

REGULAR WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024  
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  
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety  
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works

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

Steve Lewis noted that, as a veteran, he has saved approximately \$13,500 over the past five years on taxes, due to the veteran's discount. He urged Council to take action on the South Jersey Animal Shelter situation because of their escalating costs, adding that they have been disrespectful to City Council and the mayor. Solicitor Tonetta stated that he has been in communication with the consulting firm hired by the county. The firm performed a feasibility study concluding that, as a county facility, it is most cost-efficient to remain with the South Jersey Animal Shelter. The firm is re-examining their findings to focus on a Vineland-only review. Councilman Spinelli noted that it's not only the rising costs from the facility, but the surcharges for veterinary services.

Councilman Franceschini requested a report of the activities and projects undertaken by the Information Systems department.

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

Councilman Vargas reported that five wrestlers qualified for the state championship. He provided a brief review of the various park improvements being undertaken before the spring season. He noted that the Vineland Soccer Association has 340 registrants so far. Youth baseball registrations are still ongoing. The PAL basketball program is coordinating end-of-season activities. In responding to a question, he noted that coaches fingerprinting is valid for a three-year period. He also explained an incident he observed, and recorded video, involving a dirt bike pulling into the Wawa at Chestnut & Brewster. The motorcycle driver handed the gasoline attendant money and pumped the fuel himself (which of course, is a violation of NJ law), but also fueling a motorcycle without license plates (a violation of Vineland ordinance). Solicitor Tonetta stated the video was provide to the chief of police.

Councilman Franceschini asked about the status of the Gonzalez Park use agreement with the Board of Education. Solicitor Tonetta stated that he has had discussions with BOE solicitor, Bob DeSanto, about it. Councilman Franceschini also inquired about lifeguards for the center city pool for this coming summer. Administrator Dickenson believes the department(s) responsible are taking care of it, but he will check on it.

The Clerk advised Council members that nominating petitions are now available for this year's non-partisan municipal election. Interested individuals should make an appointment with the Clerk's office to obtain the petitions.

Administrator Dickenson advised all that the parade honoring two-time Super Bowl champion KC Chiefs running back Isiah Pacheco, is tentatively scheduled for April 20, with a rain date the following day.

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 Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.  
Councilman Spinelli  
Councilman Vargas  
Vice President Acosta

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David Acosta  
Vice President

ATTEST:

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk