

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018  
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: Mayor Anthony R. Fanucci  
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 13, 2017 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.

Steve Lewis spoke again about his concerns relating to the proposed legalization of marijuana. President Spinelli noted that Mayor Fanucci is scheduled to attend a conference to address the issue. He further stated that we don't yet know how the state plans to deal with it. Mr. Lewis also expressed concern about Governor Murphy's statement to make New Jersey a "Sanctuary State." Again, President Spinelli related that specifics have not surfaced.

Public Safety Director Alicea, Police Chief Beu, Police Captain Bowers, Police Sergeant Harris and Police Patrolman DeJesus were present to discuss the Police Athletic League. Councilman Vargas read a prepared statement, noting the PAL building is currently open 64 hours per month. He believes it should be open every Saturday, instead of the current twice per month schedule. The police representatives distributed a summary of PAL activities, indicating an increase in participation from 2016 to 2017.

They explained that the building had not been open on Saturdays at all, but that they are trying twice per month. Several challenges were noted and include the lack of volunteers, the desire of most police officers to be paid for their work at PAL which strains the budget, lack of a sufficient number of officers on the juvenile unit, and competition from other organizations. They explained that the primary officer assigned to PAL, Officer DeJesus, also has responsibilities at the public schools. Another issue mentioned as an obstacle is the Collective Bargaining Agreement. If designated an 8-hour employee, said employee works 5 days with 2 off. If designated a 10.75 hour employee, said employee works 4 days with 4 off. This scheduling presents issues with coverage at schools and the PAL.

Mayor Fanucci suggested that perhaps we could designate the juvenile unit with its own hour category to better help with time management. He reported that a meeting is coming up soon with school administrators and the police, and he would welcome participation of the governing body. Mayor Fanucci also suggested that we utilize firefighters, EMS personnel, and students who need service hours to help fill the volunteer vacuum. There was also brief discussion about how the PAL markets their programming, and the need to constantly monitor that effort.

The Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Councilwoman Calakos stated the VDID board meets tomorrow morning.

Councilman Franceschini noted several Health Department initiatives, including wellness in the workplace and Fit Youth initiative to replace the park hop event. Five college interns are coming to assist the department.

Councilman Acosta noted a recent short Planning Board meeting that had only two items on the agenda.

Solicitor Tonetta directed that Council members should not send e-mail or text messages to other Council members, as this could be a potential violation of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Fanucci requested that City Council entertain a late addition to the agenda to include alternate Zoning Board of Adjustment members on Tuesday's agenda.

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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:

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Paul F. Spinelli  
President of Council

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk