



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, March 30, 2023

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Workshop

[23-6028](#)

Meeting Instructions and Request to Speak Form

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pachota called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Dr. Mitzie Fiedler, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Dick Longo and Mr. Rick Howard
Absent: 1 - Ms. Helen Moore

Mr. Longo arrived at 9:16 a.m.

ALSO PRESENT

City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Chief Charlie Thorpe, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Rick Simpson, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ashlee Castle, Fleet and Facilities Manager Travis Hout, Airport Director Mark Cervasio, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, and Information Technology Director Roger Navarro.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Howard.

I. NEW BUSINESS

[23-6029](#)

2024 Proposed Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Lavalley introduced the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) document, which is the first component in the budget process. He noted it is a draft that will continue to be revised based on Council's modifications and approvals; it is a strategic 5-year rolling CIP with projections.

Finance Director Senne introduced the CIP process, the City departments submit worksheets to Finance, the requests are compiled, department directors meet and prioritize based on City Council Strategic Planning. Changes can be made before the budget workshops in June, any changes are then brought to Council in August for adoption, and finally the budget public hearings are held in September.

IT Director Navarro provided an explanation of "Resilient and Redundant Island Network Connections," funds were moved from the One Cent Sales Tax Fund to the General Fund, and answered Council questions regarding the benefits of ownership of the network versus outsourcing, City currently owns most of its network, security, control, cost of maintenance, new locations, uniqueness of our system, fiber optic, wireless endpoints, industry standard, and capacity.

Discussion took place regarding Council Chambers audio visual (AV) system, regarding the expense, higher and lower priority items, making the room state of art for meetings remotely or in person, five or six enhancements, acoustics, public access, room enhancements, physical and technology, other communities, and recommendation from Council to evaluate requested funding to ensure it will be enough to accomplish the goals.

Finance Director Senne commented the EMS vehicles on page 20 cannot be removed or changed.

Finance Director Senne stated the maintenance on page 34 for Wellfield Park, is dependent on the Sarasota County interlocal agreement.

Public Works Director Simpson commented on the needs of this park and others.

City Manager Lavellee answered a Council question regarding the future of Wellfield, noting the current arrangement for capital expenses, which entity is responsible for which expenses, and what we will contribute in the future if the County takes on Wellfield Park in a future interlocal agreement.

Discussion took place regarding playground equipment, specific costs, sunshade cover at Venezia Park, loss of trees, activity at Parks, accessibility improvements, and the walking path at Blalock Park.

Discussion took place on One Cent Sales Tax Fund fleet technology systems.

Fleet Manager Hout answered a Council question regarding GPS and fleet software systems, noting the combined technology is not available currently.

Fleet Manager Hout gave an overview of the vehicle replacement process, in response to a Council question regarding "fleet creep", outsourcing fleet services, keeping in-house, or a combination of the two at the new location.

Recess was taken from 10:10 a.m. to 10:23 a.m.

Discussion took place regarding a facility assessment, HVAC, ongoing airhandler maintenance, Fire Station 2, wiring, not knowing if the building will be repurposed or demolished.

Discussion continued regarding the clock tower at City Hall, expense of clock repair and maintenance, options of removing the clock and adding a static overlay, concerns about City history, and other options.

Discussion took place regarding Venice Community Center priorities, day-to-day operations, part of inter-local agreement, not sure of the future, room dividers, sound system, audio-visual (AV) components, lighting, a building assessment, use of the building is not changing, possibility of City taking over operations, in addition to currently handling the capital improvements.

Discussion took place regarding electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations, the one in the CIP is for City vehicles only and is located at the Public Works building, City Hall windows, and police department playground.

Chief Giddens responded to Council questions regarding the Fire Department having its own playground or a combined one with the Police Department, buildable amount of property, safety, funding, and moving the project to 2026.

Recess was taken from 11:14 a.m. until 11:20 a.m.

Finance Director Senne answered Council questions regarding funding of decorative street light poles from One Cent Sales Tax and moving to the general fund.

Discussion took place regarding ADA improvements and recurring costs concerns.

City Engineer Weeden reviewed the sidewalks, sidewalk inventory, data for next year, damage since hurricane, and bike improvements.

Recess was taken from 11:40 a.m. to 1:05 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding parks, pickleball courts conceptual design, and City Engineer Kathleen Weeden reviewing the timeline of the proposed pickleball courts and delays.

Public Works Director Simpson answered Council questions regarding the Lord-Higel House and exhibit funds, and progress.

Discussion took place regarding the northeast linear park, and concerns the current budgeted amount may not be enough, due to increased construction prices.

City Engineer Weeden answered Council questions regarding plans, and funding for the Northeast Linear Park.

Discussion continued regarding Nolen Greens, Venezia Park lighting, Service Club Park, and the linear park.

Discussion took place regarding roads, funding, and Tarpon Center upgrades.

Finance Director Senne commented on fire impact fee money set aside for Fire Station 2, and solid waste impact fees set aside for a vehicle.

Airport Director Cervasio answered a Council question regarding Airport funding and grants.

Discussion took place regarding hangars, design costs, benefits of large versus small, waiting list for hangars and occupancy, reserve fund status, future of hangar leases, and airport master plan.

Discussion took place regarding solid waste fund money set aside for land or construction for relocation of the solid waste facility and preferred locations, due to industrial activity.

City Engineer answered Council questions regarding outfall upgrades, expanding treatment swales, and water quality. It was noted planned water quality projects are budgeted for over \$4.5 million.

Discussion took place regarding Curry Creek water quality upgrades.

City Engineer Weeden stated the City will handle maintenance dredging from Pinebrook Road to Sawgrass, and Sawgrass to Auburn Road where

the City limits terminate.

Recess was taken from 2:11 p.m. to 2:21 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding a Council suggestion to remove the sentence, "The department will investigate the purchase of electric vehicles when possible," from the IT Department Replacement Vehicles, on page 172.

Fleet Manager Hout answered a Council question regarding which vehicles are new additions, versus replacements. He responded there is a blacktop roller for Public Works maintenance and small mini skid steer for Parks Department, in addition to the solid waste unit that are new.

Finance Director Senne commented the solid waste truck will be split funded between fleet fund and solid waste impact fees.

There was consensus to accept the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with the following changes: page 65 move decorative street lights from the One Cent Sales Tax to the General Fund, page 68 move the \$225,000 for the playground at the police department from FY 2028 to FY 2026, page 166 remove the language "the department will investigate electric vehicles when possible", and clean up redundant language on Fleet Fund items.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

ATTEST:



Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk

