



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Wednesday, March 27, 2024

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

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### Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Workshop

[24-0125](#)

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

### 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 Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Deputy City Clerk Mercedes Barcia, Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown and for certain items on the agenda: Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Police Chief Charlie Thorpe, Utilities Director Javier Vargas, Finance Director Linda Senne, Planning and Zoning Director Roger Clark, Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ricky Simpson, Assistant Director of Public Works and Asset Management Ashlee Castle, Airport Director Mark Cervasio, and City Engineer Kathleen Weeden.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Howard lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### I. NEW BUSINESS

[24-0126](#)

2025 Proposed Capital Improvement Program

City Manager Lavallee spoke on purpose of the workshop, being Council's first look at budget plan for 2025, process involved, planning done for next five years, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan being a working document, having Council provide guidance, organization of document, and the impact of personal needs this year.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the plan being a fluid document, the five year plan from 2025 to 2029, organization of plan and color coding, how

plan will be reviewed, the capital improvements including staffing and equipment, color coding details, table showing summary of total CIP projections, general fund expenditures details, new projects, and answered Council questions on how estimations are considered.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Fire Department marine rescue expense in FY28. Fire Chief Giddens answered Council questions on replacement of Marine rescue boat equipment in FY28, life expectancy of equipment, cost of motors, assistance provided from West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND), use of equipment being necessary, and rescue units lease.

Finance Director Senne spoke on mobile data transfer expense, new fire station project, funding sources, loan types, past use of voter referendums, loan estimate, and revenue bond. City Manager Lavallee spoke on request for support for funding at federal level. Finance Director Senne answered Council questions regarding use of impact fees beyond FY25, how much of the one cents sales tax is estimated to be used, and cost of demolition of existing fire station.

Finance Director Senne spoke on radio upgrades for the Police Department, summary of general fund, and answered Council questions on funding for Old Betsy project. Assistant City Manager Clinch spoke on funding for Old Betsy project shortage, exploring potential opportunities for additional funding, and answered Council question on timeline for project.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Venice Police Department records management system improvement, and Centennial Park ADA improvements. Public Works Director Simpson answered Council question on funding for EV stations.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the one cent sales tax fund.

Discussion took place regarding the Venice Beach Pavilion roof structure, and beach re-nourishment fund. City Engineer Weeden answered Council questions on beach re-nourishment contract, and time frames for the next re-nourishment.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the fleet maintenance facility, the land purchase being approved yesterday, and answered Council questions on use of impact fees, cost of land, and rolled over budgeted amounts for land and design. City Manager Lavallee spoke on change in the projection of land cost.

Finance Director Senne spoke on budget amendments for rescue vehicle

equipment. Fire Chief Giddens answered Council questions regarding the technology included in rescue project, and spoke on time frames for build of new rescue, option to purchase new rescue versus to re-chaise the existing units, and proposed van style options.

Recess was taken from 9:52 a.m. until 10:01 a.m.

Finance Director Senne spoke regarding City Hall renovations, and interactive children fountain. Public works Director Simpson answered Council questions on need for children fountain repairs, donor bricks remaining, and timeline for renovations. City Manager Lavallee noted the Public Works Department's initiative to maintain water park in house and funds saved. Assistant Public Works Director Castle answered Council question on restroom upgrades at Hecksher Park.

Discussion took place regarding heavy use of restrooms in Hecksher Park, moving the upgrades to FY25, the upgrades done at Centennial Park restrooms, and which funding could be used.

**There was consensus to move Hecksher Park bathroom upgrades to FY2025 and for staff to bring updated funding back to Council.**

Discussion took place regarding lighting in Chuck Rieter park, current sport lighting condition, equipment being outdated, lack of parts availability for repair, and concerns for City's responsibility of lights in the inter-local agreement.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Fund 301, the Triangle Inn project, Venice Museum landscaping, signage, and parking. Planning and Zoning Director Clark answered Council questions on coordination with build of the Old Betsy project, and whether it includes any portion of the Old Betsy facility landscaping.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Northeast Park funding. City Engineer Weeden answered Council question on the park's completion timeframe.

Discussion took place regarding the 302 Fund for roads capital projects, gas tax dollars, tax dollars distribution by population count, Bayshore Drive sidewalk project, survey of residents, doing a survey of feasibility, and a survey of use.

Finance Director Senne spoke on Police impact fees plan for asphalt and parking repairs. Police Chief Thorpe answered Council questions on grass parking options, and whether parking posts by building will be installed.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the Airport Fund, design expense for T-hangers, and design and construction timelines. Airport Director Cervasio

spoke on delays due to grant funding approval, the need to keep projects in CIP plan in order to keep place on grant funding waiting list, and answered Council questions regarding repair and maintenance needed in the Mobile Home Park, relocation of maintenance facility, and runway resurfacing.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the Utility Fund, fleet maintenance facility, new solid waste facility, stormwater fund, Curry Creek improvements, Deertown Gully improvements, and the Park Boulevard and Granada Avenue water quality improvements. City Engineer Weeden answered Council question regarding Curry Creek maintenance.

Discussion took place regarding Sawgrass ownership of part of Curry Creek, grant funding, navigable portion of creek, County's interest in improvements, whether there is a benefit in removal of invasive plant species, origination of flooding, Osprey Ditch project, use of french drain at outfall two, and marking of storm drains.

Finance Director Senne spoke on the Fleet Fund. Fire Chief Giddens answered Council questions on mini ambulances, ability to access trails, beaches, and special events. Finance Director Senne continued on the purchase of a flatbed truck moving to FY24, and answered Council question on self funding.

Finance Director Senne noted the proposed budget in June, and answered Council question on the seaboard waterway outfalls.

Utilities Director Vargas answered Council questions on the water treatment plant relocation, and the design plan in FY27. Finance Director Senne clarified the difference between a capital improvement and a professional service.

## **II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

William Huber, 845 The Esplande, Apt. 408, spoke on Higel Park being used for private use, boat storage for Venice Youth Boating Club, fencing and signage installed, laws relating to marine parks, and club's use of the picnic table.

Kristin Hoffschmidt, 232 Gulf Drive, spoke on street lamp upgrades that could be done to be less harmful to nocturnal wildlife, solar panel use on new buildings, using electric cars, using native plants, and prioritizing stormwater management.

Nancy DeForge, Laurel Hollow Dr, Nokomis, spoke on the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, replacement of roof of the Venice Beach Pavilion, keeping the architectural style, having the Historical Resources

Manager oversee the work, and to register structure to Local Historic Register.


[24-0129](#)

Audience Participation Speaker Cards and Exhibits

### III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
Nick Pachota (Apr 10, 2024 22:03 EDT)

Mayor - City of Venice



City Clerk









# 03.27.24 CIP Workshop

Final Audit Report

2024-04-11

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