

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the Council President, Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilman David Acosta  
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.  
Councilman Albert Vargas  
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli  
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were: Stephen Barse, Associate Solicitor (*arrived at 6:16 P.M.*)  
Greg Gallo, Business Administration  
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works  
Sheena Santiago, Events Coordinator, former City Council Member

The President 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 12, 2023 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.

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

Steve Lewis from Vineland had a question on Resolution 2023-624 and the traffic signal at the Rt. 55 southbound ramp at Main Road. He inquired that wouldn't a light at that intersection cause undue traffic back up and possible safety issues for those traveling South on Main Road. Councilman Spinelli commented the traffic in that area, particularly in the summer, has increased tremendously. Members of Council mentioned there had to have been a traffic study completed before the plan was approved because it involves State, County, and Local roads. Lewis believes the lights will back up traffic. Spinelli commented that if the lights were properly synchronized, it shouldn't be an issue.

There being no one else to be heard, the Deputy Clerk notified City Council Members the Office received Memo from the TRICO JIF Executive Director, Paul Forlenza, and provided one copy of the 2023 State of the Fund Report which provided financial, claims and program information for the past year. The Deputy Clerk explained the report was also available for viewing and can be downloaded from the JIF website at [www.tricojif.org](http://www.tricojif.org).

The Deputy Clerk then reviewed the agenda.

Councilman Spinelli questioned why the City needed to exceed the budget appropriation limits if the budget hasn't been yet approved concerning Ordinance No. 2024-01.

Council members had a short discussion on Ordinance No. 2024-03 which establishes the Division of Masonry and places it under the Department of Administration.

Council asked what is an Itron Riva pit water module used for. A short discussion ensued ending with Councilman Franceschini requesting an explanatory statement of what they are voting on particularly in this case and also generally. He mentioned it would help if there was an explanatory statements that come with Resolution items and services so they can make better informed decisions.

Councilman Franceschini asked Director Neher if the City was prepared for a potential Nor'easter this weekend. Director Neher responded they have a full sand dome and also have been in contact with the Water / Electric Utility and Fire Department to help with experienced plowers. Public Works has six trucks that can salt and two small dumps that can salt. Councilman Franceschini mentioned that drivers are usually an issue to which, Neher agreed. Director Neher also mentioned the City has contracted with a private company, Bishop, who would be called into to plow the industrial park areas, and other areas, if an overwhelming amount were to occur. Director Neher stated the current projection is a possibility of 3-6" of snow and Public Works is prepared.

Councilman Vargas mentioned that Recreation Commission is meeting tomorrow. Some items are Gonzalez Park; a new President of the Vineland Midget Football League, Derek Williams. The PAL is holding a dinner to thank their volunteers on January 7, 2024 at the Pickwickian Pub in Richland to be recognized for their service. Councilman Vargas is taking care of the service. Councilman Franceschini asked if the City and the Board of Education have a contract for Gonzalez Park as to responsibility issues. Vargas explained no one can find any contract and a long discussion ensued on the subject. Associate Solicitor Barse mentioned he is willing to compose another contract but it would be greatly beneficial to find the previous as parameters as guidance. A question was raised as to whom from the City would execute the contract; City Council, the Mayor or the Recreation Department. Vargas stated nothing has been done in over two years about this concerning issue. Former councilmember Sheena Santiago commented the contract and construction occurred in her administration. She was adamant there was a contract and also with the State as to what needed to be done in order to receive Green Acres funds. She mentioned there were many items in the contract that the school did not maintain on their end.

Councilman Spinelli mentioned VDID is having a retreat on January 7<sup>th</sup> to conduct a bit of a re-organization and discussion about job descriptions and carrying them out. He stated he's reached out to Tunnels to Towers that

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023

help build housing for homeless veterans. He mentioned we could receive a substantial amount of MPP grant money and with the help of TTT, if the City would provide the land, we may be able to partner with them to help Veteran hotels to help homeless veterans get back on their feet and then re-patriate them back into the community. Spinelli commented that in speaking with Community Policing, our areas has potentially over a thousand homeless veterans.

Councilman Acosta followed up on a citizen complaint he received back in October for a records request on a Cornell Dixon. Acosta mentioned he would forward the complaint to Deputy Clerk Franchetta who stated he would look into the matter and provide an update.

Dr. Arthur mentioned there is a Police Department promotion here at City Hall this coming Friday at 9:00 A.M. Johnstone School students will be at the January 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting for the Pledge of Allegiance. She also reminded all that the Board of Health meeting will be January 16, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.

The Presiding Councilman entertained a motion by Councilman Acosta, and seconded by Councilman Franceschini, to adjourn the meeting. The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Councilman Acosta  
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.  
Councilman Vargas  
Councilman Spinelli  
President Dr. Arthur

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 P.M

---

Elizabeth A. Arthur  
Council President

ATTEST:

---

Richard G. Franchetta, RMC, EJD  
Deputy Municipal Clerk