

REGULAR WORK SESSION
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023
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 (*arrived at 5:32 p.m.*)
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman Albert Vargas was absent.

Also present were:

Michael Benson, Esq., Associate City Solicitor (*arrived at 5:58 p.m.*)
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator (*arrived at 5:36 p.m.*)
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety (*arrived at 5:57 p.m.*)
Macleod Carre, Director, Health Department
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works (*arrived at 5:55 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 13, 2022 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 October 4, 2022.

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

Department of Health Director Macleod Carre reported that the Registrar's Division is finally operating at full staffing. They now have three bilingual staff. He stated that Derek DiAntonio is the REHS responsible for septic plans and he is receiving additional training from a Salem County REHS regarding more complex installations. An application for a substantial grant is in the works to create a new social worker position. The prospective candidate is currently working part time to target the Hispanic population who need additional encouragement to receive vaccinations and to understand the role of vaccination status in preventing severe Covid-19 disease.

Health Officer Robert Dickinson provided an overview of the bivalent boosters from Pfizer and Moderna. The latest booster targets the original strain of the SARS CoV2 virus as well as the dominant BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron variants. He explained that experts believe this booster will also provide some level of protection from other subvariants that may descend from the BA.4/BA.5 lineages. On October 12, 2022 the CDC approved the Pfizer bivalent booster for children 5 years and older and the Moderna booster for children 6 years and older. On December 9, 2022 the CDC expanded the use of the Pfizer bivalent booster for children age 6 months through 4 years who have completed the primary monovalent series at least two months prior. For children less than 5 years of age, this dose of vaccine will be considered a third primary dose and no booster doses are authorized. For children who are 5 years of age and have received a primary series of Pfizer monovalent vaccine at least two months prior, this bivalent Pfizer dose is considered a booster dose. The bivalent booster must be the Pfizer brand. Also on December 9, the CDC approved the use of the Moderna bivalent booster for children age 6 months through 5 years. If the child is 6 months through 4 years of age and has completed a primary series of Moderna monovalent vaccine at least two months prior, the child is eligible for a Moderna bivalent booster. If the child is age 5 and has completed a primary series of Moderna monovalent vaccine, the child is eligible to receive a Pfizer or a Moderna bivalent booster.

The Monkeypox vaccine is now available to anyone who self attests to one or more of the three situations described. Flu vaccines have been administered by the Nursing staff to 711 individuals. The Health Education division continues to meet grant deliverables for substance abuse, teen pregnancy and other routine programs. The Environmental division conducted a rabies vaccine clinic in November and inoculated 60 dogs and 23 cats. He also spoke briefly about a newly awarded FDA grant that totals \$41,000. He stated the department is in the application process for an Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure grant, hopefully totaling \$476,000.

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.

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

Councilman Franceschini wants an AED ordinance to be in place. He has met with Rich Franchetta and would like Solicitor Tonetta to prepare a draft. He noted concerns about AED equipment, training, inspection, maintaining them, locating them and accessibility to the AEDs.

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