

PRE-MEETING CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
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
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr. was absent.

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 6:24 P.M.*)

President Arthur led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy 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 Dr. Arthur asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

Steve Lewis voiced his concerns about his question last week of why a special meeting was called. He stated Tonetta gave reasoning and Franceschini asked how much money have we gotten from this source and where does it go. Lewis stated Franceschini said originally it was supposed to be separate which would benefit, additional salaries for first responders, education for children, etc..., but is now going into the General Fund which he does not understand. Additionally he spoke about Acosta "YES" vote for a variance in which he allegedly did not fully understand. Lewis stated however, Council voted "YES" for cannabis in this town without fully knowing its implications which is not good. He suggested Council cancel the last two cannabis licenses yet to be assigned as to not let this issue spiral out of hand.

There being no one further to be heard, the Deputy Clerk reviewed revisions and additions to the agenda. Resolution No. 2023-444 was removed by the City Engineer, David Maillet, and Purchasing Agent Jeanine Brownlee and replaced with "a resolution granting permission to Robert & Leslie Ferrari to conduct a private display of fireworks on October 7, 2023 between 8 P.M. and 10 P.M., at 2215 Cornucopia Avenue, Vineland NJ in accordance with N.J.S.A. 21:3-3." Resolution No. 2023-446 was revised to adjust language in the body by Director of Licenses & Inspections, Matteo Rabbai. Resolution No 2023-450 was revised to include "not to exceed" in the body of the resolution by the Department of Finance. Resolution No. 2023-453 "resolution authoring the execution of a grant application with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for a film and digital media studio infrastructure grant for the conversion of the Landis Marketplace to a film and digital media studio" was added by Business Administration. Mayor Anthony Fanucci added communications appointing with the consent of City Council Andrew F. Groetsch as Alternate No 1, Eric Hernandez, Joseph A. Repice Sr. and Rudolph Luisi to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. And, Resolution No's. 2023-454, 455, 456, 457 were added "ratifying and confirming the appointment[s] of Andrew F. Groetsch, Eric Hernandez, Joseph A. Repice Sr. and Rudolph Luisi to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, respectively.

The Deputy Clerk reminded all that next week's meeting is the quarter board of health meeting which will begin at 5:30 P.M.

Councilman Acosta reminisced about last week's meeting and what was approved by Planning concerning Fabbri Construction. He conducted due diligence and because the road is shared by two municipalities, he is unsure who will care for the road. He then spoke of a sign erected Romano Park that was put on the field by the Vineland Soccer Association (VSA) indicating no pick-up games were allowed and was misleading giving the impression the fields were property of the VSA. Citizens called both Councilmen Acosta and Vargas complaining about the signs. Vargas and Acosta both mentioned VSA cannot put up a sign on City public park. Vargas stated the sign was wrong and he spoke with VSA President Mike DeVito who stated this will be immediately rectified. Councilman Spinelli mentioned previously when fields were taken out of service due to seeding etc... it coordinated with the Recreation Commission which is the proper way to handle the situation.

Public Safety Director, Edwin Alicea, distributed a cost breakdown of the Puerto Rican Festival for the City of Vineland which was \$86,216.71 and with outside agency help totaling \$110,961.45. Councilman Acosta noted the cost was not surprising taking into account how much the City does for this group. Acosta stated he carried his father's instrument to the first festival many years ago and they were very proud of the festival. City Solicitor Tonetta stated every year there is a post mortem meeting in which information is shared amongst all parties and the festival committee and the costs will be divulged. Acosta stated the

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Committee needs to realize the City puts up a lot of money to make this festival happen. Tonetta stated once the City meets internally to discuss, he will contact the Festival Committee's attorney to advise them of the City's position.

Councilman Spinelli noted VIDID is hosting their volunteer appreciation dinner and please check the website for many other upcoming events.

Dr. Arthur reminded everyone that October 11, 2023 at 10:00A.M. is the dedication of "Dr. Martin Luther King Way" on Plum Street.

President Dr. Arthur entertained a motion by Councilman Acosta, and seconded by Councilman Spinelli, to adjourn the meeting. The Deputy Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilman Acosta
Councilman Spinelli
Councilman Vargas
President Dr. Arthur

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 P.M.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President

ATTEST:

Richard G. Franchetta, RMC, EJD
Deputy Municipal Clerk