

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 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 (*arrived at 6:05 p.m.*)
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., Assistant Business Administrator
Susan M. Baldosaro, Chief Financial Officer

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.

Douglas Albrecht offered comments and observations about Municipal Utilities Director Joseph Isabella. Mr. Albrecht explained that Mr. Isabella had a plan when he was hired and had many positive accomplishments as the director. He also claimed the proposed ordinance lowers the standards for the position.

Steve Lewis stated his belief that members of the governing body should have cellular telephones provided by and paid for by the city, during their service in office.

Quarterly Board of Health Meeting

Health Department Director Dale Jones and Emma Lopez were present. Director Jones noted that Ms. Lopez is now the assistant Health Officer, after recently earning her certification. Robert Dickinson is the Health Officer, and currently out for a medical procedure.

Approval of the minutes of the October 2016 meeting was delayed until such time that the minutes could be distributed to the members of the governing body and properly reviewed.

Director Jones and Assistant Health Officer Lopez gave a brief overview of the Board of Health responsibilities and provided a handout summarizing the responsibilities. He noted that a proposed new regulation on lead poisoning screening for children will have a bid impact on the department. The governing body was asked to adopt a resolution requesting direct funding from the NJ Department of Health to support the services required by the changes. Solicitor Tonetta will adapt the sample resolution for Vineland's needs and prepare it for inclusion on the January 24 agenda.

Director Jones reported on the interview process currently ongoing for the positions of Medical Director and STI doctor. He also advised the governing body members to complete the registration sheet enclosed in the handouts and either return it tonight, or provide it to Robert Dickenson or Keith Petrosky for filing with the Health Department.

Assistant Health Officer Lopez reviewed the education grants and public health grants, noting that grants are important to the operation of the department and its services. The rabies clinic was also noted.

Director Jones noted the need to make a decision on the Certificate of Need for the Community Nursing Service, which has been in-pocket. He also reported that a new ambulance is in process of being ordered and a command vehicle, with funding for both coming from a recently adopted bond ordinance. Additionally, he review the distributed 2016 annual report from the Vital Statistics Division.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health will be on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Calakos, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the quarterly Board of Health meeting and return to the work session matters. The Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Councilman Acosta
Councilwoman Calakos
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Spinelli

The Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

Councilman Franceschini noted that a dangerous intersection exists at Wheat Road and East Avenue and consideration should be given to installing a traffic light. He also suggested that the laptop computers used by the governing body should be replaced with a more up-to-date product. He also agreed with Mr. Lewis that Council members should have city-issued cell phones. Mr. Franceschini further stated that the caucus room is dismal and needs to be freshened. He suggested contacting the Board of Education to get student artwork on display to cheer it up.

Solicitor Tonetta noted that we have had concerns about OPRA issues related to the use of personal electronic devices, but added that city-owned equipment may actually be an improvement to ensuring that we have access to all texts and e-mails. Solicitor Tonetta also noted the late addition of two more items, namely a resolution for a closed session after the regular meeting on January 24 concerning the VMEU and Siemens; and the introduction of an ordinance to amend several components of the Vineland Development Council, mainly reducing the size from the current nine members to seven members.

Councilman Vargas added his endorsement of the city providing members of the governing body with cell phones.

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

Paul F. Spinelli
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk