



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Friday, March 17, 2017

1:30 PM

Community Hall, Room 114, Venice City Hall

Fire Fee Assessment Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the workshop to order at 1:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Holic noted all council members are present.

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

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Finance Director Linda Senne, and Finance Controller Joe Welch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Carvey.

I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER ED LAVALLEE AND FIRE CHIEF SHAWN CARVEY

Chief Carvey provided a brief introduction to include primary goal of the meeting, selecting methodology for a fire assessment fee, the fire department's projected analysis on salaries, wages, and pension, capturing fee replacement fund and capital needs, and funding.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on fire department funding, fee study, specific benefits of incorporating a fire assessment fee to include Annual Required Contribution (ARC), return on investment, depreciation schedule for vehicles, replacement of fire station no. 1, removal of department capital item expenses from the one-cent sales tax, department operating costs, and reduction in millage rate, methods of funding the department, and assessment process.

II. PRESENTATIONS

[17-2567](#)

Michael Burton, Principal and Erick van Malssen, Manager, Stantec Consulting: Discuss the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Methodology Options Pertaining to Fire Protection Services

Mr. van Malssen provided a presentation and spoke regarding primary goal of meeting, program costs, Stantec, project team, fire special assessment definition and background, fire suppression service, why the city would consider a fire special assessment, generating new revenue source, legal requirements and two pronged test, adoption and public hearing, exemptions, how the program works, different methodology alternatives, and cost recovery.

Mr. van Malssen spoke on the availability methodology, two tier benefits, response readiness availability, protection from loss of structures, preliminary calculations, calculation of assessable costs, cost recovery, rate and net revenues, and structure values.

Mr. van Malssen spoke on the calls-for-service methodology, call volumes, property classes to include residential, commercial, and government/institutional classes, calculations, structure size and square footage basis, fire department's level of response, cost recovery, and revenues.

Mr. van Malssen continued to speak regarding methodology comparison to include key issues between availability methodology and calls-for-service, billed revenue, single family, residential, and non-residential comparisons, and assessment process.

Discussion followed regarding calls-for-service methodology, millage rate charge and cost for response, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and transportation fees, operation and vehicle assessments, taxation, homestead exemption, tax deduction, benchmarking with other municipalities and jurisdictions, calls-for-service being most prevalent, funding pensions and capital improvements, availability methodology, millage impact and flexibility, ad valorem taxes, generating additional revenues, cost recovery, and total revenue recovery (revenue neutral).

Mr. Lavallee spoke on the fire fee assessment and revenue for fire protection services.

Discussion followed regarding revenue neutral, allocation for fire services, methodologies, program to fund the fire department's needs, moving fire capital through the one-cent sales tax, increasing total revenue, economy status, general fund, fire assessment fee benefit and liability, fire impact fees, using assessment for capital items, fire

department's funding status, property taxes, council's decision on having a fire assessment fee, replacement cost, ARC, departmentalizing the fire department to have their own special revenue fund, property structure values, net impacts, taxable values, fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget, deadlines for assessment process, and council deciding on a preferred methodology.

Discussion ensued on the county's fire fee, taxpayer support, millage rate increase, economy status affecting public safety funding, supporting availability methodology, FY 2018 budget visibility, lime pits, other municipalities that have adopted the program, negative aspects, public outreach and input, difference between methodologies, benefits, subsidizing costs, vetting budget prior to council making a decision, mobile homes and vacant lot aspects in the calls-for-service methodology, making exemptions for mobile home communities, property and structural values, parcel assessments, calls to assisted living facilities, mobile home properties, seasonal residents, and council obtaining additional information from consultants.

Mayor Holic requested each council member to choose and state their preferred methodology for a consensus, and discussion followed on utilities rate, service availability requirement, out buildings, cost to homeowners, Truth In Millage (TRIM) notice, mobile homes versus mobile home parks, vacant lots, benefits, paying for fire protection, calls-for-service, impact on residents, and Ms. Anderson not being in favor of the availability method.

Ms. Anderson left the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Discussion continued on calls-for-service, taxable values, commercial properties, and revenues.

There was council consensus to pick the availability methodology as the preferred method.

Ms. Anderson returned to the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Mr. van Malssen noted he will have more information on the availability methodology to include focusing on cost recovery levels, millage offset, and view of budget at the next workshop. Discussion followed on providing different percentage assumptions of the fire department's budget, capital expenditures and pensions, minimizing various fees on residents, capturing recovery, and assessment validation.

Mr. Daniels left the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and did not return.

Discussion continued regarding adding depreciation column and viewing

total impact on residents, changing fire assessment fee, addressing the city's growth and cost assessment at the next workshop, height consideration, mobile home structure risk, and fire assessment fee goal.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Discussion occurred under Item 17-2567.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the workshop was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk