

REGULAR WORK SESSION& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024
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.
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli (*arrived at 5:33 p.m.*)
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were:

Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor (*arrived at 5:55 p.m.*)
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Macleod Carre, Director of Health
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works

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, 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.

Quarterly Board of Health Meeting

President Arthur entertained a motion by Councilman Acosta, and seconded by Councilman Franceschini, to approve the minutes from the Board of Health meetings conducted on July 2, 2024.

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

Director Carre gave a brief overview of the department. He stated that the social worker who works out of the Vineland Public Library two days a week is a huge benefit to the community. The OnBase scanning of records continues to progress and is nearing completion.

Health Officer Dickinson reported that since mid-July there has been a mid-sized wave of positive Covid-19 cases. Reported cases statewide total 5,000, but the actual number is much higher. He spoke briefly about the Tyler software data conversion, indicating the required upgrade has caused delays, since all functions have to be properly tested before being put into use. The Avian Flu (H5N1) continues to present issues nationwide. Fourteen cases have been identified in the U.S. since April. There is a case in Missouri being closely monitored because this person seems to have had no known exposure to infected herds or flocks. The virus has been detected in 238 dairy herd across 14 states since April, and it has been detected in 36 commercial flocks and in 23 backyard flocks with 18.75 million birds affected. Mr. Dickinson stated that there are some issues regarding the lead remediation and abatement grant that need legal review. A senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist has resigned effective October 15. This is a seasoned inspector who is also bilingual. The department is now missing three REHS staff members. One trainee is slated to take the licensure exam in December. The recent International Longshoreman's Association strike has brought concerns relating to potential delays in the supply chain for certain items such as PPE and medical equipment. The department currently has a 30-day supply inventory. The warehouse will be assessed to expand inventory. An employee flu shot clinic is scheduled for October 10. Mr. Dickinson concluded by thanking Councilman Franceschini, who has served as the Health Department liaison. This is Councilman Franceschini's final Board of Health meeting.

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

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

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

Steve Lewis extended a "hello" from Director Alicea. He then asked about the status of the animal shelter situation. Solicitor Tonetta explained that all the data was sent to the consultant and we are awaiting the report. There was some discussion about other municipalities joining our effort. It was accepted that such decisions on those options have to wait until the report is issued.

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

The Clerk announced his planned retirement to be effective March 1, 2025. In response to questions, Clerk Petrosky stated that at his retirement he will have been employed for 36 years, 3 months, with 30 years, 8 months as the municipal clerk.

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Responding to questions, Solicitor Tonetta reported that the new attorney for the Vineland Board of Education has been working with Associate Solicitor Stephen Barse on the agreements relating to the Sabater School swimming pool issue and Gonzalez Park.

Councilman Franceschini reported that the new 810 Bowling center opened recently and the facility looks great. Councilman Spinelli also noted the new Animal Paradise high-end gym that recently opened at the Cumberland Mall in the space formerly occupied by Toy R Us.

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

Councilman Acosta
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Spinelli
Councilman Vargas
President Dr. Arthur

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk