



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, September 25, 2023

5:01 PM

Council Chambers

Budget Public Hearing

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86705511822>

[23-6232](#)

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pachota called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Dr. Mitzie Fiedler, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Dick Longo and Mr. Rick Howard

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown, and for certain items on the agenda: Finance Director Linda Senne.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. FINANCE DIRECTOR LINDA SENNE: UPDATE ON FY2024 BUDGET CHANGES

[23-6233](#)

FY2024 Budget Changes Since the September 12, 2023 Budget Public Hearing

Finance Director Senne noted the reduction in the millage rate from 4.3600 mills to 3.9041 mills resulting in decreased budgeted revenues by \$2,864,000.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING

[ORD. NO.
2023-33](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Sarasota County, Florida, Adopting the Final Levying of Ad Valorem Taxes for the City of Venice for Fiscal Year 2024; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only and made the taxing authority statement.

Written communications were provided in advance.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

Discussion took place regarding concerns for amount of reduction and not the reduction itself, concerns for not budgeting new hiring for next year, supporting future growth, and employee annual increases.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Ordinance No. 2023-33 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Longo and Mr. Howard

[ORD. NO.
2023-34](#)

An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida, for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023, and Ending September 30, 2024; Providing that Disbursements Shall not Exceed Fund Budgets Without City Council Approval, and Granting the Authority to the City Manager to Make Certain Departmental Transfers Within the Approved Fund Budgets

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

There were no written communications.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

Discussion took place regarding City Manager authority to make department transfers, no reduction in salaries, other opportunities to address budget constraints, and ability to maintain services.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2023-34 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Dr. Fiedler, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Longo and Mr. Howard

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk