

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023  
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 Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.  
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli  
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman David Acosta was absent.  
Councilman Albert Vargas was absent.

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor  
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator  
Kathleen Hicks, Supervising Planner  
Sandy Forosisky, Director of Economic Development

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 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;
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 revisited the issue of the new trash trucks and the solid waste collection. Mr. Lewis addressed his concerns about the mounting expenses falling in the hands of the city. Solicitor Tonetta explained that the evaluation of all expected costs led to the conclusion that the most cost effective way was for the city to purchase the trucks and have an outside company be responsible for the collection, including the drivers and other employees. Mr. Lewis also questioned the status of the SPCA/animal shelter situation. Solicitor Tonetta explained that he hasn't heard in update from the county, but understood that RFPs had gone out.

There being no further comment from the public, the President invited Kathleen Hicks to the table.

Ms. Hicks provided a brief explanation about the State Plan Endorsement and Implementation Agreement. Only the representative of the NJDEP voted against Vineland's plan. All others voted in favor, so the plan is approved. Responding to a question from Councilman Franceschini about cannabis odor control, Ms. Hicks explained that there was no way to monitor or control odors once they leave the building since the odors get carried by prevailing winds. She is working with the Construction Official Derek Leary to improve the BOCCA code to require that all odors be kept indoors. Apparently cannabis odor mitigation is a widespread problem. According to Solicitor Tonetta, certain aspects of odor mitigation are controlled by NJDEP, others, deemed a nuisance, can be controlled by municipal regulations.

The President then invited Economic Development Director, Sandy Forosisky to the table.

Ms. Forosisky briefly described the new façade improvement program expanding beyond the downtown area and targeted to UEZ businesses with 10 employees or less, and offering a maximum of \$50,000 for façade, and landscaping improvements. A staff committee will review applications prior to approval.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda.

President Arthur inquired about the proposed cannabis review committee. She noted that two members of Council are to serve on it and those who volunteered include her, and Councilman Spinelli. She would also like an alternate Council member in the event one or the other was not available. Solicitor Tonetta duly noted these points and reported that the RFP could be prepared and issued. He recommended Council consider only a few at a time, in order to get the best considerations.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilman Franceschini, to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS:

Councilman Franceschini  
Councilman Spinelli  
President Arthur

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Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President of Council

ATTEST:

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk