

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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 (*arrived at 6:08 p.m.*)  
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator  
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety  
Kathleen Hicks, Supervising Planner  
David J. Maillet, City Engineer

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 discussed the issue of triplexes and the issuance of variances. He believes the rules are the rules and exceptions should not be granted. He also believes the city should pay for the health insurance for retired K-9 (dog) officers.

Principal Planner, Kathleen Hicks, was present to explain and answer any questions relating to the rezoning request for Northeast Precast. The plans are being revised to better accommodate the golf course redevelopment.

City Engineer, David J. Maillet, reported that the Chestnut Avenue re-design is complete and the next step is to proceed to public comment. He also addressed the Seventh Street reconstruction, scheduled to begin by the end of November. He has concerns about motor vehicles speeding once the project is completed, so the design will include parking on both sides of the street, handicapped parking at the beginning of each block and bicycle lanes. These features have proven to slow down traffic on Wood Street. He also noted that the long-awaited traffic signal at Mill Road and Garden Road is nearing completion. Dr. Arthur suggested consideration be given to a left turn signal at Delsea Drive and Garden Road.

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

Solicitor Tonetta reported that he is contemplating issuing RFPs for cannabis businesses. He said the concept is unique, and hasn't been done before. Nothing in the statute precludes this concept. There was also discussion about the idea of establishing a committee for vetting cannabis applicants. Another idea was to hire an outside consultant. Mr. Tonetta indicated that the cannabis businesses would establish an escrow account to pay for the professionals employed by the city for vetting.

Councilman Franceschini reported that, so far, November has 200 positive Covid-19 cases in Vineland. A new nurse has been hired and will start in December to replace retiring Belinda Lolli. Nick English has been lecturing middle school students about the dangers of vaping. He also reported that he will be meeting with Fire Director, Rich Franchetta, about the proposed AED ordinance.

Councilman Vargas noted that the PAL and the Elks had a basketball shootout. A PAL Christmas meeting is scheduled tomorrow. He will also be making a trip to Avalon to check on the Mothers' statue for Landis Park, before it is sent to be cast.

Councilman Spinelli stated the Olde Fashioned Christmas arrangements are progressing. An orchestra will be performing at the Landis Theater as part of the event. He also noted his agreement with Mr. Lewis about not permitting variances. Solicitor Tonetta added that variances should be minimal, commenting that Planning Board is not an 'approval board.'

Councilman Acosta noted that the Planning Board met last week and had a relatively light agenda.

Administrator Dickenson announced that fifteen police officers will be promoted in ceremonies in City Council Chambers on Monday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. Council members are welcome to attend.

President Arthur indicated that students from Sgt. Pilla Middle School will be leading the Pledge of Allegiance next week. There was also a concept mentioned to have Council member children/grandchildren lead the pledge at some point. Perhaps in the summer months when schools are not in session. This will be considered further.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

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  
Councilman Vargas  
President Arthur

---

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President of Council

ATTEST:

---

Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk