

PRE-MEETING CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022
6:00 P.M.

The Pre-Meeting Conference 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 (*arrived at 6:08 p.m.*)
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
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works (*arrived at 6:17 p.m.*)

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 asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

Steve Lewis referenced last week's discussion about water meters and the ordinance being introduced to make the property owner responsible for damaged or stolen meters. He suggested that the city could just remove the meters on vacant properties to avoid theft. Solicitor Tonetta explained that electric meters are routinely removed, but water meters are a bigger problem with plumbing attachments, etc.

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

The ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 8, which established the classification and compensation plans for the City of Vineland (Community Service Aide bilingual in Spanish and English, Part-time, was removed. Ordinance 2022-69 was assigned to ordinance authorizing the payment of costs for proper burial of deceased K-9 Vineland Police Officers. The contract amount was added to the body of Resolution 2022-347, exercising option to renew contract C21-0095 for meter pits and fittings for the Vineland Water Utility. A letter of agreement was attached to Resolution 2022-357, acknowledging receipt of grant funding for Vineland Municipal Alliance to prevent alcoholism & drug abuse program and approving members of the Vineland Municipal Alliance. Resolution 2022-363, approving school crossing guards for the 2022-2023 school year, was added. Resolution 2022-364, approving a Class I special law enforcement officer for the remainder of the year 2022, was added. The Clerk also reminded Council members that there is no meeting next week, which is the fifth Tuesday of August.

Councilman Franceschini reported that Vineland had 481 positive Covid-19 cases in the month of July. A new vaccine to combat the new variants is expected to be ready for distribution in October. There are now at least 4 cases of monkeypox in Vineland. He will be the trainer for an AED training session for City Council members prior to the next work session, Tuesday, September 6 at 4 p.m.

Councilman Spinelli stated the VDID Food Truck Festival last Sunday was a success.

Councilman Acosta referenced a letter distributed to all Council members requesting the city rethink the planned demolition of the old power plant. Solicitor Tonetta explained that the building has really deteriorated and the cost is too high to renovate or save it.

President Arthur noted that two members are needed for the Vineland Housing Authority.

Solicitor Tonetta proposed drafting ordinances to deal with the homeless issue. The first will address shopping carts, requiring them to stay on the retail property. The second is to prohibit sleeping in the city's rights-of-way. There are homeless encampments appearing on the western side of town.

President Arthur 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

ATTEST:

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk