

REGULAR WORK SESSION
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022
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
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety
Macleod Carre, Director, Health Department
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works

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 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 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 entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilman Franceschini, to approve the minutes from the Board of Health meetings conducted on April 5, 2022.

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

Department of Health Director Macleod Carre gave a brief update on Health Department personnel. He explained that the Registrar's position seems to have settled and it looks good for the Registered Environmental Health Specialist. He feels comfortable that a succession plan is in place for the department.

Health Officer Robert Dickinson reviewed the Covid-19 statistics for Vineland, noting that 52% of Vineland's eligible population has received vaccination and the first booster dose. This compares with Cumberland County's 50%. Authorization was recently given by the FDA for children aged 6 months to 4 years of age for the Pfizer vaccine; and children aged 6 months to 5 years of age for the Moderna vaccine. Children under age 5 who receive Pfizer's version will receive three doses at 1/10th the strength of an adult dose. The time period between the 1st and 2nd dose is 3-8 weeks, and the time between dose #2 and 3 is at least 8 weeks. Children under 6 years of age who receive the Moderna vaccine will get two doses of vaccine, each ¼ the strength of an adult dose. For children aged 6 years through 11 years of age will receive the Moderna vaccine in two doses at ½ of the adult strength. Children aged 12 through 17 years of age will receive two doses equivalent to the adult doses. The time period between Moderna doses is 4-8 weeks. There will be a challenge with children's vaccines because many pediatricians are not Covid-19 vaccination providers and don't want to become one because the minimum order of each vaccine is 100 doses. Another issue is that pharmacists are not authorized to administer vaccines to children under three years of age. Pediatric clinics are scheduled by the Health Department at the Landis Marketplace. New Covid-19 variants, BA-4 and BA-5 are growing and there is speculation that a 6th wave of Covid-19 cases may develop. The FDA advised vaccine manufacturers to create vaccines that contain a BA component to produce antibodies effective against the BA-4 and BA-5 variants. Apparently a monkeypox case has been recorded in Camden County. Most New Jersey cases have been in North Jersey. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle and backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, malaise, and characteristic rash that looks like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside of the mouth, on the hands, feet, chest, genitals or anus. It is spread through direct contact with lesions, bodily fluids and/or surfaces contaminated by the same. An Emergency Operations Center was set up by the CDC recently to deal with the monkeypox outbreak. As of July 1, the total number of cases worldwide rose to 5,783. 56,000 doses of monkeypox vaccine was released by the federal government to be distributed across the country. A community meeting was conducted on June 29 by the NJ Department of Health for residents and businesses in the superfund site to present the results of the Kil-Tone Public Health Assessment. Lead and arsenic were observed at levels that may adversely impact human health. High levels of lead in the soil on 19 properties that could not be attributed to Kil-Tone operations were also reported. The department has been conducting random investigations on vape selling facilities. Further education on the hazards of vaping will be explored.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Health, President Arthur entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilman Franceschini to adjourn the quarterly Board of Health meeting.

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

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

Steve Lewis commented that the fireworks yesterday were great. He questioned the wisdom of repaving Butler Avenue between Lincoln Avenue and Main Road, because he didn't believe the road need it.

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

President Arthur inquired about an ordinance that appeared twice on her on-line version. The Clerk assured her it would be handled.

Council members expressed concerns the way metal detectors are located in our building, possibly allowing an active shooter to gain entry. The way it is handled by others was discussed. Also, Councilman Spinelli recommended installing a panic button near the Council President's seat in the Chambers.

Councilman Spinelli expressed concern after hearing a complaint that a fire prevention inspector used a Knox Box key to gain entry into a building that was closed to issue a violation.

Councilman Acosta offered prayers to the families in Illinois and Kentucky, the latest locations where gun violence took innocent lives.

The President 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