

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 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 *arrived at 6:16 P.M.*  
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.  
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli  
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman Albert Vargas was absent.

Also present were: Robert E. Dickenson, Business Administrator  
Richard P. Tonetta, City Solicitor  
Kathleen Hicks, Supervising Planner

President Dr. Arthur led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk stated Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on May 26, 2021 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 Dr. Arthur asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

There being no one to be heard, Solicitor Tonetta relayed some pertinent information and mentioned attorney Mr. Caruso who represents Columbia Care will come to speak on June 22, 2021 at 5:00PM to Council concerning upcoming cannabis legislation and asked President Dr. Arthur how she would like to proceed. Dr. Arthur advised that in light of having someone come on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to speak to council, Council wishes to discuss the pros and cons currently.

Councilman Spinelli suggested we put into draft what we would like to see if Council were to go through with allowing cannabis in the community and we can make any amendments as the City needs and one site for retail works for him.

Tonetta said Mr. Caruso will be here on June 22<sup>nd</sup> who is an attorney for Columbia Care and others who will have some information for Council. Councilman Franceschini believes it is a conflict of interest because Mr. Caruso represents Columbia Care. Tonetta rebutted there is no conflict and Mr. Caruso is allowed to speak at the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Councilman Franceschini asked what are the current licensing fees. Tonetta stated the State doesn't not allow a license fee for medical marijuana but does allow a fee for recreational marijuana.

Arthur asked Acosta should Council operate and discuss tonight as if we are going forward with recreational cannabis or is it an opt out.

Council (Acosta) suggested if an ordinance is drawn, it should have a minimum license fee of \$15,000.00. Kathy Hicks explained there are 6 classes of licenses: Cultivator, Manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer and delivery. Kathy stated, from a planning perspective, this would diversify the cold storage monopoly within the City. Acosta stated from a planning perspective, he agrees. Kathy Hicks did mention that this industry will be under a union and all workers will be union workers.

There was discussion on how many licenses should be allowed and suggestions were given to the Solicitor as so he can draft a model ordinance for review. Solicitor Tonetta ensured this is not a straw vote and Council is only offering suggestions by the consensus of Council. Additional Questions were raised and discussed by Council, Kathy Hicks and Solicitor Tonetta.

There being no further discussion, the Deputy Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Franceschini commented that 7 VHS seniors contracted COVID from the Prom and graduation practice. Tomorrow is graduation and first responders will be there as it's part of an OEM event operation. There is a new "Delta" variant of COVID its double the risk of hospitalization and more risk against those unvaccinated. There is a new vaccine Novavax that is being released over 90% effective and prepared to make 100 million doses. He mentioned some young children that are vaccinated are getting a mild case of carditis however it goes away with medication.

Councilman Acosta expressed his condolences to the Lewis family for their recent loss. Congrats to all the graduating seniors. The Planning board 3subdivision approvals, Cervini farms; Landis Pointe Estates; property on W. Sherman Avenue between Delsea and Orchard to develop a 3<sup>rd</sup> professional office building. Acosta stated Garden State Islamic Center applied but was kicked back on a technicality and asked if we were in litigation with them. Solicitor Tonetta explained the previous situation.

Councilman Spinelli stated there will be a VDID meeting tomorrow morning and all current events are posted on their website. The Landis theatre is doing well with there weekend concert series; august play of "Heathers" is practicing in full tilt. He is amazed at the talent in our area. Dr. Arthur commented that Councilman Spinelli also has a part in the play so everyone should go out and support and/or heckle him.

Council President Dr. Arthur condolences to Lewis family and also congratulations to those high school graduates and especially those who have received their Associates Degree before they even get their high school diploma. She applauds them for that tremendous act.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021

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 Franceschini  
Councilman Spinelli  
President Dr. Arthur

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Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President of Council

ATTEST:

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Richard G. Franchetta, EJD  
Deputy Municipal Clerk