

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 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 Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Greg Gallo, Business Administrator Staff
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.

Steve Lewis expressed appreciation for receiving copies of the ordinances for Gold Star military family discounts.

Rev. Ransom of St. Paul Baptist Church, questioned if the city owns the community garden near the Carl Arthur Center. It has become overgrown and he has volunteers willing to spruce it up. Solicitor Tonetta will assist tomorrow in determining the property owner.

There being no one further to be heard, the Clerk reviewed the agenda. Councilman Franceschini questioned the payment for radio maintenance. It was noted that the Fire Department will manage the maintenance of the radios and the Board of Education will pay their share of the maintenance.

Councilman Franceschini reported that Vineland has 225 COVID-19 cases and 6 deaths so far in April. Only 18% of Vinelanders have been vaccinated. He is hoping that students aged 16 and up get vaccinated. He also noted complaints about the poor audio quality of Council meetings. Greg Gallo will get a status report on the planned system upgrades. Councilman Franceschini also inquired about what we will do about the recreational marijuana issue. Solicitor Tonetta and the administration are exploring the strategies.

Councilman Acosta noted the Planning Board heard some contentious comments regarding signage on the marquis roof of Landis Theater, which was approved by the Board. The Board also dealt with sign size for Dollar General, and he noted a concern about golf carts being used by teenagers with little or no regard for safety. Also of concern is the use of 4-wheelers and dirt bikes.

Councilman Vargas announced that the PAL summer camp registration begins on May 1. He also noted improvements and maintenance being addressed by the Recreation staff at Landis Park. Councilman Vargas raised the concern about the animal shelter at the SPCA and the escalating costs. Solicitor Tonetta commented that the SPCA is delaying release of information requested by the Cumberland County consortium. City Council is in favor of resolving this issue.

Director Alicea addressed the concern about the golf carts, noting that the police cannot pursue and our vehicles can't access where the quads and dirt bikes go. It is hoped that the department can employ a drone to assist.

Councilman Spinelli noted that the VDDID meets tomorrow and will continue plans for the "Christmas in July" event. "American Idiot" was sold-out in its opening performances at the Landis Theater.

President Arthur noted a recent e-mail promoting a 5K run and exercise opportunities for children. She also thanked the fire and police departments for their concern at a recent funeral.

Public Safety Director Alicea reported that progress is being made for the Hometown Heroes banners honoring veterans. Also, the annual police memorial service will be on Thursday, May 13 at 6 p.m.

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

Councilman Acosta
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Spinelli
Councilman Vargas
President Arthur

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk