



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, September 1, 2016

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting - Police Station

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:00 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: Police Chief Tom Mattmuller and Detective Robert Goodson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Holic requested a moment of silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Fraize.

I. COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

16-2207

Discuss the Fawley Bryant Police Station Report, Establish Direction for the Existing Police Station and Discuss Possible Relocation of Other City Departments

Mayor Holic spoke regarding the August 16, 2016 email from Public Information Officer (PIO) Lorraine Anderson that stated to review the updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the police department.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on staff working with the architect to explore the different options available on improving the current facility, summary of options reviewed, cost constraints and comparisons, and hardening standards on the current and potential new facility.

Discussion followed regarding upgrading hardening standards of the

current facility, potential flood maps, and tornadoes.

Detective Goodson spoke on different options for the current facility to include expanding building to 30,000 square feet, hardening the building to a category three or five standard, space allocation, expansion for a command center and use of public access area, cosmetics of building, equipment needs, records storage area, re-engineering the building structure, and expansion of parking area.

Detective Goodson responded to council questions concerning placement of an additional 12,000 square foot structure, and potential issues with evacuation and equipment damage.

Chief Mattmuller noted response vehicles are relocated to safer locations around the city.

Discussion continued on including flood assessments in the proposal, building meeting current flood standards, facility elevation, obtaining factual data and figures, concerns with bond referendum, purchasing and rezoning a new property, road bond referendum and millage rate increases, having a secondary option if the bond does not pass, expanding and hardening the current facility, cutting proposed cost in half, funding for expansion, public works space requirement, North Port police facility building costs, request for the city manager to find out the specifics on the North Port police facility, total cost of the North Port police building, and providing constituents with realistic figures.

Detective Goodson provided a comprehensive breakdown of the proposal to include costs of a new facility, costs of special areas, development costs, final cost for enhancing the current facility, and square footage costs.

Chief Mattmuller responded to council questions regarding differences between North Port and Venice police facilities, and Venice police facility operations during renovations.

Discussion followed on issues with current figures and the community's perspective.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on site modification to the existing facility, building construction costs, and new facility project costs.

Discussion ensued on project estimates, capital needs, questions asked by residents on costs and scope of project, return on investment, proposing a total public safety initiative, concerns with perception of bond, infrastructure costs, flooding concerns in the Wellfield area, raising elevation of building, doing what is good for the city, relying on

consultants for figures, moving police station away from the Wellfield area, having room for the police department to expand, educating the public, lack of funding for building maintenance, articulating bond in simpler terms, convincing constituents the reason for bond, adequate return on investment, and staff constraint in advocating bond.

Mr. Lavallee commented on the challenges for modifying the existing building.

Discussion continued regarding the value, ensured value, and acquired value of the building, preparing for future Venice, supporting prior council's decisions, interest rates, borrowing money to fund projects, city's shortage on revenue, building maintenance, correcting the fact sheet data and making the information more transparent to taxpayers, educating the public on the conditions of facilities that need fixing, having plan if bond referendum does not pass, addressing all aspects of building, having a substantial and sustainable building, transgender public restrooms and showers, funding and project needs, construction costs of a new public works facility, previous one-cent sales tax workshop, expanding scope of project in the future, potential fire assessment fee, and public safety.

Discussion ensued on shortage of revenues, prioritizing public safety, infrastructure and building maintenance, comprehensive plan comments, holding a public meeting and obtaining resident feedback regarding the city's future vision, lack of consensus, money management, vehicle depreciation procurement fund, creating a building depreciation fund, council advocating bond, highlighting important information on fact sheet, and clarifying questions from the public.

Ms. Stelzer clarified that city council can advocate for the bond, but staff cannot.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on articulating fact sheet, and on choice to build new facility for \$16 million or reconstruct existing building for \$6.2 million. Mr. Lavallee responded to council questions to include funding if bond fails, other project options, and obtaining more information from contractor.

Discussion continued on having alternative plan, articulating bond, conducting a town hall meeting for resident input and feedback, formulating responses to questions regarding why is this project compelling and a good investment, making economical sense, and providing compelling reason for needing a new facility versus upgrading the existing facility.

Mr. Lavallee clarified council's direction for updating the fact sheet.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk