

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the President, Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilman David Acosta
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr. was absent.

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety

President Arthur 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 8, 2020 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 Arthur asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

There being no one to comment, the Clerk reviewed the agenda. Relating to Ordinances 2021-17 and 2021-18, the Clerk announced that the public hearings on these two ordinances will have to be continued to the April 13 meeting because *The Daily Journal* failed to properly publish these ordinances in the time frame required by statute. Ordinances 2021-19 and 2021-20 were adequately published and therefore, they can proceed with the public hearing and final reading. The Clerk noted that there may be additions of ABC transfers if paperwork is complete by next Tuesday.

President Arthur inquired about Ordinance 2021-17, providing a utility bill discount to Gold Star military families. She wanted to know if the discount applied to the trash collection line item on the utility bill. Solicitor Tonetta explained that as it is drafted right now, the discount only applies to the electric and water bills, but he noted the ordinance could be changed to add the trash portion. Clerk Petrosky added that Council may amend the current ordinance, or defeat the one on the agenda and introduce a new one to include the trash discount. However, he also advised that while the electric and water billings are consumption driven, the trash billing is determined as a flat rate across all users, so whatever shortfall is caused by applied discounts would have to be absorbed by all other users. Solicitor Tonetta concurred, indicating that the yearly rate for trash has already been struck, so it would be a cumbersome task to rework all those numbers. Consequently, Council decided to maintain the current ordinance providing for Gold Star military family discounts for electric and water only.

Councilman Acosta reported that the Planning Board met last week. A second floor addition to the Brass Tap bar/restaurant, which was part of the original plan for the business, is planned in the near future. The Magnolia Diner presented a modified site plan with their intention to build a pole barn for storage, helping the facility to become more compliant.

Councilman Vargas advised that recreation fields are now open. The PAL board meets tomorrow, and they are working hard to resume their summer camp.

Councilman Spinelli thanked the electric utility for their assistance with the new building in Landis Park. The VIDID board meets tomorrow. They will discuss a possible date for the annual car show. Plans continue for the 'Old Fashioned Christmas.' Landis Theater has shows every Friday and Saturday, with a comedy show coming up soon. FEMA will be here to administer vaccines, with an emphasis on the minority community.

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

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk