

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017
6:00 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the President, Paul F. Spinelli.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilman David Acosta
Councilwoman Angela Calakos
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator

President Spinelli 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 28, 2016 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.

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

Janice Bokma referenced her and her husband's litigation against the city, and the city's litigation against Tradition Homes of Vineland for the Independence Walk housing development. Mrs. Bokma stated that the issue goes back to 2010 and her family has spent over \$300,000. in the matter. She claims that Vineland is not handling the violations seriously, with no legal enforcement of the violations, and no judgment entered in the court. She fears that the matter will be dismissed if the city's attorney in this matter does not file a judgment by October 27. Mrs. Bokma distributed several documents to Council members. President Spinelli responded that Council can't comment on matters in litigation, but directed Solicitor Tonetta to have our attorney respond appropriately.

Fire Chief/OEM Director Luigi Tramontana was present to brief Council about the status of the Office of Emergency Management. He said the building now housing OEM is not usable. He is having the equipment moved to other locations and will be talking to the Vineland Board of Education about using a third floor classroom at the Reber building as a temporary office. Councilman Franceschini and Chief Tramontana believe the position of OEM Director should be separate from the Fire Chief. President Spinelli advised Chief Tramontana to gather information on how the position is handled in other similarly sized municipalities and include the suggestion in the department's budget request. Councilman Franceschini also suggested that the city conduct a snow emergency drill to make certain we are prepared.

The Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Regarding the problem of storm water drain blockage, President Spinelli advised that it would be prudent for Public Works employees to clean debris blocking the drains as they notice such instances driving around the city in their trucks.

Councilman Vargas stated that if any Council members have questions about his PAL report, they should call him. President Spinelli suggested inviting the current PAL director to our next work session.

Councilwoman Calakos noted the upcoming VDID Taste of Vineland event on October 25. The cost is \$40 per person. She also mentioned a free film and a talk from a Rowan University professor about dinosaurs. Councilwoman Calakos invited Council members to consider Steve Lewis' offer to use his two classic convertibles in the upcoming Christmas parade. She also noted the presentations by the students in the STEM program at Veterans Memorial School about apps they developed to assist various municipal departments. They are impressive.

Councilman Acosta briefly reported on several Planning Board approvals and is concerned about the recent newspaper article concerning the SPCA. Business Administrator Dickenson advised that the SPCA matter is being investigated by the County freeholders.

President Spinelli asked the Business Administrator to be included in any meetings involving the OEM and snow removal.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Calakos, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS:

Councilman Acosta
Councilwoman Calakos
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Spinelli

ATTEST:

Paul F. Spinelli
President of Council

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk