

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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 6:07 p.m.*)
Councilwoman Angela Calakos
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator

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 noted the temporary placards placed in the lobby near the portraits of former mayors that list the governing body members and administrative officials. They were researched and prepared by Municipal Clerk Keith Petrosky. He thanked the Clerk for this.

Tony Centeno inquired about the work being done at Landis Park. Administrator Dickenson responded that the former parking lot is being removed by city crews and the area will become a South Vineland Little League t-ball field.

The Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

There was discussion concerning proposed Ordinance No. 2018-58, which increases the age of tobacco sales to 21 years old, to mirror state statute and includes electronic smoking devices (vapes). Solicitor Tonetta explained that conversations he had with Councilman Franceschini suggested including a tobacco/vape sales-free zone around school and churches similar to alcoholic beverages. Councilwoman Calakos believes the distance restriction is over-regulation that will harm merchants. Most Council members agree with the age restriction, but they believe the distance restriction needs more research and discussion.

There was also discussion concerning proposed Ordinance No. 2018-61, which is a redevelopment issue regarding a property at 739 E. Wood Street. The proposal is to permit the existing two family dwelling with a detached garage (which has been converted into a two-room office), to allow the garage/office to be converted into a one bedroom apartment for a total of three residential units on the lot. The required lot size for a duplex is 15,000 square feet. The lot in question is 5,625 square feet. To address the parking issue, subject property is proposing to incorporate cross easements to allow parking on the adjacent lot. It was noted that staff review resulted in a recommendation to the Planning Board for denial of the request. The Planning Board ultimately granted the request, sending it to City Council for action. A "yes" vote would be to grant the proposed changes.

There was also discussion about the cost of six police radios. Council members would like police personnel to appear during next week's pre-meeting conference to explain it.

The Municipal Clerk distributed draft copies of the 2019 Council meeting schedule, noting the dates that are exceptions to the usual Tuesday meeting dates.

Councilman Franceschini reported that the Office of Emergency Management has been working with the Health Department on testing of the all-call system. OEM has also been participating in school lockdown exercises.

Councilman Vargas noted that PAL will be meeting tomorrow.

Councilwoman Calakos inquired if our Public Works department is prepared for winter. Administrator Dickenson reported that Director Guglielmi seems to have his department ready with salt, equipment, and hiring several new CDL drivers.

Councilman Acosta reported that Schmidt Baking is increasing their warehousing in Vineland. He also spoke briefly about the Brown Road issue. Apparently a developer was to widen Brown Road, but the cost of Verizon utility poles makes this financially imprudent.

President Spinelli reminded all that the Taste of Vineland event is on October 24 at the Greenview Inn. He noted that Economic Development Director Sandra Forosisky will be honored by the Italian Cultural Foundation on Saturday. The VHS homecoming parade and game is on Saturday. VBA basketball signups are beginning.

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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