

WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

The 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  
Councilman Albert Vargas  
President Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur

Also present were:           Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator  
Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor  
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works

For two hours prior to the start of the regularly scheduled work session, City Council members and some associated staff members were trained in CPR and AED. The training was conducted by Councilman Franceschini, who is qualified and certified as a trainer.

The President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk stated Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on December 13, 2023 and September 10, 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;
2. Providing written notice to the offices of The Daily Journal and The Press of Atlantic City; and;
3. Filing written notice in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Vineland.

The President asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to be heard.

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

The President asked if any Council members wished to be heard.

Councilman Franceschini congratulated the Council members and staff who participated in the CPR/AED training.

Councilman Vargas reported that a pool cover has been ordered for the Sam Clark Park pool. The midget football league has 150 participants. Mini wrestling registration opens soon. New equipment for the dog park will be installed soon. He also questioned the status of the Gonzalez Park issue. Solicitor Tonetta reported that the agreement has been found and had to be reviewed. Councilman Vargas noted that the park is used a lot.

President Arthur stated that she has been asked about no lighting at the basketball courts near the Carl Arthur Center.

Councilman Spinelli asked about the timeline for the old ice house demolition. Administrator Dickenson responded that the city is waiting to receive environmental reports before proceeding. Councilman Spinelli advised that the VDID meets tomorrow. The volunteer appreciation event is in October. He stated that approximately 150 people attended the Taylor Swift tribute band concert. The poor attendance is likely due to inadequate advance publicity about the event.

Councilman Acosta stated that he recently watched an interesting documentary about Kensington. This comment provoked conversation again about Vineland's growing homelessness problem, and how to best deal with it. President Arthur commented about Walmart expanding their shop-from-home services, while also noting an increase in shoplifting and the fact that the store has closed the garden center doors. Councilman Acosta also noted complaints about the poor condition of Vineland High School's athletic fields, likely due to the severe drought.

Council members also commented about the poor marketing about Vineland Public Schools' success stories.

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 Arthur

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Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur  
President

ATTEST:

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk