

REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024
6:00 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 6:06 p.m.*)
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor (*arrived at 6:06 p.m.*)
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
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.

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

There being no one to be heard, the Clerk reviewed the agenda. The clerk advised that a change order resolution is likely to be added.

Council publicly discussed the Best Practices Survey. The Clerk explained that through scored and unscored questions, the State assess how our municipality handles important aspects of local government and ties State aid to the scoring. The responses to the survey, which included a multitude to subjects, are attached to the resolution. Vineland, again, exceeds the minimum scoring threshold of 35, so it is expected that a full measure of State aid will be provided.

Councilman Franceschini stated that the swearing in ceremony for Fire Chief Mark Cifaloglio was likely the best he has attended.

Councilman Vargas inquired about the status of the Chestnut Avenue project. Administrator Dickenson advised that an engineer has been engaged and work is proceeding. Councilman Vargas also reminded everyone about the upcoming Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11. He also commented on the nice ceremony today for Viet Nam veterans.

Councilman Spinelli reported that there has been some discussion to address the problems associated with the 'soup kitchen.' The concept is that 'food pantries' should be used to provide take-away food that can be cooked off site, rather than the pre-cooked meals currently provided. A multitude of problems from homelessness, trash, etc. have had an adverse affect on Landis Avenue businesses. There was brief discussion about the legality of limiting what the church does at their 'soup kitchen.' More discussion about this topic is sure to come.

Councilman Acosta referenced a 'vacant' house owned by the city near Chestnut Avenue & Eighth Street. Although it is boarded up, homeless people are entering and there is purportedly a drug problem there. He suggested the city sell it to be renovated and become a legitimate residence again.

President Arthur also commented about the nice ceremony today for Viet Nam veterans.

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