

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021  
6:18 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.  
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman Paul F. Spinelli was absent.  
Councilman Albert Vargas was absent.

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor  
Wanda Reid, Business Administration 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;
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.

Director Alicea reported that the Veteran's Day ceremony went very well, and he thanked the various City staff who assisted with the event. He also noted that 138 banners honoring veterans are now installed along Landis Avenue.

David J. Maillet, City Engineer, and Amy Holmes, Community Outreach, distributed a handout to summarize the proposal and a survey conducted about the Chestnut Avenue 'road diet.' The survey included 521 responses, indicating the perception of unsafe conditions on Chestnut Avenue for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. The accident and injury statistics also prove the point. The proposal includes narrowing Chestnut Avenue from the present four lanes (two in each direction), down to two lanes (one in each direction), along with a center left turning lane. Improvements to sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and cross walks are also included in the proposal. One issue that needs to be resolved is for the school district to obtain approval to have their school buses load and unload children on the Chestnut Square apartment property, rather than tie up traffic on Chestnut Avenue. A proposal from a few years ago included a modern roundabout at the Chestnut Avenue and Valley Avenue intersection. This detail is not in the current proposal. Mr. Maillet explained that the entire length of Chestnut Avenue in this proposal, from Main Road to Delsea Drive, is owned and maintained by the City. The requested resolution is to initiate the first phase of the project.

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

Councilman Franceschini reported that there are 176 positive COVID-19 cases in Vineland for the month of November. He also noted several positions need to be filled by the Health Department, adding that Amy Holmes is one of those leaving. He said Ms. Holmes has done a great job for us, and wished her well.

Councilman Acosta stated that trash collection is still an issue with many residents, as missed collection dates continue. He summarized Planning Board activity, including the expansion of outdoor dining at the Golden Palace diner. The medical cannabis facility is seeking site plan improvements in anticipation of recreational cannabis. A facility on Grove Lane was approved. They will be a hydroponic farm growing leafy greens. The cultivation site for Columbia Care submitted plans for an 86,000 square foot facility in Phase I, and an additional 115,000 square feet in Phase II. A question was raised if these indoor cultivation facilities are required to have a fire suppression system. Solicitor Tonetta will check on it and report back.

Dr. Arthur congratulated Amy Holmes on her new position. She also noted that students will be present next week to lead the pledge of allegiance.

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  
President Arthur

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Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President of Council

ATTEST:

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk