



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Friday, January 13, 2017

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### Beach Renourishment & Downtown Reconstruction

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ROLL CALL

- Present:** 6 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Cautero and Council Member Fred Fraize
- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Jeanette Gates

#### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, and for certain items on the agenda: City Engineer Kathleen Weeden.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. McKeon.

#### I. 9:00 A.M. - BEACH RENOURISHMENT

##### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Janine Joyner, 817 Riviera Street, spoke on supporting beach renourishment, and not supporting downtown angle parking, blocking of streets, and sidewalk widening. Ms. Joyner suggested adding a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Nokomis and Tampa Avenues, and building a parking garage near downtown.

Discussion followed regarding a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Nokomis and Tampa Avenues.

Earl Midlam spoke on the beach renourishment project and long term funding.

Mario Messina, Project and Build Beaches, Inc., spoke regarding his experience as a geologist, innovative beach protection and building

system, speed bumps, and conducting a trial run with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

[17-2446](#)

Dr. Kelly Rankin Legault, Ph.D., PE and Brandon Burch, EI, United States Army Corp of Engineers Jacksonville District, Engineering Alternative and General Reevaluation Report, Jenna Phillips, M.S., EI, Taylor Engineering, Inc.: City of Venice Shoreline Stabilization and Requesting Council Direction

Ms. Weeden provided an introduction on the beach renourishment project.

Milan Mora, USACE Chief of the Water Resources Section in Jacksonville, provided a presentation on engineering alternatives for the beach renourishment project and spoke regarding authorization and construction history, cost share, and traditional and innovative technologies.

Dr. Kelly Rankin Legault, Ph.D., P.E., spoke on sediment transport, traditional technologies to include Jetty spur, traditional and T-Head groins, breakwater, dewatering systems, low-profile and submerged structures, and permeable and adjustable groins.

Discussion followed on permeable groins.

Ms. Legault spoke regarding sediment trap and bypassing systems, artificial reef and submerged breakwaters, and design considerations.

Mr. Mora spoke on past studies, General Reevaluation Report (GRR) and SMART Planning, risks associated with GRR to include having an authorized federal project with one of the highest cost shares percentages, potential risk of no longer having a justified project, potential lower cost share, and potential reduced beach profile, future concerns after federal participation ends, extending period of nourishment, and cross business line benefits.

Discussion followed regarding contract longevity, new technologies and studies, project performance, funding, reporting to Congress on global innovative technologies and coastal issues, Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) publications, project alternatives, partnering with other municipalities and cost sharing, project risk and consequences, and cost share percentages.

Cliff Truitt, Chief Engineer, Taylor Engineering, spoke on proposed innovative technologies, hot spots, and sediment transports.

Jenna Phillips, E.I., Taylor Engineering, provided a presentation on the City of Venice Shoreline Stabilization, and spoke on overall project

performance and hot spots to include primary locations at north end Jetty Park, Flamingo Ditch and Deertown Gully.

Discussion followed on three foot drop, storms, and sandbars at the Jetty.

Ms. Phillips spoke on primary results of erosion, 2010 aerial of north end Jetty Park, stabilization and access alternatives to include pile supported boardwalk, reinforced pedestrian path, selective repositioning of existing rock, and periodic (as needed) sand transfer, order of magnitude costs, and hybrid solution.

Ms. Weeden spoke on the Jetty to include hotspot, improvements, partnering with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for limited restoration of area, and adding design plan to the budget process. Mayor Holic suggested Ms. Weeden provide council with an estimate prior to the budget cycle.

Discussion followed regarding tax imposed to residents living on the beach, funding sources, cost shares, and reimbursements from DEP and tourist tax.

**There was council consensus for Ms. Weeden to provide council with an estimate prior to the budget cycle.**

Mr. Persson spoke regarding Longboat Key's special districts and division of costs.

Discussion followed regarding sand back passing system, issue with equipment placed on the location of the sand, sand transfer jurisdiction relationship, and cost benefit analysis.

**There was council consensus for Ms. Weeden to research Jersey Shore's sand back passing system.**

Ms. Weeden noted reporting back to council within 60 to 90 days.

Recess was taken from 10:32 a.m. until 10:41 a.m.

## **II. 10:00 A.M. - DOWNTOWN RECONSTRUCTION**

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Holic noted survey was done to gather citizen input regarding the downtown area.

Ms. Weeden spoke regarding response to survey, emails received within the last 24 hours from residents, and noted public comments were provided to council.

Dorothy Korwek, former Historical Resources Director for the City of Venice, spoke on opposing angle parking and changing width of the median on Venice Avenue; presented two 1920's photograph of Venice Avenue and spoke on pedestrian access and downtown aesthetics, and requested additional lighting downtown.

Greg Watkins, 324 Pedro Street, spoke regarding the unintended consequences of angle parking and making the downtown area more pedestrian friendly.

John Sandberg, 333 The Esplanade, spoke on the city purchasing property for future parking.

Earl Midlam spoke regarding issues with the canary date palms, placing pavers at crosswalks, supports renewing roads, and crosswalk lighting.

Randy Mineo, 233 Sovrano Road, noted agreement with prior speakers, and spoke on concern with closing a portion of Venice Avenue for a pedestrian mall, and keeping the charm of downtown Venice.

Sandy McGowan, 128 West Venice Avenue, speaking on behalf of her business and some of the neighbors from Cafe Venice, spoke on slowing traffic on Venice Avenue, not opposed to angle parking, and concern with experiment of making downtown pedestrian mall.

Erin Silk, Executive Director of Venice MainStreet, noted the Venice MainStreet board has not had time to discuss downtown changes, and requested council not make a decision today, gather more community input, and wait until the Venice MainStreet Board of Directors provides a formal statement to council.

Sonja Jordan-Mowery, 233 Tamiami Trail South, spoke on agreeing with Ms. Korwek regarding maintaining intrinsic downtown characteristics, widening median, opposing angle parking, inquired council's motivation for change, and eliminating diesel truck access on Venice Avenue.

Discussion followed on survey, downtown study suggestions, citizens input on future vision and changes to design standard, purpose of road bond, previous studies of downtown parking, and downtown project funding.

Jack Sullivan, 256 Pensacola Road, spoke regarding pedestrian malls, and downtown business owners and employees parking at the Venice Community Center (VCC).

Abby Gage, 600 Alhambra Road, spoke regarding having more time for community input on downtown changes, fuel concerns, remote parking

off the island, and electric vehicles.

David Stone, 713 Apalachicola Road, commented on council's approach for spending the road bond money.

Steve Christian, 1016 Pineland Avenue, spoke on Complete Streets design concept.

Gabe Moretti, Vice Chair of the Traffic Advisory Task Force, spoke regarding pedestrian walkways and parallel parking.

Noel Hupp, 550 West Flamingo Drive, spoke on keeping downtown as is, creating more parking, and suggested locations for a parking garage.

[17-2447](#)

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden: Requesting Council Direction on Road Bond Downtown Improvements

Ms. Weeden provided a presentation on the road bond and downtown improvements and spoke on downtown project map and funding summary.

Discussion followed regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, transition plan, grant and federal funds, and compliance schedule, and road bond project completion deadline.

Ms. Weeden spoke regarding downtown scope of work, signs and lights at crosswalks, discussion items identified at the December 10, 2016 council meeting, historic downtown photos, 2006 previous downtown study and parking count summary, and survey results.

Discussion followed regarding increased parking spaces and availability.

Ms. Weeden went over survey questions and responses, and spoke on suggestions to include use of parking spaces for gathering areas or use by adjacent businesses, and reducing south side of Venice Avenue to one lane for parallel parking. Ms. Weeden noted she will discuss suggestion regarding eliminating diesel truck access through Venice Avenue with the police department and will look at Complete Streets design concepts.

Discussion followed regarding survey, reducing lanes on Venice Avenue, promenade, removable structures, additional parking spaces, trolley system, council discussion on alternatives, and obtaining more input from residents.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on survey, strategic plan, citizen suggestions, downtown road reconstruction, and council's policy decision.

Discussion followed regarding pedestrian ADA requirements at downtown cafes, pathway for pedestrians and bicycles, driverless vehicles, strip malls, city's historical charm, rerouting diesel trucks, residents input on change, Complete Streets, on road bicycle riders, speed limits, adding pedestrian walkway at median, survey results, angle parking, reducing lanes on Venice Avenue, parallel parking, and promenade.

**A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to remove consideration of angle parking in downtown. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Fraize, to leave downtown Venice as is including parking, two lanes of traffic each direction on Venice Avenue, and median. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to consider a promenade on the median of Venice Avenue.**

Discussion continued regarding jay walking and safety concerns, Ms. Weeden scheduling meeting with the Historic Preservation Board to discuss historical elements, gathering input from Venice MainStreet, Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses, additional surveys, conceptual plans, lighting at crosswalks, promenade, and Ms. Weeden providing council updates.

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

Mr. Daniels left the meeting at 12:22 p.m. and did not return.

Discussion followed on providing another survey to residents and meeting with various homeowners association, Ms. Weeden obtaining input from design team and providing updates to council, rendering of promenade, Washingtonian palms, Heritage Park, and bicycle parking.

### **III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

No one signed up to speak.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk