

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020
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 Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Edwin Alicea, Public Safety Director

President Spinelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk stated Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on December 11, 2019 by the City 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;
3. Filing written notice in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Vineland.

In keeping with the State of New Jersey's Best Practices, City Council asked the Vineland Housing Authority to attend the Work Session to provide and update on the state of the Authority. Executive Director Jacqueline S. Jones and Board of Commission Chairperson, Mario Ruiz-Mesa presented the Vineland Housing Authority Annual Report and handed out an eighteen page report dated Year End 9/30/2019. Mrs. Jones spoke of the Authority's Mission, housing developments owned by the Authority, families served broken down into categories, and the social services provided by the Authority. Ms. Jones stated they have a licensed social worker, and nurse who oversee certain programs such as Congregate Services program and the Community Development Block Grant Program. Ms. Jones spoke of public housing waiting list and touched on the Authority's recognitions and awards and boasted the Authority Audits have been free of findings for over 13 years. Mrs. Jones ended explaining the future of the Authority is working diligently to convert its public housing units to Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program units.

President Spinelli thanked Mrs. Jones for their report.

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

Tony Centeno shared the Ministries served 3,595 meals last month. They sent six people to rehabilitation which was good. The Sheriff's Department is assisting and showing support and coming to the meal program to help serve which is building a report with our homeless.

Robert DeMarchi from Vineland and part of the Brewster Road – Old Farm Road group spoke about the ongoing water problem for over ten years. He begged for help and stated he's asked Solicitor Tonetta to contact him for Attorney White's information and Solicitor Tonetta failed to reach out to Mr. DeMarchi. Solicitor Tonetta took down Mr. DeMarchi's number and while he was speaking, wrote an email to Attorney White and asked him to please contact Mr. DeMarchi.

Janis Bokma from Vineland and also part of the Brewster Road – Independence Walk group spoke of her immediate concerns about the water problem in the neighborhood. She mentioned she is particularly worried about the impending rain and asked if there was any emergency action plan in place for when this happens.

Steve Lewis from Vineland stated he has been attending meetings from the beginning of this water problem and remembering them constantly stating the attending residents (and many others in the area) constantly were pumping and removing water from their basements. By way of suggestion, Mr. Lewis suggested the City offer some type of Property Tax relief or abatement until such time the situation rectified.

There being no one else to be heard, the Deputy Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Franceschini mentioned the Health Department is keeping a watchful eye on the growing coronavirus problem and receiving updates from the County and CDC.

Councilman Vargas mentioned new railings and new boxes behind the plates are up at the ballfields. The soccer field lights were replaced with LED lights and Thursday night midget football Wolfpack will be acknowledged after the VHS basketball game.

President Spinelli mentioned to Council there should be an email forthcoming from Chief Financial Officer explaining the proposed budget.

Councilman Acosta mentioned that Council will be considering revisions to the 10 year plan.

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The President entertained a motion by Councilman Acosta, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilman Acosta
Councilwoman Dr. Arthur
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Spinelli

Meeting adjourn: 7:09pm

Paul F. Spinelli
President of Council

ATTEST:

Richard G. Franchetta, E.J.D.
Deputy Municipal Clerk