

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015
5:30 P.M.

The Pre-Meeting Conference 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:

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

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, City Solicitor
Robert Dickenson, Assistant Business Administrator
Roxanne Tosto, Comptroller
Joseph Isabella, Director of Municipal Utilities

President Fanucci 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, 2014 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 Fanucci asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

Donna Sauers explained the issues involving her electric service and her home. She claims that she lost 7 refrigerators and 4 digital televisions because of high voltage entering her home from faulty transformers. She spoke about her neighbor dying as a result of a fire, and the death of her cat and dog. She claimed several blood disorders caused by the well water she uses. She also said she lost 3 water heaters. She noted repeated flooding from a nearby ravine. Her house has mold and she complained that her OPRA request was not satisfied. Ms. Sauers requested a meter to alert her about spikes or drops in voltage. President Fanucci explained that City Council is not prepared to deal with these issues, but they can be assigned to department heads to assist her. He directed the Assistant Administrator to have the appropriate departments assist her. Municipal Clerk Petrosky responded that her OPRA request was closed and directed her to file another one if she has additional requests.

Tax Assessor Brian Conover explained the benefits of the tax abatement program, whereby improvements are granted relief from the first year at 0%, and increasing 20% annually until the property is back at 100%. Councilman Spinelli questioned the wisdom of a PILOT agreement for a property owned by Mayor Bermudez. He suggested that more information should be supplied. Mr. Conover noted that the Mayor has two previously approved PILOT agreements for others that he has not signed. Councilman Spinelli suggested that the ordinance be removed if more information is not provided.

The Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

The Municipal Clerk noted that an ABC resolution may be added for the person-to-person transfer of the Red Lobster license.

Solicitor Tonetta will add either an ordinance or resolution to resolve the issue of residency as it relates to appointments to the Vineland Downtown Improvement District. He is also researching the rent control issue.

Comptroller Tosto reported that a bond sale is scheduled for January 13. Our rating remains the same.

Councilman Procopio suggests that Council receive minutes from the various committees.

Director of Utilities, Joseph Isabella noted that the city's credit rating is a reflection of the excellent financial management.

Councilwoman Gonzalez reported that new ambulances are being ordered. She also stated that the EMS has to relocate from the Newcomb Hospital facility.

Councilman Spinelli reported that the Recreation Commission would like the field lighting moved off Morie Field to the Romano Field soccer/football complex. Assistant Administrator Dickenson will check further into this.

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

ATTEST:

Anthony R. Fanucci
President of Council

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk