



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[24-0069](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

Broadcast

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pachota called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Nick Pachota, Ms. Joan Farrell, Vice Mayor Jim Boldt, Ms. Helen Moore, Mrs. Rachel Frank, Mr. Ron Smith and Mr. Rick Howard

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Deputy City Clerk Toni Cone, and for certain items on the agenda: Building Official Derek Applegate, CRS Coordinator Christina Rimes, Special Events/Marketing Coordinator Brianne Lorenz, Finance Director Linda Senne, and Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Michaels offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Farrell.

I. RECOGNITION

[24-0070](#)

Proclaim the Week of March 4-10, 2024 as "Flood Awareness Week", Presented to Building Official Derek Applegate and CRS Coordinator Christina Rimes

Mayor Pachota and City Manager Lavallee presented this proclamation.

Recess was taken from 9:07 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Addy Griffith, 235 Ponce de Leon Avenue, spoke regarding a code enforcement issue.

Steve Carr, 149 Avens Drive, spoke on behalf of the Central Venice

Coalition regarding traffic mitigation on Pinebrook Road, Sarasota Memorial Hospital Citizen Advisory Council, and emergency vehicle traffic at Laurel Road.

III. CONSENT SECTION:

Ms. Farrell requested to pull Item 24-0074 from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt to approve items on the Consent Agenda, except for Item No. 24-0074. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. CITY CLERK

[24-0071](#)

Minutes of the February 5, 2024 Special Meeting, February 5, 2024 Strategic Planning Session, and February 14, 2024 Transportation Workshop

These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

B. CITY ATTORNEY

[24-0072](#)

Approve First Addendum to Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Services Agreement Between the City of Venice and Patrick J. Reilly, Esquire

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

C. CITY MANAGER

[24-0073](#)

Approve "Stations of the Cross Processional" Special Event on March 29, 2024

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Planning and Zoning

[24-0075](#)

Approve Designation of Venetian Tree at 224 Piazza di Luna as Submitted by Nancy Jo Gentile

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

[24-0076](#)

Authorize the Mayor to Accept Utility Easement from Venetian Golf & River Club Property Owners Association, Inc. Identified as Venetian Perimeter Access Road

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

IV. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

[24-0074](#) Approve "Venice Brewfest" Special Event on May 18, 2024 in Centennial Park

Ms. Farrell pulled this item to discuss trash collection and plans for the event.

Special Events/Marketing Coordinator Brianne Lorenz answered Council questions regarding trash and recycling requirements at events.

Scott Harper, event applicant, spoke on the efforts they have planned with regard to collection and trash clean up.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve Item No. 24-0074. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

V. PRESENTATION

[24-0077](#) Finance Director Linda Senne and Jeff Wolfe, Shareholder, MSL PA: Presentation of the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and External Audit (10 min.)

Finance Director Senne and Mr. Wolf provided a presentation on the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and External Audit to include required Communications, Services and Deliverables, City-Wide Analysis, General Fund, Proprietary Funds (Significant), and Finance Director Senne answered Council questions regarding loss of revenue and landing fees. She stated the lost revenue was due to the T-hangars, and buildings that were destroyed during Hurricane Ian, and landing fees would be initiated by Airport Director Cervasio in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

VI. PRESENTATION WITH ACTION

[24-0078](#) Camryn Malaney, Director of Construction and Christina McCauley, CEO, Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County: Approval of Partner Project for Habitat for Humanity

Camryn Malaney and Christina McCauley provided a presentation on Habitat for Humanity, the cost of building the Habitat Homes, the features of their homes, the proposed lot, the budget, construction schedule, the request for the City to grant \$400,000 toward the lot and the construction cost of the proposed home from the City's Partnership account with Habitat, and answered Council questions regarding the average family income, cost of the home, manufactured homes, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) units, stability, hurricane resistance, safety, options, insurance costs, and possibly reducing City-generated fees and expenses.

Discussion took place regarding the City's expenses and City Manager Lavallee responded some of the fees are Planning and Zoning, but some are from the Building Enterprise Fund, which cannot be reduced or eliminated due to state law and would involve taking money from the General Fund to cover.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mrs. Frank, to approve the Habitat project subject to the Partner Project Terms and Conditions as drafted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

Recess was taken from 9:56 a.m. to 10:11 a.m.

[24-0079](#)

Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark: Temporary Storage Units

Planning and Zoning Director Clark presented options for temporary storage in the code, research done in the local area, commercial permits for temporary storage, retail business needs, alley ways, public storage options, extension of allowed timeframe, and answered Council questions regarding the current alley status and appearance, retailer needs during season, and Code Enforcement issues.

Discussion took place regarding parameters, timeframes, reducing charm in the downtown area, challenges of off-site storage for businesses, property owners rules, other municipalities limited to 30 days, staff time, inventory control, and lack of need to change the code.

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Ms. Moore, to create code to allow temporary storage during season for the historic district of Venice, with a friendly amendment to specify the Venice Avenue and Downtown Edge districts. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 5 - Ms. Farrell, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

No: 2 - Mayor Pachota and Vice Mayor Boldt

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

[ORD. NO. 2024-03](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Venice, Florida, Chapter 66, Taxation, to add Article VIII, Additional Homestead Exemption for Certain Qualified Persons 65 and Older; Providing Definitions for "Household" and "Household Income"; Providing for an Additional Homestead Exemption for Certain Qualified Citizens to be Applied to Millage Rates Levied by the City; Providing Requirement for Application and Submission of Documentation Supporting Eligible Citizens; Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Providing for Severability and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Ms. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Smith, that Ordinance No. 2024-03 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

B. RESOLUTIONS

[RES. NO. 2024-05](#)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Venice, Florida, Providing for the Retention and Use of Funds in the Centennial Community Fund; Superseding Resolution No. 1042-90 and all Policies in Conflict Herewith; and Providing an Effective Date

Clerk Michaels read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Boldt, seconded by Mr. Howard, that Resolution No. 2024-05 be approved and adopted. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

C. COUNCIL ACTION/DISCUSSION

[24-0080](#)

Direct Staff to Set Up a Four Hour Ethics Training Course Similar to the Florida League of Cities as a Scheduled and Posted Council Meeting (Mayor Pachota)

Mayor Pachota introduced the topic about required ethics training and shared his recent experience with Florida League of Cities (FLC) Training.

City Attorney Fernandez commented on the options and a previous successful training hosted by the Manasota League of Cities, that was an open meeting with government officials invited.

Discussion took place regarding training, the complexity of Sunshine law, struggles and concerns, a desire to make sure all Council Members have the same training, ensuring transparency, and public concerns with trust of elected officers as recently stated at a Council meeting.

A motion was made by Mayor Pachota, seconded by Vice Mayor Boldt, to direct staff to set up a four hour ethics training course similar to the Florida League of Cities as a scheduled and posted Council meeting. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Pachota, Ms. Farrell, Vice Mayor Boldt, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Smith and Mr. Howard

VIII. CHARTER OFFICER REPORTS

City Attorney

City Attorney Fernandez had no report.

City Clerk

City Clerk Michaels had no report.

City Manager

City Manager Lavallee had no report.

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS***Council Member Moore***

Mrs. Moore reported on the Historic and Architectural Preservation Board (HAPB) working on accessory dwelling unit applications, attendance at Planning Commission, and attendance at Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) and Venice MainStreet board meetings.

Council Member Farrell

Ms. Farrell offered a reminder on the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) climate summit.

Council Member Howard

Mr. Howard attended an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting, and spoke about the upcoming Mote Marine tour, and Coastal Advisory meeting.

Council Member Smith

Mr. Smith reported on the United Way Long-term Recovery Group, and Southwest Florida Regional Planning Commission meeting presentation he has requested at a future Council meeting.

Council Member Frank

Mrs. Frank reported on the EDC presentation at the Tiger Bay luncheon regarding business growth.

Vice Mayor Boldt

Vice Mayor Boldt had no report.

Mayor Pachota

Mayor Pachota reported on the Holocaust Education Week presentation and proclamation, hosted Congressman Stuebe's Appropriation Lead and

District Director to review the fire station project and Army Corp of Engineers projects, and trip to Washington DC next month with the City Manager for meetings with representatives to discuss appropriations request for fire station funding.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

ATTEST:


Nick Pachota (Mar 13, 2024 14:06 EDT)

Mayor - City of Venice



City Clerk










02.27.24 Council Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-03-13

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