



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

8:30 AM

Community Hall

Budget Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Vice Mayor Richard Cautero, Council Member Charles Newsom and Council Member Helen Moore

Excused: 1 - Council Member Margaret Fiedler

ALSO PRESENT

City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, Finance Director Linda Senne, Controller Joe Welch, Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Police Captain Charles Thorpe, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch, Fleet Manager Travis Hout, Solid Waste and Recycling Superintendent Bob Moroni, Assistant Public Works Director Ricky Simpson, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Information Technology Director Christophe St. Luce, Director of Human Resources Alan Bullock, and Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Lavallee.

I. INTRODUCTION BY CITY MANAGER ED LAVALLEE

II. PRESENTATIONS

[19-4022](#) City Wide

This item was discussed on June 17, 2019.

[19-4023](#) General Fund

This item was discussed on June 17, 2019.

[19-4024](#) Fleet - Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch & Fleet and Facilities Manager Travis Hout

This item was discussed on June 17, 2019.

[19-4025](#) Airport

This item was discussed June on 17, 2019.

[19-4026](#) Utilities - Director Javier Vargas

This item was discussed June on 17, 2019.

[19-4027](#) One Cent Sales Tax

This item was discussed on June 17, 2019.

[19-4030](#) Police - Chief Tom Mattmuller

Chief Mattmuller provided an update on personnel recruitment and retention to include background investigations, accreditation, and training.

Captain Thorpe spoke to his employment history.

Chief Mattmuller spoke on staffing, School Resource Officer (SRO) positions, analyst and criminalistics manager positions requested, budget increases, building operating costs, new public safety facility expenses, and budget for office supplies, proposed overtime, and taser replacements.

Discussion followed regarding police detectives, traffic enforcement officers, police service aides, overtime for special events, traffic enforcement, traffic counters, enhancing officer presence downtown and at the South Jetty, Tampa Avenue and Nokomis Avenue intersection stop sign and traffic during season, staff providing council with annual operating costs of the new public safety building versus the current building, and security measures.

Ms. Weeden commented on Tampa Avenue and Nokomis Avenue intersection traffic and noted staff will continue to monitor the area.

Discussion continued regarding gun range training costs, "loss revenue" term, seasonal traffic, bikes on downtown sidewalks, future projection on deterring crime, maintaining current staffing level, community outreach and education, and Frontline.

Captain Thorpe explained the Frontline program.

Discussion followed on requesting staff to do a press release on the Frontline program, Sarasota County School Board's use of city vehicles, segway, police pension funding, purchasing a license plate reader, senior assistance freedom enrichment (SAFE) program, officer neighborhood walks, jail travel time and alternatives to physical arrests, city hall security, cost of living adjustment (COLA) for retirees, shared patrol cars, assigned officer vehicles, electric vehicles, and the new public safety facility.

Mr. Hout commented on electric vehicles for the police department and responded to council questions on costs.

Discussion ensued on staff providing council with a list of items removed from the budget for each department including budget items reduced from the new public safety facility, contacting Florida Power and Light (FPL) for charging stations at the new facility, evaluating parking citation fees, police officer body cameras, adding flashing solar stop signs at Nokomis Avenue and San Marco Drive, and solar flashing speed limit signs.

Recess was taken at 10:08 a.m. until 10:20 a.m.

[19-4031](#)

Fire - Chief Shawn Carvey

Ms. Senne noted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was added to the budget as a separate division.

Deputy Chief Giddens spoke to performance measures, goals and objectives, and partnering with Jacksonville State University's Division of Emergency Management to collect and analyze data on the best means of communicating with senior citizens during times of disasters.

Chief Carvey spoke on EMS to include the city taking over services October 1, 2020, goals and objectives, staffing, and EMS training coordinator position.

Discussion followed on community outreach and education, paramedic training, hiring trained paramedics, compensation difference between a firefighter and paramedic, pension plan, maintenance of above ground piping for sprinkler systems, dedicating EMS revenue stream to the fire department and requesting staff to investigate a mechanism to ensure future councils will not redeploy funds for other uses, goal to make EMS operations self sufficient, policy dedicating annual portion of millage to EMS, transport revenue, council setting yearly millage rate, percent of millage versus Medicare revenue, communication plan, West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) grant to replace marine electronic equipment, city's insurance policy, travel and training budget, adding a cap on

dedicated EMS revenue, the county's master plan for the fire department, county's decision on the city's transition plan, goal for the fire department to be self sustaining and alleviate the general fund, station equipment, response times, fleet replacement, projected revenue, original EMS budget estimate, paramedic entry levels, impact fees for new fire station no. 1, and EMS overtime costs.

[19-4028](#)

Public Works - Director James Clinch

Mr. Clinch spoke to staffing, budgets, collaboration with other departments, production, improving worker efficiency, projects to include public works relocation, renovation needs and costs, asset management tracking program, staff relationship with the county, parks master plan, downtown maintenance and operations, and irrigation technician position requested.

Mr. Simpson spoke to the need for an irrigation technician to maintain downtown.

Mr. Clinch spoke on disaster response and training.

Discussion followed regarding irrigation technician position, volunteer groups, irrigated hanging flower baskets, moving Ponce De Leon Park irrigation project funding to FY20, proposed Legacy Park dog park, FY20 parks budget, funding county maintained parks, deferring funding projects for Chuck Reiter and Wellfield Parks, adding solar to department goals, plans for the current public works facility, budget to purchase additional park property in the northeast area, playground equipment, analyzing utilization of parks and determining park needs for FY20, fund balance for city hall Americans with Disabilities (ADA) improvements, and John Nolen greens signs.

Mayor Holic left the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Discussion ensued on staffing equipment and training, parks level of service (LOS) in the comprehensive plan, and repurposing parks.

Mayor Holic returned to the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Ms. Gates left the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Discussion followed regarding a skate park.

Ms. Gates returned to the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Discussion continued on workforce housing, cost and liability associated with skate parks, Challenger Baseball project funding to include funding all

or part of the remaining balance with impact fees, and impact fees used outside of city limits.

Ms. Moore left the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding endorsing Challenger Baseball project, funding needed for city parks, discussing item at the June 25, 2019 council meeting, and field location being outside of city limits.

Ms. Moore returned to the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Discussion took place on residents requesting a passive park in northeast Venice and adding a placeholder in the budget, pocket parks, cost of Triangle Inn surface painting, budgeting \$40,000 for replacing center poles, ADA beach mobi-mats, Wellfield groundwater monitoring, budget for installing a hearing loop at the VCC, exterior water fountain inspections, adding identification numbers to parking lot street lights, and appropriate fund for Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) building repairs.

Recess was taken at 12:48 p.m. until 1:20 p.m.

Mr. Moroni commented on employees trained in automation.

Mr. Newsom returned to the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Discussion followed on worker's compensation, amount of waste placed in garbage and recycling cans, yard waste, and hiring an impact fee consultant.

Mr. Welch commented on solid waste's proposed budget.

Discussion continued regarding hiring a consultant, recycling surcharge, and resale prices of recycling material.

Mr. Klinkhamer provided an update on the Triangle Inn repairs and the Julia Cousins Laning Archives and Research Center.

Discussion followed on Lord-Higel House renovations, Venice Heritage Inc. (VHI) funding exterior restroom, ADA ramp, and renovations, Mr. Lavallee notifying Chief Carvey the restrooms at fire station no. 1 are not being used by the public, the need for an outside structure at the Lord-Higel house, restroom meeting code requirements and ADA compliance, adding exterior handrails, parking lot pavement, project funding and timeline, requesting a representative from VHI to present project timeline and cost estimates to council after the summer break, site plan approval, adding a

project deadline, access to public bathrooms, farmer's market location, street closures due to special events, the farmer's market rental of public space, and recommending Mr. Lavallee and Mr. Klinkhamer speak with a representative from VHI for a project update.

[19-4029](#)

Engineering, Stormwater and Streets Capital Projects - City Engineer Kathleen Weeden

Ms. Weeden commented on new staff members, meeting department goals, major projects, vacation buy backs, beach fund and renourishment, consultant monitoring report, 302 streets capital fund, and contingency funds.

Discussion followed regarding contingency funds, funding decorative street lights from the one-cent sales tax, gas tax funds, Capri Isles bridge replacement, motor fuel and gas tax, road sealing and repavements, Capri Isles bridge closure timeframe and staff coordinating with the golf course, percent of ADA improvements completed downtown, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) participation and membership fees, staff presenting a post completion review of the road construction project at a council meeting, stormwater monitoring, Tarpon Center Drive bike lanes, dedicated bike lanes, street sweeping and striping, cost of West Venice Avenue repavement due to unauthorized removal of construction barrels, and sidewalk and bike lane connectivity.

Discussion took place regarding outfall monitoring, watergoats, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) grants, water sampling, Hatchett Creek, Roberts Bay, outfall water quality improvements, illegal dumping into stormwater drains, stormwater rates, water quality reports from the pier, hybrid vehicle replacement, and vehicle sharing with other departments.

[19-4032](#)

Building, Planning, Code Enforcement - Development Services Director Jeff Shrum

This item will be discussed on June 19, 2019.

[19-4033](#)

Information Technology - Director Christophe St. Luce

Discussion took place on the city's cyber security and android versus apple operating systems.

Ms. Stelzer read comments submitted by Ms. Fiedler regarding goals for each department, one-cent sales tax fund, eliminating the need for a bridge loan for city hall expansion, supporting the police department's budget, obtaining a list of budget items removed from the public safety facility, EMS funding, preserving park impact fees, Chuck Reiter Park, and budget placeholder for a park in northeast Venice.

Discussion continued regarding the need for a bridge loan, travel and training budget, the city's website, backup storage system, and accuracy of each department's information on the city's website.

[19-4034](#)

Human Resources - Director Alan Bullock

Mr. Bullock explained the difference between a health savings account (HSA) and flexible spending account (FSA), and responded to council questions regarding HSA being tax deductible.

Discussion continued on HSA and FSA accounts to include investments, ability to keep accounts beyond retirement, and number of eligible employees versus number currently enrolled in FSA.

Mr. Bullock provided a presentation and spoke on the presidents program to include work team assigned and outcome, prizes, qualifiers, award levels, authority, process, publicity, backup plan, and budget implications.

Discussion followed regarding unanticipated turnover costs, city employee newsletter, award types, succession planning and working with department supervisors, salary ranges, recognition programs, pension and health care deductibles to include staff providing projections to council, health share programs, concierge doctors, and suggested savings program.

[19-4035](#)

City Attorney - City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

This item will be discussed on June 19, 2019.

[19-4036](#)

City Council & City Clerk - City Clerk Lori Stelzer

This item will be discussed on June 19, 2019.

[19-4037](#)

City Manager - City Manager Ed Lavallee

This item will be discussed on June 19, 2019.

[19-4038](#)

Finance - Director Linda Senne

This item will be discussed on June 19, 2019.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk