



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[23-6030](#)

Meeting Instructions and Request to Speak Form

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pachota called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Finance Director Linda Senne, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Frank.

I. RECOGNITION

[23-6031](#)

Proclaim April 2023 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month", Presented to Ariane Beauchamp, Lead Prevention Educator at the Child Protection Center, Captain Eric Hill and Lieutenant Jason Adams

Mayor Pachota presented this proclamation.

[23-6032](#)

Proclaim April 10, 2023 as "Gopher Tortoise Day", Presented to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Representatives Captain Guy Carpenter, Lieutenant Steve Stasko, Sr. Officer Adam Brown, and FWC Biologists, Master Police Officer Paul Joyce, and President of the Venice Area Audubon Society Kristin Hoffschmidt

Mayor Pachota presented this proclamation.

[23-6033](#)

Recognize Tom Jones for his 12 Years of Service on the Environmental

Advisory Board

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this recognition.

Recess from 9:11 a.m. until 9:35 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Danny Piper, 336 Bayshore Drive, spoke in favor of adding sidewalks on Bayshore Drive and pedestrian safety.

Joan Piper, 336 Bayshore Drive, spoke in favor of adding sidewalks on Bayshore Drive and safety.

Ed Eliopulos, 212 Bayshore Circle, spoke on safety concerns, and adding sidewalks along Bayshore and Laguna Drive.

Sam Humphreys, 344 Bayshore Drive, spoke on safety concerns and in favor of adding sidewalks on Bayshore Drive.

Dawn Dallanegra, 340 Bayshore Drive, spoke on safety concerns and in favor of sidewalks on Bayshore Drive.

Phillip Hamilton, 328 Bayshroe Drive, spoke on safety concerns and in favor of sidewalks on Bayshore Drive.

Rasan Gonzales, 425 Bayshore Drive, spoke on safety concerns and in favor of sidewalks on Bayshore Drive.

Dan Urquhart, 321 Cabana Road, Venice, spoke on Higel Marine Park rules and access for launching boats.

Recess was taken from 10:05 a.m. until 10:10 a.m.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[23-6034](#)

Minutes of the January 20, 2023 Convocation of Governments, March 10, 2023 Workshop for Potential Topics to Include in the Land Development Regulations (LDRs), and March 14, 2023 Regular Meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY MANAGER

Human Resources

[23-6035](#) Acknowledge Surety Bonds for City Employees

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Historical Resources

[23-6036](#) Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Certified Local Government (CLG) Agreement

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[ORD. NO. 2023-07](#) An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Providing for Placement of the Structure Known as Cabin #2 Located at 715 Eagle Point Drive on the Local Register of Historical Resources Pursuant to Chapter 87, Historic And Architectural Preservation, Section 7.7, Local Register and Landmarks, of the City of Venice Code of Ordinances; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

Written communication was provided in advance.

Harry Klinkhamer, Historical Resources Manager, responded to a Council question regarding communication received regarding the property and a possible encroachment. He stated it does not affect the historical significance or placement on the local register.

No one signed up to speak.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Longo, that Ordinance No. 2023-07 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING**[ORD. NO.
2023-08](#)**

An Ordinance Amending the City of Venice Ordinance No. 2022-26, as Previously Amended, Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$6,486,955 and Total Expenditures by \$6,486,955; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Pachota opened the public hearing.

There were no written communications.

Finance Director Senne responded to a Council question regarding the account funds. She referred to Attachment "A" of the ordinance and reviewed the source of funds for different projects.

No one signed up to speak.

Mayor Pachota closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, that Ordinance No. 2023-08 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS**COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION****[23-6037](#)**

Kevin McGrath, Chair of the Police Pension Board of Trustees: Board's Annual Report and Council Feedback (5 min.)

Chair McGrath introduced Doug Lozen, Actuary, Foster and Foster, who presented the pension plan update, noting a loss for the plans (Fire and Police Pension Funds) in FY 22, following a gain in FY 2021.

Mr. Lozen noted both pension plans funded status has increased steadily for each year of the last decade. The FY 22 loss will be phased in over four years. The City has historically overfunded the pension plans, which will assist in absorbing the loss. The funded status for the police pension fund is 97%, and the fire pension fund is approximately 65% funded.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to accept the filing of the annual report of the Police Pension Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[23-6038](#)

Tyler Eaton, Chair of the Fire Pension Board of Trustees: Board's Annual Report and Council Feedback (5 min.)

Discussion took place regarding investment strategy and length of time it would take for the fire pension fund funded status to get to the same as the police pension fund. Mr. Lozen noted it could take a decade or longer.

A motion was made by Mr. Longo, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to accept the filing of the annual report of the Fire Pension Board of Trustees. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[23-6039](#)

Roger Effron, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Board's Annual Report and Council Feedback (10 min).

Chair Effron presented the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board annual report, thanked staff, and noted activities of the past year, including clean up of parks, the gaga ball project, review of alcohol on the beach ordinance, Northeast Park, and parks assessments.

Chair Effron presented the agenda for the upcoming year:

1. Continue work with staff leading to the successful completion of the Northeast Park.
2. Review the form and process for park evaluations.
3. Consider developing a park survey and usage.
4. Review and assess recreational activities for all ages.

Council Members suggested adding a presentation on the timeline of the Northeast Park project to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board agenda from staff, survey of park amenities, presentation of the survey results, support increased number of meetings, recommendation of Nolen Greens to be included in park assessment.

Discussion took place regarding Wellfield Park and it was noted that this topic could be handled at a different time on the agenda.

City Manager Lavalley responded to a Council question regarding liability in public parks, and noted that it has been discussed with risk management and is not a concern.

A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to accept the filing of the annual report of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with approval of next year's goals as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[23-6040](#)

Approve Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024.

Discussion took place regarding sustainable city projects, traffic management plan, sustainable city projects, moving items to different Policy headings, and affordable housing language and initiatives.

There was consensus to include the Metropolitan Planning Organization on page 6, Policy 1, number 2.

There was consensus to update page 6, to amend Policy 2, number 2 & 3; to strike constituent and replace with "personnel" concerns on #2 and move #3 to a more appropriate policy location.

There was consensus to add "and City renovation projects" to page 5, Policy 4, Objective 1.

There was consensus to combine Policy #8 and Policy #2 on pages 10 & 11; add more action-oriented language; include affordable housing trust fund, and inclusionary zoning.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Recess was taken from 11:00 a.m. until 11:10 a.m.

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

City Clerk Michaels had no report.

City Manager

Discussion took place about parks, Wellfield Park, Wellen Park, and the need for a new interlocal parks agreement with Sarasota County.

There was consensus to direct staff to bring back a new proposal for a parks interlocal agreement with Sarasota County, including committing funds, for Council approval, and for staff to draft a letter from the Mayor on behalf of City Council, to the Chair of the Sarasota County Commissioners requesting this agreement from the County Commission. To be completed for the next Council meeting or as soon as possible.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Moore

Council Member Moore had no report.

Council Member Fiedler

Dr. Fiedler reported on events she had attended since the last meeting, including the Bird Bay open House, Venetian Golf and River Club town hall meeting, MPO Board meeting, noted Steve Carr's citizen MPO report, and the groundbreaking at Sarasota Regional Airport.

Council Member Howard

Council Member Howard reported on his attendance at the Venetian Golf and River Club town hall meeting, the Bird Bay open house, concerns about traffic safety, and made comments regarding parks needs from Sarasota County.

Council Member Longo

Council Member Longo reported a request from the United Way to become a liaison for their long term recovery plan that will be on a future agenda.

Council Member Frank

Council Member Frank reported on the Venice Housing Authority, and options for possible expansion and partnership in the future.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt reported on his attendance at many events, and noted the Parade of Champions for Venice High School, and the antique auto club show.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported events he participated in, including Hometown Heroes, Florida Gulf Coast Trail meet and greet, The Windsor of Venice lunch, the upcoming Tallahassee Legislative Action Days, tour of Venice with Northport's Commissioner McDowell, upcoming off-site proclamation, and the Venice Chorale youth education scholarship program event.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk