City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes
City Council

Thursday, September 7, 2017 | **10:00 AM** | **Council Chambers**

Special Meeting - Fire Fee Final Resolution Public Hearing

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Cautero and Council Member Fred Fraize

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Manager Ed Lavallee, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Finance Director Linda Senne, Controller Joe Welch, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Stelzer offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Fraize.

I. INTRODUCTION

Mayor Holic noted City Hall will be closed tomorrow and essential personnel will be on duty, and requested council member's input on the proposed fire fee.

Discussion took place regarding a stakeholders group, implementation, fire department funding, protecting fire fee income, the fire department being a top priority, city spending, funding for low income housing, increasing taxes, fire department's revenue, millage, inequities, and information provided by the consultants.

II. PRESENTATION

17-2884 Erick van Malssen, Stantec Consulting Manager

Mr. van Malssen and Chris Roe, Attorney with Bryant, Miller, and Olive, were present via telephone.

Mr. van Malssen spoke on adjustments made to the fire fee assessment since the August 21, 2017 public hearing to include proposed methodology for evaluating condominium structure values and applying land value credits.

Discussion followed on condominium land value discounts, Florida Statute for fire fees, methodology approved by the Supreme Court, condominium parcels, and land credits.

Mr. Roe spoke to the calls for service and availability methods approved and upheld by the Supreme Court, methodology to address condominium units, making a fair and reasonable determination, resolution changes to condominium parcels, and cost recovery levels and rates.

Discussion took place regarding council's decision whether the fee is fair and reasonable, manufactured homes, property appraiser's data, per parcel basis charges, development types and determining how parcels are defined, and per dwelling unit basis methodology.

Mr. Persson provided clarification on addressing perceived unfairness and equities, property appraiser's determination of fair market values, and fair and reasonable legal standard.

Discussion followed regarding case law, fire fee timeline and process, having a fair and reasonable assessment, enterprise fund, stakeholders group, refining assessment for fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget, September 15, 2017 deadline, revenue neutral, further evaluation of the fire fee, resident input, and public trust.

Discussion took place on structural and taxable values, public meetings, property tax revenue for public safety, consolidation with Sarasota County, and fire department's operations revenue.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jerome Stoiber, 618 Bird Bay Drive South, commented on condominium lands and ownerships.

Charles Alfano, 1585 Tarpon Center Drive, noted supporting the fire department and first responders, commented on the proposed fire fee assessment and fire department's funding methods, and responded to council questions regarding his opinion on how the proposal should move forward.

Annette Dwyer, 402 Montelluna Drive, spoke to increasing ad valorem taxes versus implementing a fire fee, and responded to council questions

to include the fire fee process.

Discussion took place on addressing speaker comments.

Larry Wilson, 601 Armada Road South, commented on statements made by council members and Mr. van Malssen, and the fire fee process.

Discussion followed on fire department funding, state statute, budget, and the general fund.

Tom Manning, 762 Village Circle, spoke on tax assessment and controlling expenses.

William Woods, 600 Pond Willow Lane, spoke regarding the fire fee assessment information letter received dated July 20, 2017, public notice, taxes, providing input, budget line items, and taxpayer benefits.

Emilio Carlesimo, 710 Golden Beach Boulevard, commented on fire fee calculations for condominiums and fee implementation.

Lee Lichtle, 829 Whitecap Circle, spoke regarding the fire fee assessment timing and methodology.

Robert Eklund, 612 Tyson Terrace, commented on unfunded pensions and depreciation accounts, fire department's structure and equipment, fire fee proposal, and stakeholder group approach.

Mike Rafferty, 989 Cayman, spoke regarding assessment being fair, reasonable, and equitable, and the revised resolution by Mr. Roe.

IV. RESOLUTION

RES. NO. 2017-21

A Resolution of the City Council of Venice, Florida, Relating to the Delivery and Funding of Fire Protection Services and Facilities Within the City; Determining that Certain Real Property Therein is Specially Benefited by Fire Protection Services and Facilities; Imposing Fire Protection Assessments Against Such Property; Approving the Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2017; Providing the Method of Collecting the Assessments; Establishing Other Terms and Conditions of the Assessments; Ratifying and Confirming the Initial Assessment Resolution; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Stelzer read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stelzer noted additional emails received were addressed to council and will be included as part of the record.

There were no additional speakers from the audience.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

Discussion followed regarding city expenditures, public safety, general fund, one-cent sales tax, 301 capital fund, resolution establishing a 50% cost recovery level, enterprise fund, stakeholders group, and fire department funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Daniels, seconded by Mr. Fraize, to approve Resolution No. 2017-21 at a 20% cost recovery level.

Discussion continued on state statute, consolidation with the county, public participation, and providing a foundation for the stakeholders group.

Mr. Persson and Mr. Roe responded to questions regarding council voting on a reduced assessment amount.

Discussion continued on the implementation, process, and further research of the fire fee, short and long term alternatives, fire department's capital expenditures, stakeholders group, and credibility on future council initiatives.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Mr. McKeon, Mr. Daniels and Mr. Fraize

No: 4 - Mayor Holic, Ms. Gates, Ms. Anderson and Mr. Cautero

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk