

REGULAR WORK SESSION& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024
5:33 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 (*arrived at 5:43 P.M.*)
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
Councilman Albert Vargas (*arrived at 5:51 P.M.*)
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Councilman David Acosta was absent.

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety
Macleod Carre, Director of Health
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer

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 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.

President Arthur entertained a motion by Councilman Franceschini, and seconded by Councilman Spinelli, to approve the minutes from the Board of Health meetings conducted on January 16, 2024.

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

Director Carre gave a brief overview of the Department concerning Opiate funding and staffing. He introduced Council to South Jersey Aids Alliance regarding an operate a harm reduction program which was originally called the "Needle Exchange" program. Solicitor Tonetta advised Director to speak with the Mayor and advise him about this program promptly. The Health Dept. is moving forward with its accreditation program and also the digitization of all health records which was made possible by grant funding. Health Officer Dickinson advised the new Tyler Software updating is progressing but taking time. He also mentioned they are monitoring the H1N1 virus as it made its appearance in the Midwest. Currently they are moderately considered but watching closely if it mutates to pigs as they carry many same genes as humans which could then mutate and spread to the human population.

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 at 6:11 P.M.

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

The Deputy Clerk read the following: *Public Comment provides an opportunity for members of the public to inform the governing body about their views. The governing body prescribes to City Council's by-laws and the NJ Statutes on Open Public Meetings when engaging during public comment. As such, each individual shall have a 5-minute limit to comment; cannot yield time to another individual; may only approach the podium once during public comment for any one topic; vulgar/offensive language is prohibited; and City Council will not engage in dialogue with the public during this time. The governing body maintains model courtesy and respect and requires members of the public to do the same.*

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

The Bokmas from Vineland mentioned how after fourteen years later, they are still dealing with the water problems at Independence Walk at the expense of Tradition Homes. They are desperately asking for relief and if someone from the City could help them pump the water out of their yards and into the woods. Solicitor Tonetta stated he would look into the issue immediately. A short discussion took place as to where everyone stands in the situation. Ms. Bokma asked if someone could look into the \$4,500.00 which was awarded to the Bokmas and is overdue. Solicitor Tonetta mentioned he also look into this and took down their phone numbers to provide them with an update.

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Steve Lewis from Vineland mentioned when this first happened with the Bokmas they were pumping out water 24/7. These homeowners should be afforded some type of relief by way of tax reduction, electric reduction or something as their home values have likely decreased. Councilman Franceschini made a Point of Order to say the governing body needs to stay on task so as to not get themselves in trouble as to the lack of decorum in debate. President Dr. Arthur commented it was noted.

Business Administrator Bob Dickenson passed out a Information Systems Project List to all council members from the IS Dept in response to Councilman Franceschini's request for an update from the Division.

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

Councilman Franceschini reported he would be speaking with Health Officer Dickinson concerning re-certifying the Board of Health. He mentioned he and Councilman Vargas attend the Easter Egg Hunt and it was well attended however, Sheena needed more volunteers / help for what she needed to do.

Councilman Vargas reminded all the most of the baseball fields open this Saturday at 10am.

Councilman Spinelli asked if we could get a panic button in the Council Chambers. IS Dept. Employee Nick English checked and determined there is a button in place and Dr. Arthur was made aware of the location. Councilman Spinelli asked about the Puerto Rican festival and costs and Solicitor Tonetta responded indicating recoupable costs to be around the \$34,000 range.

Dr. Arthur reminded everyone of the special awarding of the key to the city to Mario Antonio Romero on Thursday at 5:30 P.M. in City Council chambers.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 P.M.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President

ATTEST:

Richard G. Franchetta, RMC, EJD
Deputy Municipal Clerk