



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

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: 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Vice Mayor Bob Daniels, Council Member Richard Cautero, Council Member Fred Fraize, Council Member Charles Newsom and Council Member Margaret Fiedler

ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavalley, Assistant City Clerk Heather Taylor, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, Finance Director Linda Senne, and Controller Joe Welch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Fiedler.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCES FINAL READING

ORD. NO. 2018-33

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 2019; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Taylor made the taxing authority statement to include the operating millage rate is greater than the rolled back rate by 7.39%, the rolled back rate is 3.4453 mills, the operating millage to be levied is 3.700 mills, the voted debt service millage to be levied is .6380 mills, and the City of Venice is the taxing authority.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

No written communication was received and no one signed up to speak.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

Ms. Taylor read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Daniels, seconded by Council Member Gates, that Ordinance No. 2018-33 be approved and adopted.

Discussion followed regarding the fire department's revenue shortage and budget guidelines.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Holic, Ms. Gates, Vice Mayor Daniels, Mr. Cautero, Mr. Fraize, Mr. Newsom and Ms. Fiedler

ORD. NO.
2018-34

An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Budget of the City of Venice, Florida, for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2018 and Ending September 30, 2019; 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. Taylor read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Holic opened the public hearing.

Ms. Taylor noted all written communication received was in the agenda packet.

Mike Rafferty, 989 Cayman East, spoke to fire department expenditures, city taking over Sarasota County's ambulance service, fire fee study, consolidation with the county, and requested council proceed with the appropriate steps to place a referendum for voter consideration on consolidation.

Chris Ferrante, P.O. Box 294, Venice, spoke regarding proposed 10% raise for the city manager, public sector managers, fire department's operational cost, and requested council reduce the proposed raise for the city manager to no more than 5%, and to immediately freeze all discretionary spending and provide a summary at the first council meeting in November on any discretionary spending that occurred during September.

Mayor Holic closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Daniels, seconded by Council Member Newsom, that Ordinance No. 2018-34 be approved and adopted.

Discussion took place on city manager salary comparables in the surrounding areas, employee recruitments, Mr. Lavalley's work experience and job performance, management compensation, industry standards, amending the existing motion, 5% budget cap, resident feedback, considering salary discussions at future budget workshops and include

charter officers in the dialogue, public versus private sector, raises for upper management versus the workforce, and having facts to substantiate motions.

An amendment was made by Vice Mayor Daniels, seconded by Council Member Fiedler, to change the amount of the city manager's raise from 10% to 5%.

Discussion followed regarding meeting focus, discussing pay adjustments during budget workshops, Mr. Lavallee's pay increase, and voting on items not on the agenda.

The amendment carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion took place regarding fire department's revenue shortage, reserves, earmarking revenues, Venice Pier Group (VPG)'s revenue, red tide's impact on the city's revenue, budget adjustments and guidelines, .10 mil allocation in the budget, property taxes, discretionary spending freeze, being judicious in setting priorities, zero based budgeting, millage increase, and budget compromise.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Ms. Gates, Vice Mayor Daniels, Mr. Caution, Mr. Fraize, Mr. Newsom and Ms. Fiedler

No: 1 - Mayor Holic

Discussion ensued on including compensation discussions during budget workshops as an agenda item on the October 9, 2018 council meeting.

Mr. Lavallee spoke to council's decision regarding his compensation and thanked them for their support.

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:


Mayor - City of Venice


City Clerk