



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Wednesday, April 8, 2026

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Workshop

[26-0553](#)

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

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ROLL CALL

Mayor Pachota joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

**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 Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Gregory, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Chief Andy Leisenring, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Rick Simpson, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ashlee Castle, Airport Director Nick Dumas, City Engineer Jon Kramer, and Information Technology Director Roger Navarro.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mr. Weed.

#### I. NEW BUSINESS

[26-0554](#)

2027 Proposed Capital Improvement Program

Discussion took place regarding having audience participation in the morning.

City Manager Clinch provided opening remarks regarding the Capital Improvement Program process, being a planning tool for the upcoming five years, funding opportunities, 30% decrease for the upcoming year,

and general fund expenditures.

Finance Director Senne presented on FY27 to FY31, funding sources, CIP worksheet coding, debt services, general fund, Fire Marine Motor and Electronic Equipment, Fire Marine Pumps, Fire Equipment replacements, and CPR/Advanced Life Support Manikins.

Fire Chief Giddens answered Council questions on manikin equipment users, whether ownership is best, reason for it being new budget item this year, whether it would also be used by the Police Department, and adding to FY31 for a 5-year replacement schedule.

Finance Director Senne continued on a Station Alerting system replacement.

Fire Chief Giddens answered Council questions regarding the reason for it being a new item this year, assigned funding source, dispatch operations, advantages of the system, and operational savings.

Finance Director Senne continued regarding the police boat lift replacement, marine units replacements, funding sources, and answered a Council question on grants.

City Manager Clinch spoke on adding grant positions, grant processes, and the vetting of grant opportunities.

Finance Director Senne continued on expansion of the women's locker room for the police department.

Police Chief Leisenring answered Council questions on employee growth, how estimates are calculated, and whether police impact fees could be used.

Finance Director Senne continued on the citywide phone system, an in-field camera system, HR management system, and answered Council questions regarding expense compared to current manual system, and the impact on operations.

IT Director Navarro answered Council questions on quantifying administrative savings, advancing schedule, reason for current FY29 timing, impacts to Finance, workload of IT Department, and a planned phase approach.

Finance Director Senne continued on citywide access control, citywide network infrastructure lifecycle plan, replacement of land management system, and the fossil exhibit for museum.

Recess was taken from 9:46 a.m. until 9:59 a.m.

Finance Director Senne continued presenting on Centennial Park upgrades.

Public Works Director Simpson answered Council questions on cost relating to size of structures, matching materials, and cost comparison for other materials.

Finance Director Senne continued regarding Chauncy Howard Park boardwalk replacement, Fountain Park fountain replacement, playground equipment replacements, decorative street lights, and answered Council questions on light refurbishments, and the reason why it is included as capital versus maintenance.

Finance Director Senne continued regarding Venice Beach improvements.

Public Works Director Simpson answered Council question on current conditions at the Venice Beach restrooms.

Finance Director Senne continued regarding Venice Myakka Park replacements, Brohard Park updates, Chuck Reiter Park demolition,

City Manager Clinch answered a Council question on the plans for the park.

Discussion took place regarding consideration within the Parks Master Plan, and accommodating Little League, Hecksher Park lighting and landscaping enhancements, and new lighting.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the one cent sales tax, rescue units replacements, GPS tracking system replacement, fire emergency response radio system, lifepacks for EMS, server and storage infrastructure replacements, server and data equipment for backup site, and cyber security firewall protection.

IT Director Navarro answered Council questions regarding cloud services versus on site servers, life expectancy of equipment, use of local backup compared to out of state, and the firewall protection project being more than a temporary repair.

Finance Director Senne continued on high water brush truck, forklift, and grant funding.

Fire Chief Giddens and Solid Waste, Recycle and Fleet Superintendent Travis Hout answered Council questions regarding obtaining equipment

from Division of Forestry, getting forklift only if funded by a grant, possibility to delay purchase by one year, ability to transport forklifts, current inventory, and training requirements.

Finance Director Senne continued on ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) improvements, beach renourishment, and bike facilities.

City Engineer Jonathan Kramer answered Council questions regarding the ADA transition plan details, reason for yearly funding, federal requirements, spreading cost throughout five years, crosswalks sensors, and the estimated cost to raise designation to Bicycle Gold Standard.

Finance Director Senne continued on the debt services for Fire Station, City Hall roofing and painting, Fire Station No. 3 generator replacement, and Venice Community Center enhancements.

Public Works Director Simpson answered Council questions regarding need to have a generator at the Venice Community Center.

Solid Waste, Recycle and Fleet Superintendent Hout responded with an estimated cost to do a transfer switch compared to a generator, use of one cent sales tax for audio visual equipment that needs replacement, whether there are potential losses from power failure without a generator, and the Community Center's use for storm recovery efforts.

**There was consensus to put in a transfer switch instead of a generator at the Venice Community Center and to add technical improvements to Fiscal Year 27.**

Finance Director Senne continued with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Fiber Optic Loop.

IT Director Navarro answered a Council question on waiting until FY29.

Finance Director Senne continued on VABI Building window, floor, and roof replacements, Venice Beach Pavilion roof replacement, Venice Beach doors, boardwalk, asphalt replacements, General Capital projects, Triangle Inn exterior stair, stucco, and roof replacements, Brohard Park parking resurfacing and door replacement, restroom pavilion at Higel Park, and Venetian Waterway Trail boardwalk replacements.

Public Works Director Simpson answered Council questions on material, cost sharing sources, reinstallation of distance indicators, and including security enhancements.

Police Chief Leisenring answered Council questions on call statistics and security in parks.

Finance Director Senne continued on Street Capital Improvements

Fund, road restoration, West Blalock Park parking, Humphrey Park reconstruction, funding through beach renourishment fund.

Public Works Director Simpson answered Council question on what is included beyond parking, restrooms, and park design.

Finance Director Senne continued on the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program.

Police Chief Leisenring and Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Hartley spoke on current public safety operations, utilities inspections, mapping of crime scenes, assistance with bomb threats, docking system through the City, remote response capabilities, benefits of use, current drone operations, potential deployment options, providing an advanced situation awareness, advantages of multiple dock based drones, answered Council questions of what's included in cost, staggering purchase of units, use of police impact fees, timeline for program research, funding for maintenance, and operating cost.

Recess was taken from 11:28 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

## II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

**There was consensus to have audience participation before lunch.**

Madeleine Zubyk, 1112 Pine Road, spoke on a previous option proposed for a pipeline from Flamingo Ditch to Deertown Gully, requested an environmental study of jet use at airport, and expressed concerns with increased Airport use.

Tracey Kehoe, 428 Shore Road, spoke on a vegetative buffer around the airport, environmental studies, and expressed concerns regarding stormwater runoff and chemical particles, and recommended adding landscaping around Circus Bridge, beautifying south island, against moving light industrial to by Airport, and thanked Airport staff for communications.

Chris Davis, 340 Shore Road, spoke on airport studies, and expressed concerns regarding environmental impacts of airport, increase jet use, and recommended independent environmental studies.

Janice Riodan, 1127 Sunset Drive, requested environmental studies be done around the Airport, impact on wildlife, and against a fire training facility.

Brett Spengler, 461 Airport Avenue E, spoke on Airport operations, and health concerns.

Tania Willard, 332 Shore Road, spoke on increased jet activity at the Airport, and expressed concerns for light industrial moving around Airport, and mitigation of jet fumes.

Recess was taken from 12:08 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

[26-0554](#)

2027 Proposed Capital Improvement Program

Finance Director Senne spoke on Government Impact Fund, new Public Works ATV, shade structure, pull barn extension, Airport fund, T- hangar for midfield design.

Airport Director Nick Dumas answered Council questions on T-hangar use, current wait list, potential rent revenue, and whether this would qualify to use airport restricted funds.

Finance Director Senne continued speaking on maintenance facility relocation design and construction, T- Hangar hurricane door reinforcement, and answered Council questions on grant approval, timeline for rent adjustments, Taxi Lane design and rehabilitation, Taxiway F construction and answered Council question whether the Taxiway would relocate Jet takeoffs, fume mitigation, ability to advance the schedule for construction, a vegetative berm, expected timeframes for master plan processes, environmental reviews, and whether there are improvements planned for the mobile home park.

Airport Director Dumas continued on wildlife and security fencing and answered a Council question on impact to golf course.

Finance Director Senne continued on runway 5-23 PAPI, runway 5-23 lighting, stormwater drainage for airport, Vehicle service roadways relocation, extension of Airport Avenue, Control Tower, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) facility, and answered Council question on cost, likelihood of it becoming a full time facility, whether tower and ARFF are mandated by FAA, staffing, timeframe for required implantation, potential tower height, and Caspersen Beach road access through golf course.

Finance Director Senne continued regarding the Utility fund, Collection System improvements, Bay Indies relocation, and Utilities Director Vargas answered Council regarding cost, repairs include within park, whether there are any other major projects for lines, mobile home park meters, continued distribution connection improvement, east gate Harbor Lights improvements, Field Ave Sewer improvements, force main improvements, water main replacement program, water service line replacement, water treatment plant alternative, production wells redrills, well management program, treatment improvements, emergency generators, reclaimed water improvement, water

reclamation facility (WRF) Improvements, belt press at water reclamation facility, lift station replacement pumps and rehabilitations and WRF emergency Generator replacement.

Recess was taken from 2:24 p.m. to 2:36 p.m.

Finance Director Senne continued on the Solid waste facility, Stormwater projects, Calle La Escuela Drainage improvements, Flamingo Ditch improvements.

City Engineer Kramer answered Council questions on Phase One completion date, Phase Two details, involvement of US Army Corps of Engineers for beach renourishment, adding Phase Two project into the 5-yr CIP, the recommendation of diverting water to Deertown Gully, and grant funding.

**There was consensus to add Phase Two in FY29 and Phase Three in FY31, noting they are grant dependent.**

Finance Director Senne continued on the Bella Costa outfall, Parkdale water improvements Seaboard area outfalls, and Venenzia Park water quality project, and Fleet Fund.

Solid Waste and Fleet Superintendent Hout answered Council questions on a new garbage truck, how fleet size is determined, whether there will be additional personnel added, and whether the truck would be used for trash or recycling pickup.

Finance Director Senne commented on a recent HMGP Grant approval for roofing at the Public Works building, windows, and roof. The North Brohard ADA ramp grant has also been approved. There will be updates for the proposed budget.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk