



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[24-0084](#)

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

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pachota joined the meeting at 9:24 a.m. virtually by Zoom.

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Ms. Joan Farrell, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith and Mr. Rick Howard

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown and for certain items on the agenda: Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Airport Director Mark Cervasio, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy City Clerk Barcia provided the invocation and Mrs. Frank lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. RECOGNITION

[24-0085](#)

Proclaim the Month of March 2024 as Procurement Month and March 13, 2024 as Professional Buyer's Day, Presented to Procurement Manager Peter Boers

Vice Mayor Boldt and Assistant City Manager Clinch presented this proclamation.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Beat Lehmann, 608 Gardenia Drive, spoke on flooding in neighborhoods surrounding the Flamingo ditch, stormwater drainage, ownership, easement, review done in 2012, possible solutions, and flooding that occurred in 2023.

Tommye Whittaker, 613 West Venice Ave, spoke on 619 West Venice Avenue building being in disrepair, impact on neighboring buildings, providing assistance to owner, building on Miami Avenue under same ownership, completing Lord Higel House, communication on status, and community building being put on the Local Historic Register.

Justin Pachota, 713 Laguna Drive, spoke on Sharky's property rental, history and growth on property, being the former Shark Tooth Festival location, partnership with the City, upcoming renovations, rent amount, and use of funds.

Jean McDonough, 69 Park Avenue, spoke on concerns for Airport Mobile Home Park, violations of rules, renters being under 55 years old, parking issues, closeness of units, and dog being kept in park against rules.

Mayor Pachota joined the meeting virtually at 9:24 a.m.

Chris Johnson, 5610 Olive Avenue, Sarasota, spoke on United Way's Long Term Recovery Group, currently 127 cases, completed 21 homes, agency partners, FEMA housing assistant program ending, Volunteer Florida Group assistance, there being a waiting list for case management, and incoming referrals.

Jackie Wheeler, 617 Max Road, Venice, spoke on damage to home during Hurricane Ian, and utilizing United Way Long Term Recovery Group Support.

[24-0097](#) Speaker Cards

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to approve items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[24-0086](#) Minutes of the January 19, 2024 Convocation of Governments and February 13, 2024 and February 27, 2024 Regular Meetings

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY ATTORNEY

[24-0087](#) Request Private Attorney-Client Session on March 26, 2024 at Noon for Neal Communities of SWF, LLC, et al v. City of Venice

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGER

Human Resources

[24-0088](#) Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local Chapter 2546, Regarding Single Certified Paramedics Attending Fire Academy

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PRESENTATION

[24-0089](#) City Engineer Kathleen Weeden and Michael DelCharco, Senior Vice President/Coastal Strategies, Taylor Engineering: City of Venice Resilience Plan Update (15 min.)

City Engineer Weeden and Michael Delcharco, Consultant, presented the Vulnerability Assessment Update, primary focus, update to new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Sea Level Rise Curves, review of infrastructures exposure to flooding, grant funded, past assessments, critical assets map, flood hazard and exposure analysis, rainfall models, sensitivity analysis, inundated land areas, coastal land areas, future estimations, focus areas, adaptation strategies, and answered Council questions regarding Flood Hazard Map, likelihood of flood estimates, strategies, temporary flood wrap, beach re-nourishment, accommodation strategies, whether mangroves are a viable option, clarified assessment is for City owned properties only, ongoing updated LiDar data, reduction in Venice exposure, inter- jurisdictional cooperation, water plant vulnerability, and whether the Jetty is reviewed.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING

[ORD. NO. 2024-03](#) An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Venice, Florida, Chapter 66, Taxation, to add Article VIII, Additional Homestead Exemption for Certain Qualified Persons 65 and Older; Providing Definitions for “Household” and “Household Income”; Providing for an Additional Homestead Exemption for Certain Qualified Citizens to be Applied to Millage Rates Levied by the City; Providing Requirement for Application and Submission of Documentation Supporting Eligible Citizens; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing an Effective Date

Recess was taken from 9:57 a.m. until 10:06 a.m.

Deputy Clerk Barcia read the ordinance by title only.

Vice Mayor Boldt opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications.

No one signed up to speak.

Vice Mayor Boldt closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Ordinance No. 2024-03 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

VII. NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[24-0090](#)

Planning Commission Chair Barry Snyder and Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark: Planning Commission's Annual Report and Council Feedback

Planning and Zoning Director Clark and Chairman Barry Snyder presented the annual report, statistics of petitions reviewed, trends, likelihood that number of annexations will reduce in future, Comprehensive Plan amendments, the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update, rezones, preliminary plats, site and development plans, design alternatives, conditional uses, height exceptions, terminology in Land Development Regulations (LDRs), text amendments, variances, appeals, the general duties as the local planning agency, and answered Council questions on design alternatives, authority of planning commission, and the appeal process.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Smith, to accept the Planning Commission's Annual Report as presented. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

[24-0091](#)

Nominate the Municipal Mobile Home Park Community Center Building for Placement on the Local Register of Historical Resources (Mr. Smith)

Mr. Smith introduced the property's history, and the historic significance.

Airport Director Cervasio answered Council questions regarding the property's condition, whether there are other structures from the same era,

and whether other buildings were relocated.

Discussion took place regarding FAA having no issues with registration, and concerns whether public access would inconvenience homeowners.

Historical Resources Manager Klinkhamer answered Council questions on the impact of placing property on register, whether registration would open the facility to the public, whether being owned by City impact access, ability for change in use, process if nomination approved today, whether the building meets nomination requirements, outreach to Homeowners Association, access to grants once registered, and FAA involvement if placed on National Register.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Howard, to nominate the Municipal Mobile Home Park Community Center building for placement on the Local Register of Historical Resources, and have the Mayor sign the application form. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

[24-0092](#)

Direct Staff to Take the Required Action Necessary to Join in the Form 6 Litigation (Ms. Farrell)

Ms. Farrell spoke on concerns of the new Form 6 requirements.

Discussion took place regarding resolution in 2021 to contact consultant on impact of endorsement of state initiatives, impact on receiving grants, cost to participate, impact on relationship with state, use of City funds, addressing concerns through other channels, being an invasion of members privacy, implementation for existing elected officials, advice from capital consulting, number of other municipalities participating, Florida League of Cities president's opinion, being a personal issue; not a City issue, impact on constituents, concerns for using City funds, potential additional cost as litigation progresses, passive participation only, members contacting elected representatives directly, concerns for lobbyist influence, and pursuing research on reasons for change.

A motion was made by Ms. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Smith, to direct staff to take the required action necessary to join in the Form 6 Litigation. The motion failed by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 1 - Ms. Farrell

No: 6 - Mayor Pachota, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

VIII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez spoke on the legislative session ending, bills

being sent for Governor's approval, and providing an update in the future on those impacting the City.

City Clerk

Deputy Clerk Barcia noted the CIP books were distributed.

City Manager

Assistant City Manager Clinch spoke on the Mayor and City Manager's trip to meet with federal representatives, Jetty repair update, and status of beached whale off the coast of Venice Beach.

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith spoke on Chris Johnson's comments, 14 Venice families currently in FEMA housing, and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council meeting.

Council Member Farrell

Ms. Farrell had no report.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard spoke on the Coastal Advisory Committee meeting, grant applications reviewed, Police Department dive team grant approval, Jetty repair, and Roberts Bay anchoring limitation.

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank had no report.

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore spoke on the Planning Commission meeting reviewing the first Seaboard Redevelopment application.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota spoke on providing an update on Centennial planning soon, and trip to Washington D.C.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt spoke on an upcoming meeting for Manasota League of Cities.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Steve Carr, spoke on the resiliency plan, having coordination between other surrounding agencies, and funds being used in Venice.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk