

REGULAR WORK SESSION
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020
5:30 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 Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
 Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
 Macleod Carre, Director, Health Department
 Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
 Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety (*arrived at 5:45 p.m.*)

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 11, 2019 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.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Acosta, and seconded by Council Franceschini, to approve the minutes and notes from the July 6, 2020 Board of Health Quarterly Meeting.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilman Acosta
 Councilwoman Arthur
 Councilman Franceschini
 Councilman Vargas
 President Spinelli

Director Carre reported that there are four new employees in the department, including a Director of Nursing, a Pharmacist, a Clerical worker, and an Environmental Health Specialist. He also noted the department is working with the police department on social support collaborative efforts.

Health Officer Robert Dickinson reported about the various Influenza clinics, inking today's at the vehicle maintenance facility and tomorrow at City Hall. Preschool clinics are scheduled from October 8-29. Drive-through clinics are scheduled at the Vineland Flea Market on October 27 and a special one for Senior Citizens and at-risk individuals at the vehicle maintenance facility on November 14. The NJ Commissioner of Health has tasked Vineland to get 70% of the adult population vaccinated for Influenza by December 31, 2020. Typically 42% of New Jersey's adult population is vaccinated. The effort will involve vaccinating an additional 8,889 adult Vineland residents. He also reported about the planning for a second wave of COVID-19 cases. The state is predicting 22,700 cases in November, spiking rapidly in December at 40,300 cases and gradually falling to 22,500 cases in April 2021 and 7,800 cases in May. Health Officer Dickinson briefed the governing body on the prospects of a COVID-19 vaccine, including the logistics of storage in ultra-cold temperatures, and the phasing of vaccinations. He expressed hope that a single dose regimen will be successful first, so that the burdens associated with a two-dose regimen can be avoided. He also noted departmental budget request increases to pay contractual nurses to assist with vaccinations, increases to cover the cost of ancillary vaccination supplies, in increase in the capital budget to purchase a medical grade refrigerator/freezer.

City Council action is needed to revise Chapter 660 of the Code entitled "Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices," to mirror changes in the state statute. Also, action to revise Article VII of Chapter 224 of the Code to require licensure and inspection of catteries.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Acosta, and seconded by Councilman Franceschini, to adjourn the quarterly Board of Health meeting.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilman Acosta
 Councilwoman Arthur
 Councilman Franceschini
 Councilman Vargas
 President Spinelli

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

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

Councilman Acosta noted that the shooting range referenced in Ordinance 2020-49 will be an indoor range. He also thanked Councilman Vargas for coordinating the event last weekend.

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Councilman Vargas provided a PAL update, including improvements to the building exterior. He thanked personnel from the city's parks and grounds crew. He also thanked the Public Works sign crew for their assistance with the Puerto Rico Way sign. He commented that the recognition of Puerto Rican immigrants is long overdue.

President Spinelli agreed that the street naming ceremony was well done and long overdue, and thanked Councilman Vargas for his involvement with it.

Solicitor Tonetta stated that another resolution will be added to the regular meeting agenda relating to the annual Sieman's contract for the electric utility.

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

ATTEST:

Paul F. Spinelli
President of Council

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk