

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018
6:00 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the President, Paul F. Spinelli.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilman David Acosta (*arrived at 6:12 p.m.*)
Councilwoman Angela Calakos
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were: Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Michael Benson, Associate City Solicitor
Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor (*arrived at 6:40 p.m.*)

President Spinelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Municipal Clerk stated Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on December 13, 2017 by the City Clerk in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board in the lobby of the City Hall on;
2. Providing written notice to the offices of The Daily Journal and The Press of Atlantic City;
3. Filing written notice in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Vineland.

President Spinelli asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

Steve Lewis expressed concern about K-9 police dogs, urging that the city pay for safety vests and any other equipment necessary to protect them and make their job easier. Business Administrator Dickenson will check into the matter.

Doug Albrecht noted the poor condition of rail road crossings. Administrator Dickenson responded that this issue has been addressed and we await a response and action from the rail road. Mr. Albrecht also urged an examination of the schedule of fees for housing inspections. He estimated that 95% of property owners do things properly, but the fees are out of line. He also questioned the requirement for providing a list of names and ages of residents for leased apartments/buildings. He believes this is an infringement on personal privacy, and noted that such requirements are not made on single family residential homes.

Sam Niblett asked a question about the library's funding. President Spinelli explained how it appears on the tax bill.

Eligio Rodriguez disagrees with the re-routing of the Puerto Rican Festival parade. President Spinelli it was an administrative decision and any complaints should be made to the Mayor's office. Mr. Rodriguez also spoke in favor of the library's petition seeking a question on the ballot for additional funding. President Spinelli encouraged support for it.

Brandi Grosso stated the library's petition is ready to go. She said the library would not be a location to have it signed, but volunteer and staff (on their own time) would be circulating it. There are also several locations that will have the petition available to the public. Informational flyers are prepared. Copies were accepted by Administrator Dickenson to be posted in City Hall.

Associate Solicitor Michael Benson, Municipal Court Chief Judge Guy Killen, Municipal Court Director Rachelle D'Ippolito, and Municipal Court Administrator (interim) Damaris Cortes were present. Associate Solicitor Benson explained that Ms. Cortes is in her third year, approaching her fourth year as the interim court administrator. He explained that New Jersey statute (N.J.S.A. 2B:12-11) permits three, one-year interim extensions by a governing body upon consultation with the municipal judge. Two additional one-year extensions may be granted if the candidate is in the process of certification. This is a strictly procedural matter. Judge Killen recommends approval, citing Ms. Cortes as a constant since he has been on the bench. Ms. D'Ippolito also noted that Ms. Cortes has passed a test and expects that she will obtain certification.

City Council conducted their regularly scheduled quarterly Board of Health meeting with Director Macleod Carre and Health Officer Robert Dickinson reporting on the department activities. Two brochures were distributed, one promoting the Fit Youth Initiative and the other for Heart Smarts nutrition education.

Director Carre reported that the department is working on a grant from the National Institute of Health for injection drug usage, particularly related to opiates and HIV infection rates which have increased due to opiate injection usage. If successful, the grant would be for \$225,000. The department is collaborating with other groups and agencies. The Office of Emergency Management conducted a mock active shooter drill that included EMS, fire, law enforcement and the staff at Health South. The department has taken the lead with the homeless task force. They are locating all encampments and working to find suitable housing. The opiate addiction issue is being addressed through prevention, but reports indicate that the overdose incidents are climbing. In Community Nursing the certificate of need was not renewed last year, so if it is desired to again provide this service the department would have to start all over. An ordinance is being introduced to adjust fees for death certificates to make it more attractive to obtain them locally, instead of going through the state. The medical marijuana issue is being monitored.

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Health Officer Dickinson reported that the spring and summer interns are working on the Fit Youth Initiative, involving a number of vacation bible schools. The American Heart Association Get Healthy program is at the YMCA, a partner with the health department. The Farm to Pantry program has provided healthy recipes and 11 tons of produce to 800 low income families. The first week of the Vineland Police Department and VDID Play Streets project was last week. The Municipal Alliance is in the last year of a grant cycle on prescription drug abuse. The department is working to encourage participation with the 2018 community health assessment, with a link to the survey on the website. Another year of FDA funding has been approved. The department has been advised unofficially that an audit by consultants with the NJDOH Office of Local Health..

The department requests an amendment to the tobacco ordinance to prohibit the sale of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices to persons under the age of 21. They also request an ordinance to license electronic smoking retailers and vape dealers. They also request an amendment to Chapter 224, specifically the reporting requirements for animal bites/scratches.

The Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding change orders and resolutions for "open-ended" items. President Spinelli and Council members desired clarification and more information on these resolutions. It should not be assumed by departments that City Council will automatically approve such requests without good reason and within legal purchasing parameters.

Councilwoman Calakos noted that L & I should inspect 1380 Washington Avenue, as it appears to be getting worse there.

President Spinelli reported that the under-10 softball team won the State championship. He noted that many road repairs are underway and other positive projects to benefit Vineland.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Calakos, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS:

Councilman Acosta
Councilwoman Calakos
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Spinelli

ATTEST:

Paul F. Spinelli
President of Council

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk