Venice, 5.) Public safety, 6.) Ribbons of Venice, and 7.) Museum.

Discussion followed regarding tourism.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Fraize, to approve Mayor Holic's request to be excused from the February 23, 2016 city council meeting. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

Recess was taken from 2:34 p.m. until 2:45 p.m.

16-1795

Discussion and Council Direction Regarding the Creation of an Authorized Travel Policy for City Council Members

Mayor Holic commented on travel reimbursements.

Discussion followed regarding the definition of travel and attendance at annual workshops.

Ms. Stelzer provided an overview of the item and the decision to formalize a policy on travel for council members.

Discussion continued on use of city vehicles, travel covered in the budget, state discounts and tax exemptions.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Fraize, that Item No. 16-1795 be included on the next agenda. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[16-1796](#)

Request Council Direction Regarding use of City Resources for America in Bloom Project (Holic)

Discussion took place regarding public participation, an employee to serve the function of tending to flowers and restrooms, and suggesting the city manager install waterlines during repaving.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to direct staff to allocate funds necessary for aiding the Venice in Bloom Project and restroom cleaning in the next fiscal year budget. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[16-1797](#)

Approve Council Email Communication Protocol

Mr. Persson commented on the current email policy to prevent conversations occurring outside the confines of council meetings, and the alternate option to not reply to emails with the exception of the mayor's acknowledgement email.

Discussion followed regarding problems with using the "reply all" option, not courtesy copying other council members, and a designated back up should the mayor be unavailable to respond to emails.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Fraize, that council members will not "reply all" or copy other council members in emails with the exception of the procedural acknowledgement by the mayor. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

VI. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

[16-1798](#)

Discussion on Proposed Sarasota County Ordinance Prohibiting Certain Pet Sales

Mr. Persson commented on the county ordinance regarding pet sales and the Venetian Golf and River Club town hall meeting in regards to the concrete crushing plant on the agenda and avoiding ex-parte communication.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer reminded council on the Think Tank and the email request received from the county regarding the March 31, 2016 joint meeting being a full day meeting.

City Manager

Mr. Bramble commented on the TECO gas leak and back up service

being provided, student government day availability, and code red efforts.

Discussion followed regarding levels of signing up for code red alerts and how and when to sign up.

COUNCIL REPORTS - Continued

Mayor Holic - Continued

[16-1718](#)

End Game (What is the Final Result of the Strategic Plan)

Mayor Holic commented on the focal point or direction and vision that is constantly changing and evolving, and the roles of the comprehensive and strategic plans.

Discussion followed regarding the city not being set up to be a tourist community, if there is a point when the city stops adding parking and houses, and the suggestion from people that want to move shops into neighborhoods.

[16-1717](#)

Clarification on Marketing: For Example; Conversation With Victor Dover, Rollins College, Christmas Decorations, Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) or Equivalent, Branding, Sister City, Etc.

Mayor Holic discussed funds for marketing and marketing funds, and establishing connectivity between developments, and opportunity marketing.

Discussion followed on use of funds without a stated goal and established tools, marketing development budget, and closing the budget gap.

[16-1716](#)

Affordable or Workforce Housing, Is There a Need

Discussion followed regarding the federal appropriations stating how they would benefit the government.

Barry Snyder, 106 Cipriani Way, commented on ex-parte communications and knowing when the petition has been filed, the purpose of the comprehensive plan elements, and dates for the joint meeting and strategic planning meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the recommendation that the Think Tank be done every three to five years, and the legal requirements the comprehensive plan has in comparison to discussion on the strategic plan and Think Tank.

Mayor Holic reported on the parks and recreation advisory board

meeting.

Council Member Fraize

Mr. Fraize had no report.

Council Member McKeon

Mr. McKeon requested placing a trolley update on the next agenda for discussion.

Council Member Daniels

Mr. Daniels reported on the banyan tree lighting, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) approved landscaping plan, attendance at the terrorist meeting hosted by Congressman Vern Buchanan, difficulties hiring personnel, ways to attract and retain employees and the need for exit interviews.

Council Member Gates

Ms. Gates requested information on the Community Alliance meetings from the city clerk.

Council Member Anderson

Ms. Anderson noted that advisory boards are accountable to city council, specifically the planning commission's method of providing input into the comprehensive plan update, discussed the importance of the environment and concern that certain groups were not being listened to during the process.

Council Member Cautionero

Mr. Cautionero reported on the Coastal Advisory Committee meeting.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dan Boone, Venice resident, responded to Ms. Anderson's comments regarding annexation during the discussion on Mr. Siegrist's request, and commented on money being paid for the annexation at the time of the Colonial House annexation, city offered discounts, and the Colonial House being annexed voluntarily.

Ms. Anderson clarified that she was not commenting on Colonial House property.

Ruth Ann Dearybury, 232 Coral St., stated that tourists are needed downtown and the need for more parking due to growth.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk