

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022
6:00 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 (*participated remotely*)
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
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Police Chief Pedro Casiano
Police Captain Steven Triantos

The President 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, 2021 by the City Clerk in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board in the lobby of the 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.

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

Steve Lewis again expressed his opinion that law enforcement officer recruits should take and pass a written examination as provided by Civil Service regulations, rather than forego the examination in favor of attending and successfully completing the training at a police academy. He noted that the Vineland Public Library has testing assistance and the minimum passing grade is 70.

Solicitor Tonetta, Chief Casiano and Captain Triantos all added to the conversation noting some important points contained in the new law. The Civil Service test for police officers is presently only conducted once every three years. Of the top 100 scorers on the exam, only 11 were available, and only 3 of those resided in Vineland. The new alternative is meant to provide another option for employing entry-level officers. Many who are paid for by Vineland and go to the academy are unprepared for the physical demands and they drop out. Sometimes they get injured at the academy and the city has to pay salary and workman's compensation claims. The law provides for a one-year probationary period for the recruits. Councilman Vargas believes all should pass the written exam. It was noted that further promotional consideration would require Civil Service written examinations. And it was also noted that the examination for recruits is a multiple choice general knowledge examination. Councilman Spinelli observed that among educators, multiple choice exams are the least regarded.

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

Solicitor Tonetta announced that he sent to local gas stations a notice and copies of the ordinances recently adopted that crack down on ATVs and dirt bikes on roadways and prohibits them from fueling at gas stations driven there under their own power.

Councilman Spinelli and Councilman Vargas will not be able to participate in-person at next week's meeting. They will both try to participate remotely.

The entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, 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

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk