



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Wednesday, July 13, 2016

9:30 AM

Council Chambers

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### Special Meeting - Budget for Fiscal Year 2017

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Cautero and Council Member Fred Fraize

#### ALSO PRESENT

Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, and for certain items on the agenda: Finance Director Walter Pierce, Controller Linda Senne, Interim Airport Director Heather LeDuc, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Information Technology Director Jeff Bolen, and Director of Historical Resources James Hagler.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. McKeon.

#### I. RECOGNITION

#### II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

##### [16-2129](#)

City Council Determination on Issues Raised During Budget Workshops

Mayor Holic provided a brief history of the budget process over the last six years.

Discussion followed regarding concerns with millage rate increase, sunset provision, one cent sales tax, and percent increase in general fund.

Discussion continued on eliminating the Bicycle Program Coordinator position, silver and gold bike designations, use of volunteers for the

position, position funding, sidewalk connectivity of trails at Border Road, and funds allocated for trails.

Ms. Weeden responded to council questions to include other municipalities that employ bicycle program coordinators, mobility fees, and recent hire for the position.

Discussion ensued on using interns for the position.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve in the engineering department's budget \$19,000 for the bicycle program coordinator position. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve the north pier parking area 3 construction for \$500,000 from the one cent sales tax in the engineering department's FY 2016 budget.**

Discussion continued on approved project funding for FY 2016, additional parking needs, and reducing the budget.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Fraize and Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve the engineering department's FY 2016 budget for South Harbor Drive intersection improvements at Airport Avenue and Beach Road. The motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Fraize and Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve the engineering department's budget for parking under the Hatchett Creek bridge, KMI bridge, and parking under Venice Avenue bridge east side.**

Discussion ensued on commitment to the county library and funding from the one cent sales tax.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Fraize and Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve the engineering department's budget for Americans with Disabilities (ADA) improvements on sidewalks, parks, and buildings.**

Discussion continued regarding safety issues and compliance with federal laws.

Ms. Weeden responded to council questions to include building and public facility improvements if road bond passes, and sidewalk gap project.

Discussion ensued on funds being prioritized and reduced.

**The motion carried by voice with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fraize, to approve public works administration's budget for replacing the fountain at Fountain Park.**

Discussion followed on suggesting Venice MainStreet to lead an effort for businesses to raise money for the fountain, fountain safety issues, and recommending West Coast Fountain as a corporate sponsor.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve the public works administration's budget for fencing repairs and replacements at Hecksher and Chuck Reiter parks.**

Discussion continued on condition of fences at the parks, county maintenance of parks, deferring funding for other projects, and shifting capital expenses.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Fraize and Ms. Anderson opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve public works administration's budget for playground equipment at the Hamilton building, temporary library, and Mundy Park.**

Discussion continued on playground equipment repairs at the temporary library.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

Discussion continued on roof repairs for the police department and fire station.

Mr. Lavallee noted repairing the fire department's roof has been deferred with plans to replace the building.

Discussion ensued on the estimated roof repair costs for the police department.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve the public works administration's budget on the Service Club Park boardwalk.**

Discussion continued regarding boardwalk conditions and safety issues.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Fraize opposed.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to reduce Information Technology (IT) department's overall budget by \$25,000.**

Discussion followed regarding paying a consultant to provide a security audit, reducing more money from the department's budget, consolidation of servers to one primary IT data center, and using the county and other municipalities as backup.

**A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Gates, to amend the motion to reduce IT's overall budget by \$30,000.**

Mr. Bolen spoke on increasing costs for maintenance contracts, expansion and costs of Microsoft e-mail boxes for boards and commissions, and funding for the new website.

Discussion ensued on the IT department to include scheduling a briefing for future planning, removal of new website, department hardships, and future direction.

Mr. Lavallee commented on the condition of the operating system, HTE/Sungard module, expense of moving forward, and examining the operating system to obtain recommendations for future direction.

**The amendment failed by voice vote 1-6 will all but Mr. Cautero opposed.**

**The original motion carried by voice vote with Mr. Cautero opposed.**

Ms. Gates left the dais at 10:57 a.m.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve historical resources' \$27,000 budget for window replacements.**

Discussion followed on window conditions and funding project through the one cent sales tax instead of the general fund.

Ms. Gates returned to the dais at 10:59 a.m.

**A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Gates, to amend the motion to include \$57,000 of historical resources' budget from the one cent sales tax and removing \$30,000 from the general fund.**

Mr. Hagler responded to council questions on the number of windows needing to be replaced.

Discussion continued on replacing windows all at once and replacement costs.

**The amendment carried by voice vote unanimously.**

**The amended motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve reduction of \$11,000 in the historical resources' budget.**

Mr. Hagler responded to council questions regarding lamp restorations.

**The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve increasing the airport's budget for accelerating the road paving schedule at the mobile home park.**

Discussion followed on airport staff's communication with the board of the homeowners association to develop a paving schedule for all roads within the park.

Ms. LeDuc noted the amount stated in the motion reflects an increase to the proposed budget for paving all of the roads, and additional funding may not be needed if the airport continues with the current budget and

schedule.

Discussion continued on rent increases at the park and completion of a market rate analysis.

**The motion failed by voice vote 1-6 with all but Mr. Daniels opposed.**

Discussion ensued on mobile home park rents being below market value.

Ms. LeDuc noted the airport currently has \$50,000 in the proposed budget for landscape improvements.

**A motion was made by Council Member Gates to approve an additional \$50,000 to the airport's existing budget for landscaping design and improvements. The motion failed due to lack of a second.**

Discussion continued regarding area improvements around the airport.

Ms. LeDuc commented on reduced scope of work on landscaping maintenance.

Discussion followed on administrative services' proposed budget for a wage and rate analysis. Mr. Lavallee noted he would bring this issue to the council of governments (COG) for a peer study.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve the reduction of \$150,000 from the one cent sales tax for gateway improvements.**

Ms. Senne explained cost allocation calculations.

Discussion continued on finishing projects, obtaining public input on gateway design, and rolling remaining funds to FY 2017.

**Mr. Daniels withdrew his motion.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve \$150,000 for completion of gateway improvements and to roll remainder of funds from FY 2016 to FY 2017 into the engineering department's budget. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

Recess was taken from 11:32 a.m. until 11:38 a.m.

**A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve the reduction of \$10,000 in the city manager's budget for S.C.O.P.E. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve in the city manager's budget \$25,000 for Venice MainStreet.**

Discussion followed on reducing the budget, tax increase to citizens, obtaining support by local businesses, downtown movement and maintenance, publicity, and events sponsorship.

**The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.**

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve in the city manager's budget \$25,000 for the 4th of July contribution.

Discussion continued regarding obtaining money from charitable organizations and contributions from the county.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve in the city manager's budget \$7,500 for the holiday parade contribution.

Discussion continued on reducing the budget and finding other sources of funding.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to approve in the city manager's budget \$22,000 for the Economic Development Corporation. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson and Mr. Fraize opposed.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve in the city manager's budget \$80,000 for the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) and other civic support.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Caution, to amend the motion to reduce the EDAB budget to \$40,000.

Discussion ensued on sales tax reimbursement, marketing, and expenses.

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to amend the amendment to reduce the EDAB budget to \$25,000. The amendment to the amended motion failed by voice vote 1-6 with all but Ms. Anderson opposed.

The original amendment carried by voice vote 6-1 with Mayor Holic opposed.

The original motion as amended carried by voice vote with Mayor Holic opposed.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve in the city manager's budget \$20,000 for Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI).

Discussion continued on VABI to include renting of building space, subsidy from the city, services provided, and reducing the budget.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve in the city manager's budget \$5,000 for America in Bloom.

Discussion continued on expenses and services provided by the organization.

The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member

Gates, to approve in the city manager's budget \$50,000 for the public information officer's (PIO) marketing activities. The motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson opposed.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve in the city manager's budget \$75,000 for professional trolley services.

Discussion ensued on the trolley to include funding, route changes and stops, purpose, impact on residents, and cost per ride.

A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Anderson, to amend the motion to reduce funding to \$37,500 and investigate the opportunity for a public private partnership with a goal of becoming privately funded by FY 2018.

Discussion continued on support, sign advertisement, and anticipated increase in public use of trolley services.

The amendment failed by voice vote 2-5 with all but Mr. Cautero and Ms. Anderson opposed.

Discussion continued regarding citizens perception of funding trolley services and tax increases for FY 2017.

The original motion carried by voice vote with Ms. Anderson, Mr. Cautero, and Mayor Holic opposed.

Ms. Senne commented on the allocation of the assistant city manager's salary.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Gates, to change the allocation of the assistant city manager's budget to the general fund.

Ms. Senne provided history of the assistant city manager's position.

Mr. Lavalley explained the cost allocation process.

Discussion continued regarding the assistant city manager's time reporting.

The motion failed by hand vote 1-6 with all but Mr. McKeon opposed.

Mr. Lavalley provided a summary of actions taken by council to include amendments and changes to the operating budget. Mr. Lavalley requested for council to consider completion of the data center to include fiber connection and storage.

Discussion continued on setting the millage rate.

Ms. Senne provided a document showing ad valorem tax increases from FY 2016 to FY 2017.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk