

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 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  
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  
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works

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 referenced a recent article in the newspaper concerning the property approved by the Zoning Board for a cannabis business. Neighbors near the proposed facility filed suit and a settlement was the outcome. He inquired if the property will be rezoned to accommodate such activity. No one had knowledge of a rezoning effort.

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

City Council agreed that Solicitor Tonetta should draft an ordinance that will have the city cover the expense of burial for our K-9 officers.

The proposed ordinance making the property owner responsible for the costs associated with a damaged or stolen water meter raised some concerns. The current method has all ratepayers paying for such costs. More information was requested such as how many such situations occur in the course of a typical year.

Councilman Spinelli raised the issue about vehicles in the budget. There seemed to be some confusion about what is budgeted, and how much leeway the QPA has. Councilman Spinelli believes we should set aside at least \$1 million for annual vehicle purchases, before additional funds need to be requested. More information is needed from Jeff Celebre and Susan Baldosaro.

Councilman Franceschini reported that the Health Department is administering vaccines right now at Serene Custard. He also said interns are involved in preparing public information concerning monkeypox. New school Covid-19 guidelines are now in place. The Health Department continues to attempt to meet with the public school representatives. He proposes AED training for City Council members prior to the next work session at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6. This is in addition to the training being prepared by Rich Franchetta.

Councilman Vargas requested a camera surveillance system for the PAL building. Administrator Dickenson advised him to discuss it with Tony Quigley in IS.

Councilman Vargas also asked about the request from the taxicab companies to increase fares, in light of increased gas, maintenance and operational costs. Solicitor Tonetta reviewed the research he did to see how our rates compare with Millville, Bridgeton and Atlantic City. He also advised City Council that to weigh the increase in cost to the poor people who need transportation and the operational increases sought by the businesses. It was general consensus that the minimum fare should be raised from \$3 to \$4. Solicitor Tonetta will draft an ordinance to amend the fares.

Councilman Acosta reported that the Planning Board met last week. Chick Fil-A will amend their plans to include two drive-up windows. He also referenced a request from someone seeking a letter of support to the County Planning Board. Apparently it is needed if the city will agree to open space proposed on Panther Road.

Councilman Spinelli stated the Food Truck Festival is this weekend. The free concert last weekend at Giampietro Park drew about 500 people. Improvements for future such events are being reviewed. The VDDID meets tomorrow. About 400 people attended the concert at Landis Theater at the same time the city's free concert was happening.

Dr. Arthur announced that the Unity Day event is at Landis Park this weekend.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022

The 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