



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

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 Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Vice Mayor Richard Cautero, Council Member Charles Newsom, Council Member Margaret Fiedler and Council Member Helen Moore

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, and for certain items on the agenda: Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, Planning Manager Roger Clark, Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch and Director of Human Resources Alan Bullock.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Firemedic Jessica Jones.

I. RECOGNITION

[19-3851](#) Swearing In: Firemedic Jessica Jones

Mayor Holic swore in Jessica Jones.

[19-3852](#) Retirement Certificate, Andrew Spafford, Heavy Equipment Operator, Public Works

Mayor Holic presented this certificate to Andrew Spafford.

[19-3854](#) Recognize Jerry Towery for his 28 Years of Service on the Planning Commission

Mayor Holic presented Jerry Towery with a certificate of recognition for his 28 years of service on the Planning Commission.

[19-3853](#) Presented to City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, and Utilities Project Manager John Banks for Receiving the Excellence in Engineering Award

Mr. Lavallee recognized the utilities department and city staff for receiving the Excellence in Engineering Award.

[19-3855](#) Proclaim the Month of April 2019 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month", Presented to Prevention Educators Ariane Beauchamp, Shelby Marsh and Mitzi Howard, Child Protection Center, Inc.

Mayor Holic presented this proclamation to Mitzi Howard.

[19-3856](#) Proclaim the Month of April 2019 as "Donate Life Month", Presented to Philip Hamlin, Donate Life Organizer Volunteer

Council Member Newsom presented this proclamation to Philip Hamlin.

[19-3857](#) Proclaim the Week of April 22-28, 2019 as "Paint the Town Purple Week", Presented to Brittney Hoogland, Community Development Manager, American Cancer Society

Council Member Moore presented this proclamation to Brittney Hoogland.

[19-3858](#) Proclaim the Week of April 7-13, 2019 as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week", Presented to Amber Haller, Victims Advocate, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

Council Member Fiedler presented this proclamation to Amber Haller.

[19-3859](#) Proclaim the Week of April 7-13, 2019 as "National Volunteer Week", Presented to Venice Museum Volunteers, Venice Area Beautification Bloom Team, Keeping Venice Beautiful, Urban Forest and Garden Club

Mr. Lavallee presented this proclamation to Venice Museum volunteers, Venice Area Beautification Bloom Team, Keeping Venice Beautiful, Urban Forest and Venice Area Garden Club.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Gene Dillahunty, 449 Baynard Drive, spoke to request for street sign toppers in Golden Beach.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, to approve items in the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion took place on use of Golden Beach's easement during the Habitat for Humanity event, sign topper license agreement, adding language to sign topper requirements stating there can only be one approved sign topper per platted subdivision or historic district, requiring the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) and Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB)'s review if a request is in the historic district, Item No. 19-3862

regarding making recommendations and nominations for the city, and sign topper guidelines.

A. MAYOR

[19-3860](#) Appoint Sandra Petway to the Environmental Advisory Board to Serve a Term from April 9, 2019 Until March 31, 2022

This Appointment was approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY CLERK

[19-3861](#) Minutes of the March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGER

[19-3862](#) Approve Sending a Recommendation Letter, on Behalf of the Mayor and City Council, to the Florida League of Cities 2019 Florida Municipal Achievement Awards to Nominate Make a Difference Day for the City Spirit Award

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[19-3863](#) Approve Special Event Request - Habitat for Humanity 3B Bike, Boat and Beach Relay on July 27, 2019

This Event was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[19-3864](#) Approve Special Event Request - Everglades PCA Autocross on May 19, 2019

This Event was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[19-3865](#) Approve Special Event Request - Ride of Silence on May 15, 2019

This Event was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

[19-3866](#) Approve License Agreement Between the City of Venice and Golden Beach Associates, Inc. for Placement of Street Sign Toppers

This Agreement was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

[19-3867](#) Authorize the Mayor to Execute Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) SRF Loan DW580430-Loan Amendment 2, Increases the Loan by \$2,137,000 Making the Total Loan Amount of \$8,168,449,

Which Incorporates the Construction Cost of the Utilities Water Main Phase 6 Project

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[19-3868](#)

Approval of Rankings for RFQ 3092-18 Professional Engineering Services for Large Utilities Capital Projects - Water Improvements Projects: Phase 1: New Booster Station, Ground Storage Tank, and Regional Emergency Interconnection, and Phase 2: Second Stage RO System

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[19-3869](#)

Approval of Ranking for RFQ 3092-18 Professional Engineering Services for Large Utilities Capital Projects - Bay Indies Utility Relocations Phases 1 and 2

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[19-3870](#)

Approval of Ranking for RFQ 3092-18 Professional Engineering Services for Large Utilities Capital Projects - Water Main Replacements Phases 7 and 8

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were none.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. ORDINANCES – FINAL READING

[ORD. NO.
2019-11](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Florida, for the Property Located at 116 North Tamiami Trail and Owned by Venice Palm, Inc., Pursuant to Rezone Petition No. 18-02RZ, From Commercial, Business District (CBD) and Venetian Theme (VT) Architectural Control District to Commercial, General (CG) and Venetian Theme (VT) Architectural Control District; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date (Quasi-Judicial)

Mayor Holic announced this is a quasi-judicial procedure.

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Fernandez queried council members on ex-parte communications and conflicts of interest since the last hearing. There were none.

No written communication was received since the last hearing.

Mr. Shrum, being duly sworn, commented on the site and development plan, and current and proposed zoning.

Mr. Clark, being duly sworn, spoke regarding permitted uses on the existing commercial business district (CBD) and proposed commercial, general (CG) district, and development standards.

In response to council questions, Mr. Shrum explained the difference between a variance and special exception.

Discussion followed regarding site and development plan approval process.

Jeffery Boone, representing the applicant, being duly sworn, noted there are no requests for variances, and commented on the site and development plan and aesthetic design approval, and special exception request for outdoor propane.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2019-11 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Vice Mayor Caetero, Mr. Newsom, Ms. Fiedler and Ms. Moore

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO.
2019-11](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Sarasota County, Florida, Amending the City of Venice Personnel Procedures and Rules, 2013 Edition, Sections 1.6 Probation, 1.12 Classification and Compensation, 1.27 Drug Free Workplace Policy, 2.5 Discretionary Leave Issues and Section 2.11 Military Service; and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, that Resolution No. 2019-11 be approved and adopted.

Mr. Bullock responded to council questions on the probation period for police and fire department personnel.

The motion carried by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Vice Mayor Cautero, Mr. Newsom, Ms. Fiedler and Ms. Moore

[RES. NO.
2019-13](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Sarasota County, Florida, Adopting a State of Emergency Pay Policy; Superseding Resolution No. 2008-32; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, that Resolution No. 2019-13 be approved and adopted.

Discussion took place regarding comparing cost savings from Hurricane Irma, distinguishing the emergency declaration period from the emergency pay policy, suggestion to modify the last sentence under Section 6, Essential Services, to read "shall disqualify an employee for emergency pay during the duration of their absence and may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including termination" after "essential services", including elected officials to Section 8, State of Emergency Pay Period, workers' compensation, city manager's operational responsibilities, and council duties.

Mr. Bullock commented on workers' compensation coverage and pay during a state of emergency.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Vice Mayor Cautero, Mr. Newsom, Ms. Fiedler and Ms. Moore

B. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[19-3871](#)

Accept Donation from Venice Area Beautification, Inc of an Interactive Kaleidoscope Sculpture to be Placed in Centennial Park, Adjacent to the Interactive Children's Fountain

Bob Vedder, Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), provided a presentation on the interactive kaleidoscope sculpture.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, to approve Item No. 19-3871.

Discussion followed regarding donations, removable objects on the sculpture, location, and number of VABI volunteers.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Recess was taken at 10:39 a.m. until 10:51 a.m.

[19-3872](#)

Discuss the Merits of Adopting Sarasota County's Policy for 750 sq. ft. Units and Less Relative to Workforce Housing (Daniels)

Discussion took place on staff reviewing Sarasota County's policy and

evaluating a 50% impact fee reduction.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to direct staff to review Sarasota County's policy and evaluate a 50% impact fee reduction, and present to council at the June 11, 2019 council meeting.

Discussion continued regarding not limiting multi-family residential, form based codes, workforce housing, community input, density impact in surrounding neighborhoods, impact fees based on square footage, and the county's ordinance.

The motion carried 5-2 with Ms. Fiedler and Vice Mayor Cautiono opposed.

[19-3873](#)

Discuss Proceeding with Review of Adding a Solid Waste/Recycling and General Government Impact Fee on All New Construction (Daniels)

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Newsom, to direct staff to hire an impact fee consultant for the development of government use fees, solid waste and recycling fees, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) fees for new construction, and implementation target date is fiscal year 2020 budget.

Discussion took place on including impact fee data for solid waste and recycling and EMS in the consultant's study, and the solid waste and recycling stakeholder's work group.

Mr. Clinch noted the stakeholder's work group discussed impact fees, but no recommendations have been made.

Discussion followed on EMS impact fees and the stakeholder's work group presentation to council.

Mr. Clinch spoke to addressing recycling concerns at the next council meeting.

Discussion continued regarding collecting impact fee data for solid waste and recycling and EMS, obtaining legal advice, and revenue expectation.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Bill Ahern, 158 Tiziano Way, spoke regarding affordable housing.

Council had no objection to address Item No. 19-3876 next.

C. PRESENTATIONS AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION WILL BE HEARD AT 1:00 P.M. - AGENDA ITEMS MAY BE DELAYED OR MOVED FORWARD TO ACCOMMODATE PRESENTATIONS

[19-3876](#)

Bill Ahern, Chair, Economic Development Advisory Board: Board Activity Update (10 min.)

Bill Ahern, Chair, Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), spoke to board activity, goals and meetings, special event sponsorships, EDAB's return on investment, council's request for the board's advice, sunshine law, an events review committee, and the need for an EDAB.

Discussion followed regarding the board's history, Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), cost of advisory board meetings with and without an attorney, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) membership fees, sunsetting EDAB, adding future of EDAB to the next council agenda, resetting policies on advisory boards, adjusting frequency of board meetings, and including costs of advisory board meetings on next council agenda.

Recess was taken at 11:56 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.

[19-3877](#)

Kevin McGrath, Chair, Police Pension Board of Trustees: Board Activity Update (10 min.)

Kevin McGrath, Chair, Police Pension Board of Trustees, spoke to quarterly meetings, investor reports and performance, disability hearings, services to retirees, providers and performance monitors, actuary report, reporting requirements, annual audit, actuary evaluation, funded ratio, employee contributions, board accomplishments, and responded to council questions regarding finance staff attending meetings.

COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION - Continued

[19-3874](#)

Request Approval to Schedule a Community Workshop for Sarasota County Mosquito Control in May 2019 at City Hall for City Residents and Request that Homeowner Associations Send a Representative for Stormwater Pond Control Discussion (Daniels)

Discussion took place regarding the county's mosquito control presentation at the Council of Governments (COG) meeting and staff scheduling a community workshop.

There was consensus for staff to schedule a community workshop for Sarasota County Mosquito Control in May 2019 at city hall.

Mr. Lavalley stated he would make the request to the county administrator.

[19-3875](#)

Approve Envision Venice Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2020

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to approve Item No. 19-3875.

Discussion took place on including a target of 10% reduction in electricity and 5% fuel.

An amendment was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council

Member Fiedler, to include "an annual goal reduction of ten percent in electricity and five percent in fuel" to Objective 1: Use energy conserving tool and tactics for public assets and introduce innovative means to reduce energy use annually, under Goal One: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly, Policy 4: Reduce carbon footprint, consumption of energy and protect the environment.

Discussion followed on annual goal initiative, reviewing the strategic plan every other year, and concern with costs exceeding savings.

The amendment carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion continued regarding missing information in the sentence "Preserve downtown area with parks, small shops and", under Vision Details, Historic, red tide, and objectives under Goal One: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly, Policy 1: Maintain pristine beaches and gulf waters.

Ms. Gates left the dais at 1:57 p.m.

Ms. Stelzer noted the word "restaurant" was missing at the end of the sentence.

Discussion ensued on adding an objective to Goal One, Policy 1.

An amendment was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, to add "Continue to pursue innovative strategies to mitigate pollution and improve water quality by measuring outfalls, testing the water quality, and examining means of eliminating the known causes of pollution" as Objective 3 under Goal One, Policy 1: Maintain pristine beaches and gulf waters.

Ms. Gates returned to the dais at 2:06 p.m.

The amendment carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion followed on Goal One, Policy 4: Reduce carbon footprint, consumption of energy and protect the environment, Objective 2 Update the land development regulations to allow for conservation and preservation of land and natural resources, regulatory language for developers, protections, comprehensive plan, LDRs, moving Objective 2 under Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services, Policy 2: Establish and maintain process to continually update personnel compensation schedule to be consistent with market demands to Policy 1: Continuously look at opportunities to improve efficiencies and cost savings and include the word "police".

There was consensus to move Objective 2 under Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services, Policy 2: Establish and maintain process to continually update personnel compensation schedule to be consistent with market demands, to Policy 1: Continuously look at opportunities to improve efficiencies and cost savings, and modify objective to read "Continue to research additional funding sources to support the police and fire department".

Discussion continued regarding Goal Three: Ensure a Financially Sound City, Policy 2: Continue to evaluate, adopt and adhere to governmental accounting and financial reporting principles in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Objective 2, Develop long-term plan to reach 80% or better of the city's police and fire pension plan, funding the fire department, and Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Proper Planning, Policy 2: Support opportunities to promote and incentivize mixed-use development, including affordable, workforce and market-rate housing.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

Ms. Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer had no report.

City Manager

Mr. Lavallee had no report.

[19-3879](#)

City Council-Appointed Advisory Boards and Commissions

This item was discussed under Item No. 19-3876.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Daniels

Mr. Daniels had no report.

Council Member Gates

Ms. Gates spoke regarding the Suncoast BBQ and Blue Grass Bash event and sporting clay tournament.

Council Member Moore

Ms. Moore had no report.

Council Member Newsom

Mr. Newsom spoke regarding the planning commission meeting, LDR workshop, EDC feedback received regarding the site selection for the Atlanta Braves Stadium, and visitors at the pier.

Discussion followed on the Sarasota Memorial Hospital groundbreaking event.

Council Member Cautionero

Vice Mayor Cautionero spoke to House Bill (HB) 987 Vacation Rentals/Public Lodging Establishments.

Ms. Fernandez commented on preserving grandfather clause and value of lobbyist supporting city initiatives.

Council Member Fiedler

Ms. Fiedler reported on reading Rotary Future grants at the Venice High School, and attending the Pinebrook Park celebration walk and Sarasota Memorial Hospital's groundbreaking event.

Mayor Holic

[19-3880](#)

The Original John Nolen Plan

Mayor Holic commented on the proposed fire department location and the original John Nolen Plan, and reported attending Toastmaster's 35th anniversary, Pinebrook Park celebration walk, Bible Read-a-thon, and Veterans night salute at the Venice High School.

[19-3881](#)

Legislative Action Information

Mayor Holic reported on his trips to Washington D.C. and Tallahassee, and commented on funding travel for city council, and communication with lobbyist.

Discussion followed on process to engage with Capital Consulting, legislation on short term rentals, home rule, and variances.

Mayor Holic reported attending ethics training.

Recess was taken at 3:21 p.m. until 3:27 p.m.

[19-3878](#)

3:00 P.M. PRESENTATION - Megan McDonald, Certified Local Government Coordinator, Florida Department of State, Robert Bendus, Historical Resources Manager, Sarasota County, and Harry Klinkhamer, Historical Resources Manager, City of Venice: Certified Local Government Program (20 min.)

Megan McDonald, Certified Local Government (CLG) Coordinator, Florida Department of State, provided a presentation on the CLG program and spoke on what a CLG is and does, benefits of CLG status to include trainings, grants and support network, how to apply, responsibilities, and

responded to council questions regarding criteria to determine historical significance and survey parameters.

Mr. Klinkhamer responded to council questions on criteria for remodeling structures.

Discussion followed on Ms. McDonald providing council with examples of ordinances, cost to become a member, ordinance timeline, and being in sync with the comprehensive plan.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk