



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, and for certain items on the agenda: Utilities Director Tim Hochuli, Finance Director Linda Senne, Public Works Director John Veneziano, and Assistant City Manager Len Bramble.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Anderson.

I. RECOGNITION

[17-2543](#)

Proclaim March 19-25, 2017 as Surveyors and Mappers Week, Presented to Robert Heggan Jr. P.S.M., P.L.S., Secretary and District 5 Director of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society

Mayor Holic presented this proclamation to Robert Heggan Jr., Robert Strayer, and Gregory Reith.

[17-2544](#)

Proclaim April 16-22, 2017 as "Paint the Town Purple" Week, Presented to Maryanne Bolduc, 2017 Venice Relay for Life Event Lead

Vice Mayor Cautero presented this proclamation to Maryanne Buldoc and Jim Pippitt.

[17-2545](#)

Proclaim March 2017 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Presented to Rafael Robles, Chief Development Officer of Loveland Village

Council Member Fraize presented this proclamation to Rafael Robles.

[17-2546](#) Healthy Weight Community Champion Award Presented to the City of Venice by Chuck Henry, Health Officer, Florida Department of Health, Sarasota County

Mr. Lavallee and Benefits Administrator Susanne Daniels accepted this award on behalf of the city.

[17-2547](#) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year Ending 2017 Budget from the Government Finance Officers Association Presented to Finance Director Linda Senne

Mayor Holic presented this award to Ms. Senne.

[17-2548](#) 5-Year Service Award, Edward Lavallee, City Manager

Mayor Holic presented this award to Mr. Lavallee.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Justin Pachota, Sharky's Restaurant, provided the city with a rent check and spoke on the restaurant's 30th year anniversary, restaurant's income, success, and investments, and state of pier.

Mike Pachota, Owner of Sharky's Restaurant, spoke regarding having the pier fund reinstituted and additional parking.

Linda Wilson, Venice Farmer's Market, noted her concern with agenda item no. 17-2551 and requested council to postpone the special event until her presentation was heard.

Tom Lariviere, 256 Jacaranda Circle, spoke regarding retention pond by Ridgewood Mobile Home Park and construction at the Bypass, construction project completion date, road closure, placing additional signage, and neighborhood traffic.

Discussion followed on project and contacting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) coordinator.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to approve items in the Consent Section with the exception of Item No. 17-2551. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

A. CITY CLERK

[17-2549](#) Minutes of the February 14, 2017 and February 28, 2017 Regular Meetings

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY MANAGERFire

[17-2550](#) Accept Funds from West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) Waterway Development Program, Project #S-311 for the Fire Department to Purchase a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) to Maintain the Water Rescue Program in the Amount of \$25,900

This Item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENTPlanning and Zoning

[17-2551](#) Requesting Approval of the Event Agreement for the Venice MainStreet Venice Seafood Festival on May 6-7, 2017

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve Item No. 17-2551.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Fraize, to postpone council action until after Linda Wilson's presentation. The motion failed 0-7 by voice vote.

Ms. Wilson spoke on increasing head count, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), vendors contacted by Paragon, Venice MainStreet's Seafood Festival event hours, issues with vendor parking and setup location, and working with SNAP through the University of Delaware until the end of May.

Discussion followed regarding the Farmer's Market hourly head counts, seafood festival, parking, Maxine Barritt Park, SNAP, changing event hours, multiple events affecting traffic, city's population and tourism increasing, location of vendors at Centennial Park, staff review of seafood festival application, Ms. Wilson not being invited to meetings to voice an opinion, changing location of the Farmer's Market, vetting process, staff approval of event, staff guidelines, and public parking spaces.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on the special event process, seasonal challenges, suggested location of Maxine Barritt Park, and use of Centennial Park. Discussion followed on the city's event policy to include not having two consecutive streets blocked downtown.

Erin Silk, Executive Director of Venice MainStreet, spoke on event planning, discussions with Ms. Wilson, conversations with the Farmer's Market, event date, time, site plan, and vendor fee, Farmer's Market vendor setup requirement, scheduling events during on and off season, engaging local businesses to participate, Centennial Park location, and

Paragon.

Discussion followed on parking plan and information on website, Ms. Silk's picture of Centennial Park's parking lot during the time of the Farmer's Market, event starting hours, vendor setup, parking lot closure, changing event location, Blues Festival, Maxine Barritt Park loading space, reasons for holding event at Centennial Park, Brohard Park, local restaurant support and participation, resident feedback, St. Augustine Street parking and other available parking spaces near downtown, recommending the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) look at new events downtown and provide recommendations on moving Farmer's Market, looking at other locations to expand event in the future, and holding multiple events at the same time.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Recess was taken from 10:50 a.m. until 11:01 a.m.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

[CON. NO.](#)
[77-2017](#)

Consider the Purchase of a 10-Acre Parcel of Land Located on E. Venice Avenue (metes and bounds legal description) from Caithness Construction, LLC, in the Amount of \$1,850,000; Parcel ID Nos. are 0412070004 and 0412070005

Ms. Stelzer read the notice of public hearing.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Leslie Vilcone, 111 Auburn Woods Circle, thanked the mayor and city council for their work, and spoke regarding voter's remorse and opposition to the public safety facility site location.

Mike Sunderland, 228 Auburn Woods Circle, spoke on Auburn Woods homeowner's association meeting, site location for a public safety facility, resident and neighbor concerns, and buffer zone.

Guy Candido, 109 Auburn Woods Circle, spoke on bond referendum and residents having a voice and part of the process.

Ms. Stelzer noted four emails were received and provided in the agenda packet.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

Mayor Holic requested for the motion to include that an appropriate party from Auburn Woods will be involved in the process of placement of the public safety facility. Discussion followed regarding resident input and involvement, wording on motion, public safety facility, public works

relocation, study, and fire station no.1.

Mr. Lavallee spoke on the public safety facility bond, funding, fire station, and relocation of solid waste and recycling to another site.

Mr. Persson provided wording on suggested motion for Auburn Woods involvement.

Discussion followed regarding clarifying definition of a public safety facility and changing wording to a public safety police station, placing restrictions on property, Venice Performing Arts Center, public safety improvements, and adhering to the bond information on the public fact sheet.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Daniels, to approve acquisition of the property by the use of \$1,850,000 plus associated closing costs of the city's general fund reserves, with a plan to repay the general fund with bond proceeds following the completion of the bond validation process.

Discussion followed on residents of Pinebrook Park, neighborhood impact, property zoning, and bond validation process.

Mr. Persson explained the bond validation process.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Holic, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Cautero and Mr. Fraize

No: 1 - Ms. Anderson

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to direct the city manager to work with the residents of Auburn Woods regarding the siting on the property of the Public Safety Improvements with respect to landscaping and buffering between those improvements and Auburn Woods. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

[ORD. NO. 2017-06](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Florida, Maintaining a Domestic Partnership Registry as Described in Article I, Chapter 40 of the Code of Ordinances, Human Relations; Providing for Definitions; Providing for a Process for Registration; Providing for Termination Procedures; Providing that No New Registrations be Accepted After March 28, 2017; Providing for Maintenance of Records; Providing for Fees and Charges; Providing for Enumeration of Rights and Legal Effects; Providing for Reciprocity; Providing for Limited Effect; Providing for Enforcement; Providing for Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

No one signed up to speak.

A motion was made by Council Member Gates, seconded by Council Member McKeon, that Ordinance No. 2017-06 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Cautero and Mr. Fraize

ORD. NO.
2017-07

An Ordinance Amending City of Venice Ordinance No. 2016-15 Which Adopted the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2016 and Ending September 30, 2017; by Increasing the Total Revenue by \$286,530 and Total Expenditures by \$286,530; and Providing for an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

No one signed up to speak.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Ordinance No. 2017-07 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

Mayor Holic requested maintenance records be provided to council regarding the roof and chiller at the Venice Community Center, and the chiller at city hall. Discussion followed regarding the city receiving copies of service order requests, Mr. Lavallee requesting maintenance records from the county, inspection process, interlocal agreement, annual report and comments, county not being responsible for repairs and maintenance issues over \$5,000, chiller estimate, no inspection reports on file, train station, dual partnerships, having separate interlocal agreement for buildings, parks master plan approval, and taxation.

Mr. Veneziano spoke on the condition of the Community Center, county maintenance records, rate of deterioration, roof, restriping parking lot at Brohard Park, capital improvement program, Chuck Reiter Park, league responsibilities, field maintenance, and the city's maintenance responsibility.

Discussion continued on the county's report, use of one-cent sales tax for ailing infrastructure, conditional assessments, city's priorities, and general fund.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Mr. McKeon, Ms. Gates, Mr. Daniels, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Cautero and Mr. Fraize

Recess was taken from 12:03 p.m. until 1:15 p.m.

B. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[17-2566](#)

Council Direction Relative to the Venice Public Library Facility (Lavallee)

Mr. Persson spoke regarding the old library's lease, demolition, and the county's obligation.

Mr. Bramble spoke on the library project, demolition, site development plan submittal, and technical review committee.

Discussion followed on lease validity, demolition contract and permit, new building schedule, having administrative county staff present the library's plan going forward to council, site development plan, new library name and building size, lease boundaries, county's request to use city property outside lease boundaries, Mr. Bramble being the city's contact person and updating council, users of the library, receiving periodic updates, moving project forward, plan submittal and review, preliminary construction target dates, kitchen, lounge, and staff area size, food sales, meeting rooms, and council review of plans before submittal to the building department.

Mr. Lavallee noted he will provide council with a copy of the library's site and development plan.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to direct the city manager to sign the demolition permit. The motion carried by voice vote 6-1 with Mayor Holic opposed.

C. PRESENTATIONS AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION WILL BE HEARD AT 1:00 P.M. - AGENDA ITEMS MAY BE DELAYED OR MOVED FORWARD TO ACCOMMODATE PRESENTATIONS

[17-2552](#)

Finance Director Linda Senne Bill Blend, Partner, MSL CPAs and Advisors and Jeff Wolf, Manager, MSL CPAs and Advisors: Presentation of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Single Audit Report for Year Ending September 30, 2016 (10 min.)

Mr. Blend provided a presentation and spoke on required communications, audits, services and deliverables, and financial highlights to include a city-wide analysis, general fund budget, enterprise funds, and new accounting standards.

[17-2509](#)

Linda Wilson, Manager: The Venice Farmer's Market, 1997-2017

Ms. Wilson commented on articles in the Venice Living magazine, and provided a presentation on the Farmer's Market to include history, mission statement, accomplishments within the last five years, SNAP and RTC incentive distributions and customer benefit contributions, economic worth, growers, representatives, and chef demos, 2018 future requests to include additional power, temporary move to Centennial Park during the repavement and reconstruction of Tampa Avenue, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements, average shopper

spending, and her contract expiration.

COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION - Continued

17-2553

Consider Participation in the Lake Okeechobee Regional Compact (Holic)

Mayor Holic inquired if Mr. Fraize was interested in researching item and providing information back to council. Mr. Fraize commented on Lake Okeechobee having environmental issues, and noted he will ask the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council for guidance.

17-2554

Direct Staff to Modify Code Section 74-127 to State that the Customer is Only Responsible for Maintenance of a Sewer Line From the Residence to Clean Out or Property Line, Whichever is Shorter and the City is Responsible for the Sewer Line from the Property Line or Clean Out to the Main (Holic)

Mayor Holic spoke regarding underground sewer cleanouts, code requirement for homeowners to clean out lateral sewer line, concern with homeowners tearing up and patching the streets, repositioning water meters, and homeowners not going beyond the property line.

Mr. Hochuli spoke on rate change and study, city's permit process and obtaining permission to work on the private property, possible scenarios, determining whether issue is on the city or resident side, pipe repairs, claims, plumber understanding city code, underground cleanouts, and private properties.

Discussion followed regarding implementing solution, using best practices of other communities, staff drafting policy to address process, new construction cleanout, and utilities staff working with property owners.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fraize, to approve Item No. 17-2554. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

17-2555

Mayor to Send a Welcome Letter to All Homebuyers of Historic Homes in Venice; Venice Area Board of Realtors to Provide the City Clerk with the Name and Address of the Buyer; City Clerk's Office to Prepare the Letter for the Mayor's Signature; a Copy to be Provided to Venice Heritage, Inc. (Holic)

Mayor Holic requested to extend a welcome letter to all new homebuyers in the City of Venice.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to approve the mayor sending letters to all new homeowners to include differentiating between historic and regular homebuyers.

Discussion ensued on historic homes.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

Recess was taken from 2:48 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

[17-2556](#)

Direct the City Manager to Research the Tree Permitting and Management Process and Provide a Report to City Council (Daniels)

Mr. Daniels spoke regarding tree permitting process, county's landscape plan, city taking over management process, and tree protection.

Dave Farley spoke regarding issues he had with the city and county regarding a tree on his property.

Discussion followed regarding communication and efficiency of process, regulations, tree permits, research and time necessary to create process, planning for next fiscal year's budget cycle, and obtaining recommendation from the planning commission.

A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve Item No. 17-2556. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[17-2557](#)

Consider Request to Direct the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Sarasota County Purchasing a 7-Acre Parcel at 99 Center Rd, Venice (Old Jolson/Hanson Pipe Building) for Indoor/Outdoor Pickleball Courts (Holic)

Mayor Holic spoke on the request he received regarding considering the old Jolson/Hanson Pipe building for indoor/outdoor pickleball courts. Discussion followed on providing the county with more recommendations, Boys and Girls Club, public/private partnerships, Mr. Daniels contact with a county commissioner, pickleball demand, parks maintenance, shuffleboard courts, Nokomis Community Park, and county pickleball statistics.

Dorian Hardy spoke on pickleball sessions at the Community Center. Discussion continued on the community's request for more courts, and Ms. Hardy commented on having indoor space and the sports growth.

Discussion ensued regarding pickleball courts in northeast Venice, requesting county to purchase property outside of city limits, making the county aware of building consideration, building condition, and having the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board look at building and provide recommendation to city council.

A motion was made by Council Member McKeon, seconded by Council Member Anderson, to direct the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to make a recommendation to city council regarding Sarasota County potentially purchasing a 7-acre parcel at 99 Center Road, Venice for indoor/outdoor pickleball courts.

Discussion continued on making the county aware of potential site and shortage of pickleball courts within the city and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board needing expert help to make a recommendation.

The motion failed 2-5 with Mayor Holic and Ms. Anderson in favor.

[17-2558](#)

Establishing a Start and End Time for Regularly Scheduled Meetings and Date and Time for Meeting Continuations (Holic)

Discussion took place regarding meeting start and end time, having the Wednesday morning after council meetings available, quasi-judicial proceedings, benchmarking, comparison with other city populations and council meeting times, meetings extended into a second day, and Mr. Cautero's conversations with potential council candidates.

Mr. Persson noted his analysis regarding council meetings and his experience with other cities.

Discussion ensued on amount of work council gets done, previous process, the county commission's process, flexibility on stop time, full agendas, sunshine law, different council views, time for constituents, council member wages and amount of work entailed, establishing start and end date, other optional days for meeting extensions, and wording for motion.

Discussion continued regarding increasing council salaries and charter review committee's position, correlation between more time and efficiency, giving priority to city business, non-profit presentations versus reports, consent agendas, city code on council members speaking twice, respecting staff and council member time, ability to extend end time, purpose of continuing meeting to a second day, continuing agenda items to next scheduled council meeting, and extending second day only for quasi-judicial proceedings.

Mayor Holic passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Cautero.

A motion was made by Mayor Holic, seconded by Council Member Daniels, that Venice City Council establish a start time of 9 a.m. and stop time of 5:00 p.m. for regularly scheduled meetings, special meetings and workshops shall be published with start times and stop times as appropriate for the meeting, should council desire to continue a meeting beyond the scheduled stop time, it must be done by approval of the majority of council no later than one hour prior to the posted stop of that meeting, and should a regularly scheduled council meeting be deemed to need a second day for continuation or completion of a meeting that contains a quasi-judicial hearing, the second day shall be the Wednesday immediately following the Tuesday of the meeting with a start time of 9:30 a.m. and stop time of 3:30 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[17-2559](#)

Authorize Staff to Schedule City Council Special Meetings or Workshops

with as Few as Five Council Members, if Needed (Holic)

Mayor Holic spoke on council members' schedule and availability for special meetings or workshops and strategic plan.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member McKeon, to approve Item No. 17-2559.

Discussion followed on importance of having all council members present, council members and facilitator's availability, scheduling strategic plan on the calendar earlier, planning meetings in advance, having a comprehensive calendar with all meetings, and changing the March 30, 2017 comprehensive plan joint meeting to the morning.

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

17-2560

Direct the Police Chief to Review Extending the 3-Hour Parking Restriction to Both Sides of Harbor Drive, Where Marked Parking Spaces Exist, From Miami Avenue to Tampa Avenue (Holic)

Mayor Holic requested extending the three hour parking restriction to include shuffleboard area parking lot.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, to direct the Police Chief to review extending the 3-hour parking restriction to both sides of Harbor Drive, where marked parking spaces exist, from Miami Avenue to Tampa Avenue, to include shuffleboard area parking lot.

Discussion followed on available and alternative parking areas, and shuffleboard operating time.

The motion carried by voice vote 6-1 with Mr. McKeon opposed.

VII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

Mr. Persson spoke on updating council on time limits for quasi-judicial procedures at the next meeting, validating bonds, and neighborhood meeting with Auburn Woods.

City Clerk

Ms. Stelzer requested clarification on cancelling the strategic plan meetings.

There was council consensus to remove strategic planning from the 2017 schedule and place on the 2018 schedule.

Mr. Lavallee commented on the strategic plan, council feedback, and asset management project. Discussion followed regarding top priority.

City Manager

Mr. Lavallee had no report.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS***Council Member Anderson***

Ms. Anderson provided an update on the Public Art Advisory Board meeting and inquired on charter review board members.

Council Member Cautero

Mr. Cautero had no report.

Council Member Daniels

Mr. Daniels spoke on the St. Armands Circle parking garage and paid parking.

Council Member Fraize

Mr. Fraize provided an update on the Architectural Review Board, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, and ride along with the police department.

Council Member Gates

Ms. Gates spoke on upcoming Economic Development Advisory Board meeting and Joan McGill presentation, Enterprise Florida, and attending Argus Foundation meeting.

Council Member McKeon

[17-2561](#)

Update from Planning Commission Meeting Regarding Extension for Parks Master Plan Review

Mr. McKeon spoke regarding the comprehensive plan and the planning commission needing additional time to review the parks master plan, and state legislator trying to take away home rule.

Mayor Holic

Mayor Holic spoke on Council of Governments meeting and Mr. Lavallee distributing notes to council, Student Leadership Academy using Chuck Reiter Field, Venice High School using Wellfield Park for soccer practice and football games, interlocal agreement with county, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, county subleasing fields, sharing personnel and equipment on a temporary basis, Coastal Summit meeting and meeting with representatives, parks tour, pocket parks, and

Granada and Pensacola Parks.

Discussion followed on John Nolen's intent of parks, greenways, Granada Park, surveying pocket parks, and post office facility maintenance.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk