

SPECIAL BUDGET WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015
10:00 A.M.

The Special Budget Review Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the President, Anthony R. Fanucci.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilwoman Angela Calakos
Councilwoman Maritza Gonzalez
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
President Anthony R. Fanucci

Absent: Councilman John A. Procopio

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Assistant Business Administrator
Roxanne Tosto, Comptroller
Gregory Gallo, Legal Analyst

President Fanucci led the Pledge of Allegiance

The Deputy Municipal Clerk stated Public Notice of the meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on , by the Municipal Clerk, in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board in the lobby of City Hall;
2. Providing written notice to the offices of The Daily Journal, and The Press of Atlantic City; and
3. Filing written notice in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Vineland.

The President asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to be heard at this time.

There being no one to be heard, Comptroller Tosto began the budget review stating the proposed budget is below the cap levy. The proposed tax increase would be 4.7 cents. She clarified that 1.7 cents is directly related to State granted tax appeals. She advised Council that any unsettled Union contracts would have to be considered as they are going to have a significant effect and impact on the budget. She explained the fund balance is 4.9 million dollars of which the City is utilizing 1.0 million leaving a complete balance of 3.9 million dollars. She expressed her concern over the balance in the account as there is not enough revenue to replace the money being utilized. She further stated revenues anticipated for this budget are at the maximum level.

President Fanucci asked for an updated unsettled contract summary sheet to be provided to Council by Legal Analyst Gallo.

Councilman Spinelli questioned on page 1 why the Mayor's secretary is being budgeted for any overtime. He stated the position should be salaried with no overtime and no compensatory time being allowed. He then questioned why the Mayor needs funds in dues & subscriptions? Comptroller Tosto advised Council to look at the overall budget not just nit picking at individual line items. When reviewing the budget the main totals are always salaries as one total and other expenditures as one total. She also reminded Council that everything is allocated between the City, the Electric Utility and the Water Utility. Assistant Business Administrator Dickenson stated from the 2015 budget and forward all spending is getting locked down in November. Comptroller Tosto stated her belief that all departmental budgeting should be done on a zero balance. In this way the department Director needs to explain and justify exactly and accurately why they need the funds in their department. She understands this is an administrative decision not a legislative one but it is one that should be considered anyway.

The President asked if any Council Members wished to be heard.

There being no Council Members to be heard, the President entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilwoman Gonzalez, to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Councilwoman Calakos
Councilwoman Gonzalez
Councilman Spinelli
President Fanucci

Anthony R. Fanucci,
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk