



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

5:01 PM

Council Chambers

Budget Public Hearing

[25-0337](#)

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, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kit McKeon.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-31](#)

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 2025-26; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Clerk Michaels made the taxing authority statement.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

City Manager Clinch provided introductory comments on the budget process, FY26 projects and staffing, and strategic use of reserves. He stated staff is committed to providing exceptional service delivery, public safety, and quality of life for residents. He spoke on leveraging staff in the most efficient way, and a future budget process workshop, and thanked

Council for their support.

Written communications were provided in advance.

Kit McKeon, 628 Granada, spoke against the rollback rate, and provided comments regarding property tax history, the need for services, the housing market, the possibility of reduced revenue, reserves, and hurricane impact.

Bill Willson, 708 Apalachicola Road, spoke against the rollback rate and commented on the small amount of savings per household, keeping standards of service, reserves, impact of hurricanes, and noted increasing the millage in the future if needed will be difficult.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mrs. Frank, seconded by Mr. Weed, that Ordinance No. 2025-31 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading with a final operating millage rate of 3.845 (the rolled back rate).

Discussion took place on the rollback rate, reserves, projects, future financial position, city services, financial sustainability, bond ratings, County tax bills, the budget process, controllable items, ad valorem taxes only, not being over funded for reserves, revenue worksheet, overall revenues being down, housing values going down, possible state legislation, property tax reform, accountability to tax payers, infrastructure, the ability to continue an exceptional level of service, and future staffing.

The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Pachota, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howard and Mr. Weed

No: 2 - Vice Mayor Boldt and Mr. Engelke

[ORD. NO.](#)
[2025-32](#)

An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida, for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026; 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.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Written communications were provided in advance.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2025-32 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading with the change in millage rate.

City Attorney Fernandez clarified the ordinance would be adjusted for the rollback rate.

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

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk