

# Council may cut video

By GREG GILES NEWS EDITOR VENICE GONDOLIER

City council is leaving no stone unturned in its effort to reduce a \$3 million deficit left in the budget adopted in September.

Mayor John Holic has questioned whether televised council meetings are something the public can do without.

The city spends almost \$18,000 annually (\$135 per hour) to record the meetings, which are televised twice weekly for free by Verizon and Comcast, as time is available. Most meetings aren't played in full as service providers usually provide a maximum of four hours and council meetings typically last longer than that.

The city already makes available an audio recording of the meeting on CD for 50 cents.

Holic raised the issue on Dec. 14, and said he'll bring it up again at the Jan. 11 meeting with an eye on entertaining a formal motion to eliminate the service at the Jan. 25 meeting if other council members agree.

But first he wants to hear what the public has to say.

"We have no idea how many people view this," Holic said. "The purpose of this is to throw it out there. Hopefully, people will come to us and say, 'Hey, wait. I really use it,' or if we hear nothing, then we are going to get an idea of how many people are viewing and using this."

During the public comment portion of the Dec. 14 meeting, resident Tom Brener said he supported keeping the service. He suggested re-tasking a current employee with the responsibility, even if it results in a product of lesser quality.

"We are looking at alternatives," Holic said.

Residents with an opinion either way can let the city know by sending an e-mail to marketing and communications officer Pam Johnson at [pjohnso@ci.venice.fl.us](mailto:pjohnso@ci.venice.fl.us) .