

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 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
Greg Gallo, Business Administrator Staff
Michael Benson, Esq., Associate Solicitor
Kathleen Hicks, Principal Planner
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;
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 advised that the camera recordings of the Council meetings do not include Councilman Franceschini. He also was interested in the status of the animal shelter issue and encouraged City Council to resolve it.

There being no one further to be heard, the Clerk reviewed the agenda. Solicitor Tonetta noted that Associate Solicitor Benson and City Planner Kathleen Hicks were present to review the draft recreational cannabis legislation. Various options are available to municipalities, including the options to deny it and the option to do nothing. The rules and regulations have yet to be promulgated by the State. Ms. Hicks noted that the Planning Board is recommending a second medical cannabis facility. Councilman Acosta commented that our approach, from the very beginning, should be strict. As this issue has many components, and considering the absence of Councilman Franceschini, it was suggested that a Special Meeting be scheduled to address only this issue. Council members tentatively selected Thursday, June 3, at 6:30 p.m., for the Special Meeting.

Greg Gallo reported that audio-visual improvements are being made to enhance the quality of the Council meeting broadcasts. Councilman Acosta stated that the telephone call-ins for Planning Board meetings are of poor quality and should be addressed.

Councilman Spinelli stated his opinion about the proposed chicken ordinance, that one-quarter acre for six chickens is too small. He suggested that it should be a minimum of one-half acre for six chickens.

There is also a proposed signage ordinance amendment to discuss. This matter will be discussed at the next work session (June 1) and Ryan Headley will be invited to attend.

Councilman Acosta noted that another Dollar General store is proposed. He also expressed condolences to colleague Councilman Vargas on recent losses.

Councilman Vargas reported that the PAL board meets tomorrow. He also noted that the American Legion is putting flags at veteran grave sites.

Councilman Spinelli advised that the VDDID board meets tomorrow. The Landis Theater shows continue. He also suggested exploring the use of electric vehicles in the city fleet, particularly for the inspectors who drive around town.

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