

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022  
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 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  
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works

The President 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 15, 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.

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

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

Councilman Franceschini requested a report of the vehicle fuel purchases for the past month.

Councilman Franceschini reported that there are 791 known Covid-19 cases in Vineland. Statewide there is an uptick in Covid related hospitalization. The Health Department is waiting for an appointment to be confirmed to meet with Vineland Public School superintendent, Alfonso Llano. Last week an active shooter exercise was conducted at Vineland High School, South. It was mainly a police exercise with select city officials and school administrators observing. It is hoped that future exercises have audio, or at least a narrator to explain what is happening. Councilman Franceschini believes more of these exercises would be wise, perhaps using other schools. Also important is having a plan for the aftermath of an incident.

Councilman Spinelli reminded everyone about National Night Out tomorrow evening at the VHS fields. The VDID food truck festival is coming up later this month, as well as the Journey cover band concert at Giampietro Park.

President Arthur noted that there is a vacancy on the Housing Authority, and invited suggestions.

Councilman Franceschini commented that the Puerto Rican Festival parade was out of control yesterday. There are public safety issues, illegal vehicles. He believes capacity limits are needed for events in our parks. Councilman Vargas believes the issues could be fixed. Public Safety Director Edwin Alicea stated the event has outgrown our resources. Councilman Spinelli observed that the original intent of highlighting the Puerto Rican culture has been lost in favor of a big party. Solicitor Tonetta suggested that perhaps we need to establish a security deposit, which will give incentive to the organizers to clean up after the event. Administrator Dickenson noted that he observed a pile of empty beer bottles feet away from a recycling container. He also believes we need to charge a fee for street closures and detours. All agreed that the festival committee needs to be at the table to discuss the problems and solutions. It was suggested that perhaps the event would be better at the Cumberland County fairgrounds.

President Arthur raised the question of making bricks available after the power plant is demolished. Administrator Dickenson responded that bricks from the old police headquarters were made available. Solicitor Tonetta noted that some of the bricks will be repurposed at the site.

President Arthur noted that the Jamaican flag was raised in a ceremony this morning. The Jamaican Festival will be on Saturday, August 6.

The 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 Spinelli  
Councilman Vargas  
President Arthur

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Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President of Council

ATTEST:

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk