

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021  
5:30 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the President, Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilman David Acosta  
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.  
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli  
Councilman Albert Vargas  
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were:

Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor  
Greg Gallo, Business Administrator Staff  
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety  
Macleod Carre, Director, Health Department  
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer

President Arthur 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 8, 2020 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 Arthur asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

James Stiteler expressed concern about storm water run-off onto his property on Garden Road, near Chapman's mobile home park. He stated the situation has been going on for two years, and no help has been provided by any of the governmental agencies and offices he has called. The run-off is likely the result of clear-cutting of trees and is adversely affecting the septic systems and water wells of several homes. He shared a number of photographs to illustrate the problem. Neighbors Ron Gorgo, Anita Cavalier and Heriberto Correa also shared their plight with the issue. Solicitor Tonetta explained that a property owner certainly has the right to cut down trees. He further explained that if the mobile home park plans to expand a site plan review would be required by the Planning Board and storm water management would be part of the review. He thought that it is a Soil Conservation issue, and suggested that the affected property owners could get an attorney if the soil conservation office does not pursue corrective measures. It was noted by the neighbors that the owner of the mobile home park has not been cooperative and, in fact, has been adversarial. They also mentioned mosquito breeding in the standing water. Solicitor Tonetta offered that the Health Department may get involved with public health issues. It is likely an engineering issue relating to storm water management. City Council agreed that Solicitor Tonetta will contact Soil Conservation and the engineer named on a letter handed to him by the neighbors. President Arthur assured the neighbors that the city would be getting back to them with the outcome.

There being no one further to comment, the President entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilman Acosta, to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Quarterly Board of Health meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS:

Councilman Acosta  
Councilman Franceschini  
Councilman Spinelli  
Councilman Vargas  
President Arthur

Director Carre reported that AJ Dunkel has returned to the Health Department and is now the Vulnerable Populations Coordinator. A telephone hotline has been established to answer questions relating to COVID-19 issues. Director Carre and President Arthur, along with other volunteers, answer the phones assisting those with limited computer access. The pandemic has also necessitated several policy changes for the Vital Statistics Division, since in-person transactions are sometimes required. They also now provide a way for the public to get expedited access to copies of birth certificates. Health Officer Dickinson provided a handout containing an overview of the COVID-19 cases, the fourth wave prediction and the vaccination update. He also reported that the Vineland Municipal Alliance is collaborating with sub grantees to address substance abuse. Other programs being addressed include Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SARE) and Reducing the Risk (RTR) Program. There will be a request forthcoming for a resolution indicating Board of Health approval for the 2022 Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity grant application, as well as requests to allow the Health Department to contractually hire data entry personnel and vaccinators for the COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

There being nothing further relating the Board of Health, President Arthur entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilman Franceschini, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS:

Councilman Acosta  
Councilman Franceschini  
Councilman Spinelli  
Councilman Vargas  
President Arthur

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

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Steve Lewis commented that he is pleased that work is commencing to improve the Gold Star memorial in Landis Park. He again thanked City Council for the ordinance providing utility discounts to Gold Star military families. Finally, he referenced a recent article in *The Daily Journal* about the planned establishment of a Black History Trail. He believes the City should recognize the Bethel A.M.E. Church, for being the first black church in Vineland.

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

Councilman Acosta reported that the Planning Board had a special meeting last week to deal with a subdivision for Inspira Hospital and a modification to the pre-cast project. He also expressed condolences to the family of Dr. Eddie Andujar who recently passed away in California.

Councilman Vargas stated that season opening ceremonies are coming up in the next few weeks for youth baseball and pigtail teams. Council members will consult with the schedule and determine who will represent the governing body at the ceremonies. The Landis Park clean-up is underway, and he is happy to see the action to improve the Gold Star memorial.

Councilman Spinelli reported that Landis Theater will have 'American Idiot,' a Broadway play using some Broadway actors as well as some locals. It will begin on April 16 and run for three weekends. He suggested that City Council establish a committee to set the standards for naming of public buildings, facilities, etc. There are periodic requests and we should have criteria and an application process. He asked that Clerk Petrosky also serve on the committee. The VDID is continuing to plan for their activities. A new event being planned is a 'Christmas in July' event that will be a precursor to the 'Old Fashioned Christmas' being planned for December. The Memorial Day parade will be dedicated to World War II veterans.

President Arthur noted a recent e-mail promoting a 5K run and exercise opportunities for children. She also thanked the fire and police departments for their concern at a recent funeral.

Public Safety Director Alicea reported that details are still being worked out for the Memorial Day parade. They were hoping to get WWII vintage aircraft to do a fly-over, but the cost may prohibit that. It is the intention of the United Veterans Council to honor veterans of other wars/conflicts in the coming years. He also reported that details are being finalized to allow families to purchase banners with a photographic image of their loved ones who served in the armed services and they would be displayed up and down Landis Avenue, similar to what has been done in several Pennsylvania communities.

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  
Councilman Franceschini  
Councilman Spinelli  
Councilman Vargas  
President Arthur

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Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President of Council

ATTEST:

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk