

REGULAR WORK SESSION
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 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
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr. (*arrived at 5:56 p.m.*)
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were:

Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Macleod Carre, Director, Health Department
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works (*arrived at 5:38 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 Acosta, and seconded by Councilman Spinelli, to approve the minutes from the Board of Health meetings conducted on January 3, 2023.

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

Department of Health Director Macleod Carre reported that the STD clinic has noticed an increase in cases of Syphilis. To help combat this information is being shared with the South Jersey AIDS Alliance social media sites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). They are also posting information in public where it may be seen and counseling those who come to the clinic to encourage regular testing. While undetected Syphilis can a death sentence, it is the easiest STD to cure. He also noted that the Health Department has begun conducting employee evaluations on employee anniversary dates. A full-time bi-lingual social worker will be hired using funding from the most recent COVID grant. Staff has been working to compile data required by FEMA for reimbursement. He also explained the issue involving the Registrar marriage application and the NJ Civil Rights office. While the city uses the correct form that includes non-binary individuals, there was a link that took some people to an old form. The IS department has recently been able to deactivate the old link.

Health Officer Robert Dickinson noted the Health Department received a year 1 grant totaling \$466,251 which will be utilized to complete a public health community needs assessment; develop a strategic plan for the department; conduct a SWOT analysis; create a community health improvement plan; compile an After Action Report for the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency; purchase software to manage and document inspection activities in the Environmental Division; purchase electronic medical records software for documentation of medical case records, automated test result notifications and patient portal access; and hire a social worker to assist in addressing health equity disparities in various vulnerable community populations. He also reviewed a handout comparing items in the County rankings. Cumberland County now ranks #20 of 21 NJ counties. Drug overdose deaths increased by over 700% in the last nine years. Other areas of concern include adult obesity, physical inactivity, mental health and well being. Improvements were seen in HIV prevalence, adult smokers, better healthy food environment, more than 50% decrease in teen births, 5% decrease in food insecurity, significant decreases in the number of uninsured individuals, and a 12% decrease in the number of children in single parent homes. Additionally, Mr. Dickinson noted that the Public Health Emergency regarding COVID-19 ends May 11. He reviewed some issues regarding the commercial ordering and distribution of vaccines, and changes in the contact tracing. The rabies clinic conducted on February 18 had an excellent turnout. He is considering doing drive-through clinics in the future at Cunningham Park, which appears to work best. The Vineland Health Department will be mentoring health departments from Woodland, CA; Bayboro, NC; Baltimore, MD; Madison, WI; and Morristown, NJ. Four food safety courses were conducted since January and attended by 70 individuals. Finally, he presented a sample resolution to encourage NJ legislative support for Public Health Priority Funding.

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

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023

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

Two residents of Berryman's Branch mobile home park, Tim McCloskey and Ken Morey, voiced their opposition to an increase in mobile home lot fees. It was explained that this matter is not planned for discussion this evening. Dr. Arthur noted that City Council is considering the establishment of a committee to further discuss the recommendation brought forth by the consultant.

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

Councilman Vargas stated that Gonzalez Park is the worst looking park in Vineland. He also questioned the posting at the park indicating that it is closed during school hours. Solicitor Tonetta will check further into this matter.

Councilman member called for the formation of the previously discussed cannabis committee.

Councilman Franceschini noted that he will not be present for the April 11 meeting.

Councilman Vargas reported that the repairs for the community swimming pool are estimated to cost approximately \$13,000. Only one lifeguard is on board so far. Efforts by the Recreation Commission to recruit more are underway. President Arthur suggested to Fire Director Franchetta to investigate the possibility of getting some firefighters certified as lifeguards. Mr. Vargas noted April 15 as the opening day for youth baseball, and April 16 for pigtail girls softball. The PAL basketball end-of-season party is coming up. The Easter Egg Hunt will be at Giampietro Park this Saturday. The Pacheco parade is on April 23 and flag football will be offered this spring.

Councilman Franceschini expressed concern that AEDs are not available at all city parks where our baseball/softball games are practiced and played. This issues was discussed from various angles and logistics will have to be resolved.

Councilman Spinelli noted that the VDID meets next week.

Councilman Acosta noted that the Planning Board also meets next week.

President Arthur stated that students from the Early Learning Academy will lead the Pledge of Allegiance next week.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Acosta, and seconded by Councilman Spinelli, 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