

REGULAR WORK SESSION
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 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
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman Albert Vargas was absent.

Also present were: Alan Giebner, Esq., Associate City Solicitor (*arrived at 5:58 p.m.*)
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety (*arrived at 6:29 p.m.*)
Macleod Carre, Director, Health Department
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
Kathleen Hicks, Supervising Planner
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works (*arrived at 5:40 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 entertained a motion by Councilman Franceschini, and seconded by Councilman Spinelli, to approve the minutes from the Board of Health meetings conducted on July 5, 2022.

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

Department of Health Director Macleod Carre gave a brief update on Health Department personnel. He is optimistic that while the department lacks the veteran, experienced staff, the younger employees are enthusiastic and willing to learn.

Health Officer Robert Dickinson distributed statistics on Covid-19 vaccination rates for Vineland and Cumberland County. He provided an overview of the Bivalent Boosters from Pfizer and Moderna, and noted the clinic location move to the basement of the former Amish Market. Another move will like be on the horizon as the facility was leased to a movie production company. He reviewed the current situation with monkeypox. In Cumberland County there have been nine cases. The Health Department is only aware of one severe case in Vineland. The Environmental Division is working to stabilize the REHS positions with training and preparation for the licensing examination. He concluded with a review of the flu vaccine update.

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

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

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

There being no one to be heard, Supervising Planner, Kathleen Hicks was invited to the table. The Clerk distributed the staff report concerning Darji Investments LLC and their redevelopment plan request to convert a duplex into a triplex at 716 E. Plum Street. Ms. Hicks reviewed some of the considerations and indicated that the staff who reviewed the proposal were unanimous in endorsing it, primarily because the number of bedrooms were reduced from what the single family home had. It was noted that the redevelopment plan does not automatically permit triplexes, which requires any such proposal to be referred by City Council to the Planning Board, and then the Planning Board makes their recommendation back to the governing body. Councilman Spinelli stated concerns about other triplexes that appear to be problems. Other Council members seem to think nothing wrong with triplexes. The matter will be further discussed with Solicitor Tonetta.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda.

The Clerk noted that the Fire Department will be having a medal ceremony next Tuesday, October 11, awarding a Medal of Valor and Unit Citations to personnel who saved the life of a resident at D'Orazio Terrace back in July.

The Clerk distributed a draft calendar of meeting dates for the year 2023, and noted the exceptions to the usual Tuesday meeting dates.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

Councilman Franceschini noted the Boards of Health Orientation Manual researched, copied and distributed by the Clerk. He said there is an annual education component for members of the Board of Health, and the information and opportunities will be provided by the Health Officer.

Councilman Spinelli reported that the upstairs at the Landis Theater facility is now open five days per week, with the restaurant planned to be open sometime in December. Concerts have been drawing 200-300 consistently, with more popular shows bringing in around 400. The VDID has some Halloween activities planned, and they are working on the Christmas events for December 2 & 3. Vineland's Trick or Treat will be on October 29.

Councilman Acosta expressed condolences to colleague Councilman Al Vargas and his family on the recent passing of his uncle.

President Arthur observed that there was a good turnout for the Lou Piccone event last week.

Administrator Dickenson reminded everyone about the Columbus Day ceremony on the steps of City Hall scheduled for Monday morning.

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
President Arthur

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk