

PRE-MEETING CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 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 David Acosta (*arrived at 6:05 p.m.*)
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works
Maryanne Wolf, Clerk's Office Legal Secretary

President Arthur 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 and June 18, 2024 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.

Kathy Williamson, CEO of the Vineland African American Community Development Corporation, expressed concern that on Monday, July 15 and Wednesday, July 17 personnel from the Boys & Girls Club occupied the Carl Arthur Center until 6:30 p.m. She said the children waiting for the VAACDC programming had to wait in hot cars until the building became available. She stated the VAACDC, by agreement, is supposed to have the building for their programming purposes from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. She is here tonight seeking assistance with the situation. Solicitor Tonetta inquired if the group tried to enter the building. Ms. Williamson responded that she was not there, but the VAACDC has tried to avoid any contact with the Boys & Girls Club, so they waited until the building was vacated by them. She further stated that in future incidents they will call the police. Councilman Spinelli commented that it's a sad situation, with two organizations who share a mission to help kids, but can't get along with each other. Administrator Dickenson provided Ms. Williamson with his cell phone number in case of future incidents.

Albert Porter spoke briefly collaborating similar circumstances as related by Ms. Williamson.

There being no one further to be heard, the Clerk reviewed the agenda changes and additions. Ordinance 2024-40, authorizing the execution of a contract of sale and other documents necessary for the acquisition of certain property in the City of Vineland known as 726 E. Wood Street, Block 3016, Lot 17, for \$275,000.00 to be used in connection with the city's Code Blue obligation, was revised to correct the block number in the body of the ordinance. Resolution 2024-313, authorizing the execution of consent for access forms and restoration agreements with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to perform remedial investigation, remedial action, removal activity and restoration activity on certain city properties related to the former Kil-Tone Company Superfund site, was revised to include the restoration agreements in the title and the body. Resolution 2024-323, awarding an open-end contract to Osmose Utilities Services, Inc., Peachtree City, GA for pole inspection, treatment and reinforcement, in the amount of \$300,000.00, was revised to correct the amount in the title. Resolution 2024-324, awarding an open-end contract to Ferguson Enterprises, LLC, Clementon, NJ, for the furnishing and delivery of meter pits, covers and fittings for the Vineland Water Utility, in an estimated amount of \$40,000.00, was revised to correct a spelling error in the title.

A motion was requested to be added by the Solicitor to request the Planning Board consider a restriction for the distribution of hypodermic needles for the injection of illegal drugs within 1,000 feet of any day care center, park, church, liquor store, school (public, charter, parochial, private, vocational or college) as measured by the shortest distance property line to property line or designated school zones, similar to zoning restrictions for the sale of cannabis or alcoholic beverages for consumption. Dr. Arthur initially wanted the motion to be removed so City Council could look at the entire picture and discuss it.

Councilman Spinelli made a motion, seconded by Councilman Acosta, to keep the motion on the agenda. Councilman Spinelli noted that the matter is going to the Planning Board first for their review and recommendation, then it will come back to City Council for further discussion. Without the Planning Board review and recommendation, City Council members will be merely stating their own personal opinions, without the benefit of factual findings. Solicitor Tonetta advised that any item like this must be reviewed by the land use board first. Councilman Vargas indicated that he spoke to the AIDS Alliance director, and recommended that she be invited to attend the Council meeting when the matter is further discussed. Solicitor Tonetta advised that she may testify at the Planning Board and at the public hearing when it comes back to City Council for action. Councilman Franceschini reported that the AIDS Alliance has offered to have the Atlantic City Police Department talk to the Vineland Police Department about the operation in Atlantic City. The overall mission is to prevent and treat AIDS. The Clerk called the roll on the motion to keep the motion on the agenda:

YEAS: Councilman Acosta
Councilman Spinelli
Councilman Vargas
President Arthur

NAYS: Councilman Franceschini

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The Clerk noted that next week is the fifth Tuesday of the month, therefore no meeting is scheduled. The next work session will be on Monday, August 5, due to the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6.

President Arthur 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 Arthur

Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
President

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk