



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, September 9, 2019

5:01 PM

Council Chambers

Budget Public Hearing

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 1 - Council Member Jeanette Gates

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavallee, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Finance Director Linda Senne, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Fiedler.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

[ORD. NO. 2019-31](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Venice, Sarasota County, Florida, Adopting the Final Levying of Ad Valorem Taxes for the City of Venice for Fiscal Year 2020; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer stated the current millage, which is 3.700 mills, is the millage that was set last year, on which the last ad valorem taxes were calculated. The rolled-back millage is the rate required to collect the same amount of money as last year with this year's valuation, which is 3.5815 mills. The tentative operating millage is 3.700 mills, which was set by council in July, sent out in the TRIM notices from the Property Appraiser's office and represents an amount 3.31% greater than the rolled back rate. The voted debt service millage is .6200 mills.

Mr. Lavallee spoke regarding the proposed budget, capital projects,

transition of Sarasota County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and tree regulations to the city, future transportation proposal, and irrigation specialist position for irrigation and maintenance of the downtown beautification project.

Ms. Senne commented on the millage rate and debt service.

Discussion followed regarding projected revenue from property taxes, Bay Indies, millage rate, city services, tracking the city's productivity, allocating sale proceeds from the Hamilton Building for the police and fire department public safety facilities, resident comments on structural deficit, funding for EMS start up costs, lease purchases for rescue vehicles and equipment, projected revenue from EMS, general fund reserves, and the city's credit rating.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer noted written communication received after the agenda was posted will be included into the record.

No one signed up to speak.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, to approve Ordinance No. 2019-31 on first reading and schedule it for final reading.

Mr. Daniels issued a response to statements made by the Venice Tax Watch (VTW) group.

Council Members praised staff for their work on the budget and discussion followed regarding resident comments on tax increases and millage rate.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Daniels, Vice Mayor Cautero, Mr. Newsom, Ms. Fiedler and Ms. Moore

Absent: 1 - Ms. Gates

ORD. NO.
2019-32

An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida, for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2019 and Ending September 30, 2020; Providing That Disbursements Shall Not Exceed Fund Budgets Without City Council Approval, and Granting the Authority to the City Manager to Make Certain Departmental Transfers Within the Approved Fund Budgets

Ms. Stelzer read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Council Member Fiedler, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve Ordinance No. 2019-32 on first reading and schedule it for final reading.

Discussion took place regarding inflation.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Holic, Mr. Daniels, Vice Mayor Cautero, Mr. Newsom, Ms. Fiedler and Ms. Moore

Absent: 1 - Ms. Gates

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk