

REGULAR WORK SESSION
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021
5:30 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 6:13 p.m.*)
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman Paul F. Spinelli was absent.

Also present were:

Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Greg Gallo, Business Administrator Staff
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety
Macleod Carre, Director, Health Department
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
Sandy Forosisky, Director of Economic Development
Aaron Melnick, Community Development

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.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Franceschini, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 Quarterly Board of Health meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS:

Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Arthur

Director Carre reviewed several Health Department personnel matters, including the forthcoming transfer of Registrar Carmen Portalatin to another department. Teresa Lopez will become the Registrar. He also noted Nursing and REHS changes. Health Officer Dickinson provided an overview of the COVID-19 status. The demand for vaccines is waning. So far about 54% of Vineland's adults are fully vaccinated, 66% have received at least one dose. The department has been scheduling 'pop-up' vaccine sites in an attempt to reach as many people as possible. Efforts in this regard will continue to include places like houses of worship. COVID testing is continuing. Director Carre reported that STD clinics have been busier than normal. No immediate Council/Board of Health action is needed at this time. Councilman Franceschini inquired about flu shots. Director Carre responded that the Board of Education program is still active.

There being nothing further relating the Board of Health, President Arthur entertained a motion by Councilman Franceschini, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS:

Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Arthur

President Arthur invited the Community Development Advisory Committee to present their recommendations for the use of Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant Funding. Michael Zumpino and Alex Curio of Triad Associates were present, along with Advisory Committee Chair, Anne M. Bergamo and member William Hartman, and City staff members Sandy Forosisky and Aaron Melnick. Mr. Zumpino provided an overview of the program that has been funded for over forty years. The objectives of the program center on principally benefitting low to moderate-income people, eliminating or preventing blight or meeting an urgent need. Vineland's CDBG allocation for this year is \$469,548. The Vineland portion of the HOME Consortium, consisting of Vineland, Millville, Bridgeton, Fairfield Township and Pittsgrove Township is approximately \$250,736 for both program administration and for housing activities including owner-occupied rehab and creation of new affordable units. The Annual Action Plan will be considered by the governing body next Tuesday. A resolution is expected to be presented for adoption at the July 27 meeting. The report distributed to City Council members included a listing of allocations from FY2019, FY2020, the requested allocation for FY2021 and the recommended allocation for FY2021.

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

Robert DeMarchi questioned the status of drainage issue impacting his home on Brewster Road. He now has monthly septic system issues. Solicitor Tonetta explained that the litigation with the bonding company is now in the discovery phase. The discovery period is limited by the Court to 300 days. Mr. DeMarchi suggested that perhaps he could connect to the nearby forced sewer line, instead of always dealing with his septic issues. Solicitor Tonetta responded that he will check with the LSA to see if that option is feasible.

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Steve Lewis reiterated his opposition to recreational cannabis. He distributed a copy of the ordinance adopted by Upper Deerfield Township prohibiting recreational cannabis.

Michael Charles Sammons spoke about the cannabis micro-licensing option that does not appear in Vineland's ordinance. He believes the micro-licensing option would be beneficial to allow local small business people to get involved in the cannabis business.

There being no one further to be heard, the Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Franceschini extended prayers to the family of the ten year old girl who was fatally gunned down in a drive-by shooting on July 4th.

Councilman Acosta echoed the sentiments of Councilman Franceschini.

Councilman Vargas reported that the PAL summer camp has approximately 31 participants. He noted an upcoming block party being planned for August. He also explained some Recreation maintenance issues being addressed. He questioned the status of the SPCA animal shelter issue. Solicitor Tonetta responded that an RFP was issued and we are awaiting the responses to it.

Public Safety Director Alicea reported that the Vineland Police Department has had an extremely busy few days with the several incidents requiring their attention. He also announced that the veteran banners on Landis Avenue now have a total of approximately 60.

President Arthur also echoed the sentiments expressed earlier by Council colleagues.

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 Vargas
President Arthur

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk