

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGET PREPARATION – FISCAL YEAR 2019

Preparation for the fiscal year 2019 City budget, and fiscal cycles for the following three to five years, will consider a number of significant, and in some cases, uncertain cost implications. Summarized below is a listing of some of the relevant activities and issues with fiscal implications.

- Inter-local Parks Agreement: Current agreement provides for the County to maintain and operate 12 parks and the Venice Community Center. Estimated cost of materials and labor to the County exceeds \$2 million annually. Discussions about a potential new agreement are ongoing. The current agreement is scheduled to expire in 2021.
- Public Safety Complex: The project to construct a new public safety facility is underway. The building project committee consists of the general contractor, architects, City's project representative, and various staff. The cost of the \$16 million bond will be amortized over 30 years and will appear on the debt schedule line of the tax bill.
- Road Reconstruction: A citywide road reconstruction and rehabilitation project is currently focused on the downtown business district. The primary source of funding is an \$18 million bond that will appear on the city's debt schedule line of the tax bill. The downtown project is scheduled to be completed in March 2019.
- Public Works Building: When the Police Department moves to its new facility, the Public Works Department will initiate a remodel of the current police station. The current Public Works facility on Seaboard Ave. is inadequate in size and the buildings are in poor condition. The cost of the remodel is dependent on the degree of modification and updating of the facility. The cost will be borne by the General Operating budget.
- Solid Waste & Recycling: The City is negotiating a potential lease agreement with the County to obtain 15 acres of property in the Knights Trail area to relocate the City's Solid Waste & Recycling function. A ground lease proposal was presented to the City in November. The City is formulating a counter proposal. If the site is acquired, the City will construct a complex including workshop, fueling station, administrative offices, storage for materials and supplies. Additional costs to be researched include utility hookup. The cost will be borne by the Solid Waste & Recycling Enterprise Fund.
- Fire Station #1: The replacement of fire station #1 has been designated as a priority project. A consultant has been engaged to design a new facility and site plan. The projected cost will be determined in the near future.

- Historic Resources Facilities: The City is currently modifying a recently acquired building on Milan Avenue to function as a new archives storage and research facility. The purchase of the building and cost of renovation is supported with a private donor gift. The Triangle Inn is in the midst of substantial repairs including replacement of custom-designed windows and doors. The operation of the Dale Laning & Julia Cousins Laning Archives & Research Center and the long-term maintenance of the two facilities will add a demand to the current Operating Budget.
- Hamilton Building: The city-owned Hamilton Building is currently being prepared for sale or lease. The Procurement Office is soliciting proposals for a real estate broker to market the property for the City.
- Ajax Property: The City acquired 39 acres of property in the northeast section of Venice. An estimated 6 acres will serve as a new site for a utility department booster station. The entire site was purchased with Utility Department funds. The portions not used for utility-related purposes will be paid back to the Utilities Department. The use of the remaining 33 acres has not been determined. Sarasota County owns the adjacent 400 acre lake which may offer some future public recreation options.
- Extraordinary Mitigation Fees (EMF): The collections by the City of EMF associated with pre-annexation agreements is under legal review following a challenge brought by a land developer. The potential collective value of the fees during the next 7 – 10 years, based on the current rate of residential property development could approximate \$12 million.
- Police and Fire Impact Fees: The City recently adopted two impact fees: one for police services and one for fire services. The fees apply to new development and are collected and managed locally; different from other impact fees that are held and distributed based on a determination by the County. Based on the current rate of issuance of Certificates of Occupancy (CO's), the revenues for these two fees would approximate \$240,000 annually.
- Circus Property: The Airport is accepting proposals for a lease agreement for use of 11 acres of property abutting Business 41. The parcel is commonly referred to as the "circus grounds". A long-term lease would provide the Airport operating budget with a stable annual income – projected to exceed \$200,000.
- South Jetty Gate: The Public Works Department has received proposals for the installation of a security gate to the Jetty entrance. The gate would function primarily to prevent access to the Jetty during weather events creating a safety risk.
- Pinebrook Park: Lime pits, containing of 50,000 cubic yards of lime, and a protective chain-link fence were removed from the park. The removal was done to eliminate a

risk and make the property more accessible for passive park use. Subsequently, the park was rezoned and is now formally distinguished from Wellfield Park in terms of its use. Staff is working with area neighborhood groups to identify potential enhancement projects for the 80-acre passive park.

- North Brohard Parking: The City completed construction of an additional parking lot abutting North Brohard Beach. To accommodate current and future visitor demands, in the past three years the parking capacity in that area has been expanded through a three-phase project to re-groom one parking and add two others.
- City Hall Expansion: A space study of City Hall was conducted to determine how to accommodate current and future staff needs. The study determined that additional space is warranted. The preferred option is to construct an addition to the current City Hall building and coordinate the project with the plan for new fire station.
- Nolen Greens and Pathways: These areas have been surveyed, signs have been posted and the City Attorney is working to identify access easement needs. The areas are also in the process of being designated as City Park space. Future improvements are needed to improve access and add passive park amenities such benches, trees and picnic tables. These areas could also be enhanced with stormwater treatment areas to provide water quality benefits.
- Lord Higel House: Subject to approval of a plan to expand City Hall, funds are available to complete construction of the parking lot to serve the Lord Higel House. The lot will also be used to store Building Department vehicles. This initiative will satisfy a significant site-and-development plan obligation and enable the Venice Heritage, Inc. to continue its work to finish restoration of the historic house. Upon completion of the restoration and receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy, Venice Heritage, Inc. will turn the property over to the Historical Resources Division. Historical Resources will be responsible for developing exhibits, programs, and other means of interpretation as well as the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Lord-Higel House. The exhibits will need a one-time source of funding for development and creation; the programs and other means of interpretation will add an increased demand to the Operating Budget. A new agreement between COV and VHI over the operation of the building can assist in its operation.
- Youth Boating Association: The city staff is facilitating an agreement that will enable the Venice Youth Boating Association to construct boat storage racks on a defined segment of Higel Park. As the park is one of 12 that the County maintains, it is necessary to coordinate a three-party understanding of the permissive uses and obligations of the site.

- Solid Waste & Recycling: Following a successful “first phase”, the Solid Waste & Recycling Division is systematically introducing trashcans to residents for automated pick up. The advancement reduces the risk of injury to employees and expedites the trash pick up process. Under review is the entire landscape of municipal trash pickup and recycling. Recent significant increases in the recycling costs imposed on the City by a third party has created a need to examine the options for disposal of recycling products and to conduct a comprehensive review of the operational and capital costs of the program. A stakeholders group will be appointed to work with staff in the review process.
- Airport Administration Building: The Venice Airport has initiated project to construct a new administration building. The current facility is too small, outdated, and has limited accessibility to the second floor conference area. An FAA grant will largely subsidize the engineering of the project.
- Automated Trash Collection: The Solid Waste & Recycling division successfully introduced automated trash pick-up with Phases 1 and 2. The program is now in its third phase with automated cart deliveries on the Island to begin in February.
- Fire Department Vehicle: The Fire Department took delivery on a new apparatus for Station #1; acquired for \$535,000 and funded from the one-cent sales tax.
- Bond Validation: After receiving voter approval for two major projects (construction of a new public safety facility for \$16 million, and reconstruction of 79 lane-miles of public roads for \$18 million, following the threat of a legal challenge to the voter referendum, the City elected to go through a bond validation process, that was successful.