

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 6:06 p.m.*)
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
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety

President 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 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 asked if there was any update on the SPCA deal. Solicitor Tonetta remarked that the City received no responses for RFPs and said the City is calling all the companies to see if there was a problem with the City's request whether it be too complex or something that should be adjusted to attract business. A short discussion ensued about the current contract with the SPCA and if the City had options. Councilman Vargas followed up questioning what would happen to the sheltering of the animals if something happened to the building. Solicitor Tonetta explained he spoke with the State who mentioned there are portable sheltering services that are available as an alternate plan. Councilman Franceschini asked if the SPCA has an MOU with a neighboring shelter if something were to happen at the facility. Solicitor Tonetta responded he spoke with other county shelters and they will not take any of the City's animals because their facilities are overcrowded.

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

Councilman Franceschini stated as of yesterday there were 424 positive COVID cases. It appears more women are affected rather than men at this time. The health dept. is busy with inspections of restaurants and has a heavy docket.

Councilman Vargas stated the old baseball field on 3rd Street looks really good with new topsoil, seeding and new irrigation system. PAL activity is ongoing with no problems mentioned.

Councilman Spinelli stated the VDD is very busy and to please view all the upcoming happenings via their website. Landis Theater concert series is back now that they've passed their health inspection, they hope to open the upstairs restaurant in a few weeks. The theater has an upcoming play of "the Evil Dead" which is a horror satire. The health department is very busy with inspections. The City should look into whether there is a need for more staffing to adequately facilitate inspections. Businesses should not have to wait 3 to 4 weeks to obtain a health inspection.

Dr. Arthur asked Director Alicea for comments, to which, he stated they are researching drones for their own drone program. Business Administrator noted this is different from the program OEM and Director Franchetta are heading up. Councilman Franceschini asked to have a report on where the City is with the OEM drone program for the next meeting.

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

Councilman Acosta
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Spinelli
Councilman Vargas
President Dr. Arthur

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 P.M.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President of Council

ATTEST:

Richard G. Franchetta, RMC,EJD
Deputy Municipal Clerk