

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023
6:00 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the Vice President, David Acosta.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
Councilman Albert Vargas
Vice President David Acosta

President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur was absent.

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works
David Maillet, City Engineer
Aaron Melnick, CDP Director

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

There being no comment from the public, the Vice President invited City Engineer David Maillet to give his presentation about the Chestnut Avenue Road Diet and other planned safety improvements. Mr. Maillet also had Rick Caudill and Stephanie Wakeley, both from his staff, present. Mr. Maillet reported that the public survey concerning the proposed improvements consisted of fifteen questions and it was completed by 681 respondents. The design improvements were perceived to be generally safer for pedestrians and bicyclists, but less safe for motorists. There was limited support for the proposed round-about at the West Avenue intersection. The next step is to revise the concept plan, and hire consultants to perform a traffic study. The plan includes replacing all traffic signals, incorporating bicycle lanes where practical and safe, and improve pedestrian crossings.

Councilman Franceschini indicated that he was not a fan of the round-about. He emphasized the importance of improved lighting. Mr. Maillet stated that the current cost estimate is \$22 million, with \$20 million from a grant, backed up with a \$5 million match. Council members thanked Mr. Maillet and his team for attending.

The Vice President invited Aaron Melnick and the Community Development Advisory Committee members present to the table. Joining Mr. Melnick were Michael Zumpino and Melissa Walsh from Triad Associates, and Anne M. Bergamo and William Hartman members of the Advisory Committee.

It was noted that this is the 49th year of funding which is used as a tool in addressing neighborhood and economic decline through revitalization, blight elimination and reinvestment. It is particularly targeted for those of low and moderate-income. The FY2023 Community Development allocation for Vineland is \$427,479. Vineland also gets a portion of the HOME Program funding available to the Consortium, estimated to be \$264,550. The specific areas to be funded are 1.) Residential Rehabilitation; 2.) Public Facilities and Improvements; 3.) Public Services; 4.) Relocation; and 5.) General Administration. It was noted that the two public hearing conducted on this proposal did not have any public attendance or input. The committee reviewed the recommended allocations, noting that some organizations are still recovering from the Covid-19 impact and have unused funds from previous funding cycles. Council members thanked Triad and the CDP committee and staff for their work on this plan.

The Clerk reminded Council members that annual Financial Disclosure Statements will need to be filed by April 30. Also, the work session scheduled for May 2 will include a presentation from John Pedersen, Ellen Pedersen, Nora Zielinski, and David Lowenstern who are seeking City Council endorsement for Wildlife Certification for Vineland from the National Wildlife Federation.

Business Administrator Dickenson stated that Council should expect an added resolution for Tuesday's agenda concerning the demolition of the former ice house.

Councilman Vargas noted the successful Pigtail softball opening, the upcoming PAL basketball season-ending luncheon, and the Pacheco parade this Sunday.

Councilman Spinelli stated East Vineland Sr. League Champions were recently honored and noted their success at raising approximately \$39,000 for travel. He expressed concern about the loitering around the liquor store at Wood Street and the Boulevard. Solicitor Tonetta reported that he has been in conversation with Chris Brunetta at the police department to present charges for that facility as well as the Tequila nightclub.

Vice President Acosta noted two recent Planning Board approvals for 810 Billiards & Bowling on Delsea Drive and Falasca Mechanical expanding in the Industrial Park.

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The Vice 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
Councilman Vargas
Vice President Acosta

David Acosta
Vice President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk