

From: John Holic

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 10:54 AM

To: Lori Stelzer <LStelzer@Venicegov.com>

Cc: Heather Taylor <HTaylor@Venicegov.com>; Edward Lavalley <ELavalley@Venicegov.com>

Subject: agenda

Lori,

Please place on the agenda for council discussion:

The people of Venice have given the City a great gift in passing both bonds. Both the Road Bond and the Public Safety Bond are for items that our regular collection of taxes could not have provided for our residents and we, in turn, owe it to the residents to assure them we will spend the proceeds wisely and judiciously over the next several years.

Kathleen Weeden has already provided a prioritized list of the roads and the bond money will assure that we receive the \$1.4 million allocated from the State of Florida to augment our expenditure. I will be going back to Tallahassee in a couple of months and will lobby for an additional sum of money for years 2 and 3 in the roads project. Any additional money received from the State will allow us to expand the project and to do a better job at making improvements for disabled individuals.

With the Public Safety Bond, we know what we are going to initially build; we have not made a final decision on the location, nor have we established a prioritized list of what else needs to be accomplished with our infrastructure. As we begin to talk about our fiscal 2018 budget, I would like to offer the following for consideration as a starting point in our discussion of this topic:

1. Begin work on the new Public Safety Building as soon as practical. It is important to fund the bond quickly as there is no assurance that interest rates will stay low.
2. Begin planning on the relocation of the Public Works building to the old Police Station. We can do this by earmarking (pigeon holing) one cent sales tax money. We know the building will need a new roof and that replacement will be much easier once the building is empty. There may also be a need to restructure some of the interior walls to make the building more efficient for Public Works. As the top priority of the one cent sales tax is currently the replacement of our motor vehicle pool since we have no other source of funding for that item, that will have to remain as a top priority. Of the \$2 ½ million collected annually from one cent sales tax, approximately \$1 million goes to replacement of vehicles.
3. I suggest that we decide on a dollar amount of the remaining \$1 ½ million for building replacement, repair and relocation. My initial thought is to suggest \$1 million be set aside each year for this project. By setting aside this money, we will have \$3 million in place for renovation of the old Police Station and relocation of Public Works. This is probably more than we will need, but any excess will be used for the next project in line.
4. Once Public Works is relocated, the old Public Works location can be cleaned up and sold, all the while we are still setting aside one cent sales tax money. The proceeds from the sale of the Public Works property may be sufficient to rebuild Fire Station #1, either on the same spot or another location to be determined as that time approaches. If the sales proceeds are sufficient, we will be able to build a new fire station with minimal use of One Cent Sales tax revenue or of General Fund revenue. As we continued to set aside one cent sales tax money, by time Fire Station #1 is complete, we should have accumulated sufficient funds to rebuild Fire Station #2.
5. This will leave about \$500,000 in unallocated One Cent Sales tax each year so that we will be able to continue to plan in other areas.

I know the order of things may change as we get our infrastructure assessment completed in the near future, but I just wanted to get us thinking of a long range plan for the updating/upgrading of our City. I

am firmly convinced that we will be able to accomplish all of this without any further borrowing of funds or increases in taxes. Unforeseen circumstances may cause delays on some of the projects, but that will remain to be seen. Again, this proposal is not to be viewed as the way things will be done, rather it is food for thought on how things may be done; I look forward to some excellent dialog on this topic in the future.

John

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