



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

---

Thursday, April 19, 2018

1:00 PM

Community Hall

---

### Joint Meeting with Venice Fire Department Stakeholder's Work Group

#### CALL TO ORDER

Michael Brown, Chair, Venice Fire Department Stakeholder Work Group, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

All members introduced themselves.

**Present:** 6 - Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Bob Daniels, Council Member Richard Cautero, Council Member Fred Fraize, Council Member Charles Newsom and Council Member Margaret Fiedler

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Jeanette Gates

#### ALSO PRESENT

Venice Fire Department Stakeholder Work Group Members Michael Brown, Kathleen Rogers-Wilson, Pam Schierberg, Edward Murray and Helen Moore, and Assistant City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavalley, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, Finance Director Linda Senne, Controller Joe Welch, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey and Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stantec Consulting Manager Erick van Malssen.

#### I. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rogers-Wilson provided an update on the stakeholder work group's last meeting with Stantec.

##### A. PRESENTATION

[18-3257](#)

Erick van Malssen, Stantec: Fire Assessment Methodology Discussion

Mr. van Malssen provided a presentation on the fire assessment to include background, key reasons for objections, and non-ad valorem special assessments.

Ms. Moore joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Mr. van Malssen spoke regarding the non-ad valorem method, fire suppression services, why the city would consider a fire special assessment, legal requirements for all assessment programs, how the special assessment would work, and cost recovery.

Mr. van Malssen spoke on the calls-for-service methodology to include legally challenged, property class, key considerations, stakeholder work group's preference for a square footage based assessment, mobile home parks, preliminary calculations, updating rate calculations, and target revenue for preliminary rates.

Mr. van Malssen demonstrated two scenarios to include generating revenue through the assessment only, and generating revenue through a higher level of assessment with a 0.5 mil property tax reduction, and the impact of each scenario on residential, multi-unit, and non-residential properties.

Mr. van Malssen responded to questions regarding cost and percentage increase between residential and commercial sized properties, square footage standards for mobile homes, whether homestead exemption and cost of county Emergency Management Services (EMS) is included in the calculations, whether the methodology has been tested, counties that use this methodology, method being equitable to all mobile home parks, benefit of methodology, and Sarasota County's fire fees.

Mr. Welch commented on Sarasota County's fire fees.

Discussion took place regarding revenue from ad-valorem and property taxes.

Mr. van Malssen responded to questions regarding increasing fees to include establishing a maximum adopted rate, public hearing notification process, having a flat rate for mobile home communities, reviewing methodology every five years, and rate calculations for non-profits.

Discussion took place regarding city growth and increase in city services, funding the fire department's capital needs, taxing citizens, mutual aid, calls-for-service methodology, square footage factor being most equitable, deductibility, providing project fact sheets to residents noting the difference between ad-valorem taxes versus a fire fee, the city's property tax revenue, conducting a sample test, mobile home park calculations, being fair and equitable, general fund, different options viewed by the stakeholder work

group, and county fire stations.

Mayor Holic left the meeting at 2:31 p.m. and did not return.

Discussion followed on funding the fire department's capital needs.

Ms. Senne commented on operating costs and unfunded liabilities.

Discussion took place regarding the estimated cost to replace fire station no. 1, ad-valorem versus fire fee assessment methodology, and offsetting the mil rate.

## **II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Anthony Pinzone, 987 Questa Avenue, noted mobile home registrations contain the exact square footage of the home, and recommended showing the differential rate decrease before an increase, providing a fact sheet to residents on proposed rate, considering discounts for homes with fire suppression, and having a public referendum.

Mike Kekel, 990 Windmere East, commented on Sarasota County's assessment fact sheet and growth in the number of city residents.

Lee Lichtle, 829 Whitecap Circle, supports having a square footage based assessment and everyone paying the same amount.

Gita Bauerle, 822 Golden Beach Boulevard, supports the fire assessment and wants revenue to remain within the fire department and not spent on other projects, and commented on adding a cap and being up front with residents.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor - City of Venice

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk