

PRE-MEETING CONFERENCE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024  
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 Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.  
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli  
Councilman Albert Vargas  
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman David Acosta was absent.

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor  
Greg Gallo, Business Administration  
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety

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.

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

Steve Lewis from Vineland commented on Vineland PD K-9 program and voiced options to help find ways for the City to pay insurance costs of the animals once they retire. A short discussion ensued with Council and Mr. Lewis as to options. Solicitor Tonetta weighed in to provide legal issues posed with insurance issues and other options. Tonetta mentioned he hasn't heard any chatter from officers complaining and stated the City shouldn't be concerned until officers complain they are going to care for the K9s after retirement. Mr. Lewis stated he found a company that does this for police dogs and it is free of charge however it has to come from each officer, not the City. Additionally, they can only go to one location.

There being no one else to be heard, the Deputy Clerk reviewed revisions and additions to the agenda. Deputy Clerk Franchetta offered an explanatory statement for Ordinance 2024-01 concerning the Cap Bank and exceeding the budget. Deputy Clerk Franchetta also provided a statement from Municipal Utilities Director John Lillie concerning Resolution 2024-03 concerning water utility smart meters. Resolutions 2024-01, 02, 03, 04, and 05 recognizing the retirement of various police officers were removed from the Agenda at the last minute due to the impending storm so their families can attend on another night. Because of this, many resolutions needed to be re-numbered. Also removed was Resolution 2024-14 which authorized the execution of a settlement agreement with Inspira Medical Centers. Solicitor Tonetta advised this was redundant and already completed last month. Business Administration revised the wording of the second paragraph to Resolution 2024-02 regarding exercising an option renewal to the Grinding and Hauling of Brush at Material Handling Facility.

The Deputy Clerk also reminded City Council that next week is the Quarterly Board of Health Meeting which starts at 5:30 P.M.

Councilman Franceschini noted the AED battery in Council Chambers foyer was "chirping." Greg Gallo got in touch with EMS Chief Soracco and replaced the batteries. There is a possibility the AEDs have an old protocol programmed which were stackable shocks up to 3 times. Now they only shock once every 2 minutes. Research is being done with the vendor to see if they can be re-programmed. If not, we will need to purchase new devices at approximately \$1,500.00 each. Franceschini also voiced concerns of who is checking these devices monthly and also who and how are these devices going to make it from the first and second floors to other floors in a cardiac emergency. Council noted one device should be on each floor of City Hall. He mentioned local hospitals are seeing influxes of RSV and COVID and are now requiring masks.

Councilman Vargas noted that he recently was at Inspira hospital in Vineland and security was very lackadaisical which was concerning. Vargas stated the PAL recognition dinner went very well and needs to happen more often.

Spinelli recognized the PAL did a nice job and it was excellent to recognize all the volunteers and not enough of that gets done in reality. VDID had a retreat that day as well in re-vamping the bylaws. And reworking the job descriptions of the executive director. They will focus in a new direction of filling office vacancies on the Avenue rather than just promoting events on the Avenue.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

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Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President

ATTEST:

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Richard G. Franchetta, RMC, EJD  
Deputy Municipal Clerk