

INAUGURAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025  
6:30 P.M.

The Inaugural/Reorganization Meeting of the City Council of the City of Vineland as called to order by the Municipal Clerk, Keith Petrosky.

Vineland Police Department Explorers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Donna Hatch-Strain sang the National Anthem.

Pastor Benjamin Ocasio, Sr. led a Prayer of Blessing.

The Clerk declared that Public Notice of the meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on December 11, 2024, by the City Clerk, in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board in the lobby of 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 Clerk welcomed everyone who took the time to attend tonight's Inauguration, explaining that there are three main components. First, the inauguration and comments, second, the brief meeting of City Council to elect a President, Vice President and confirm director appointments, and, third, to preview the titles of ordinances and resolutions City Council will consider at their regular meeting next week.

Clerk Petrosky explained that Vineland founder Charles K. Landis drove the spike at what is today the intersection of Landis Avenue and the Boulevard and instructed his workers to clear a swath of land 100 feet wide to go east to what is today, Main Road. The land was rather barren, with most of the old-wood forest trees having been cut down by the charcoal producers. Many of Landis' workers thought him to be crazy for embarking on such an enterprise. Some left and many had doubts they would ever be paid for their work. He had already been involved with the founding of Hammonton, and would also be the founder of Sea Isle City.

As of the 2020 census Vineland has grown to approximately 61,000 citizens. It has its own electric utility, its own water utility, its own sewerage authority, a thriving industrial park, a new, state-of-the-art police headquarters, a new, state-of-the-art fire headquarters, a municipal building that is undergoing the most extensive transformation and modernization since it was opened in 1971, Vineland has a vehicle and equipment fleet the envy of most municipalities, we boast a dynamic website and an app to keep citizens and visitors alike well-informed in our digital age, and we're proud to have the best first-responders and municipal employees in the State of New Jersey.

The Clerk explained that tonight's inauguration is historic, as Mayor Anthony R. Fanucci is the first-time, fully-elected three-term Mayor. He explained that Mayor Henry A. Garton, Jr. served a portion of 3 terms. After the untimely death of Mayor Albert V. Giampietro, Mayor Garton was appointed by City Council. Garton had been serving as the Director of Public Safety. A few months later the citizens confirmed his position in a special election. So, in 72.5 years, since Vineland became a city in 1952, we've had 20 mayors in 19 administrations. Mayor Fanucci holds positions #18, #19, and #20.

The Clerk noted that Si Solazzo served on the governing body for a record five terms, and tonight Councilman Paul Spinelli will be entering his fourth four-year term.

The Clerk specifically recognized the attendance of New Jersey State Senator Michael Testa; New Jersey Assemblyman Antwan McClellan; New Jersey Assemblyman Erik Simonsen; Cumberland County Clerk Celeste Riley; Cumberland County Sheriff Michael Donato; Cumberland County Commission Director James Sauro; Cumberland County Commissioner Victoria Groetsch-Lods; and Vineland School Board President Kim Codispoti.

The Clerk introduced the Honorable Julio L. Mendez, New Jersey Superior Court Assignment Judge, Retired, to administer the oath of office to Mayor Anthony R. Fanucci. Mayor Fanucci signed his oath which was attested to by Judge Mendez.

The Clerk introduced the Honorable Demetrica Todd-Ruiz, New Jersey Superior Court Judge to administer the oath of office to Councilwoman Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur. Councilwoman Arthur signed her oath which was attested to by Judge Todd-Ruiz.

The Clerk introduced Robert DeSanto, Esq. to administer the oath of office to Councilman Scott E. English. Councilman English signed his oath which was attested to by Mr. DeSanto.

The Clerk introduced retired New Jersey Superior Court Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez to administer the oath of office to Councilman Cruz Gomez, Jr. Councilman Gomez signed his oath which was attested to by Judge Mendez.

The Clerk introduced retired New Jersey Superior Court Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez to administer the oath of office to Councilman Paul F. Spinelli. Councilman Spinelli signed his oath which was attested to by Judge Mendez.

The Clerk introduced retired New Jersey Superior Court Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez to administer the oath of office to Councilman Albert Vargas. Councilman Vargas signed his oath which was attested to by Judge Mendez.

Mayor Anthony R. Fanucci, Councilwoman Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur, Councilman Scott E. English, Councilman Cruz Gomez, Jr., Councilman Paul F. Spinelli and Councilman Albert Vargas offered brief comments, thanking their families, friends and Vineland citizens for their support. They all are looking forward to their service over the next four years.

Pastor Benjamin Ocasio, Sr. led a closing prayer and advised all guests that refreshments were available in the lobby.

The Clerk asked if anyone in the audience wished to be heard at this time.

There being no one to be heard, the Clerk announced that nominations for President of City Council were open.

The City Clerk entertained a motion by Councilman Vargas, and seconded by Councilwoman Arthur, nominating Councilman Paul F. Spinelli as President of City Council to serve a four (4) year term commencing on January 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2028.

The City Clerk asks if there were any other nominations.

There being no other nominations, the City Clerk entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that the nominations for President of City Council for a four (4) year term commencing on January 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2028, be closed.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Spinelli  
Councilman Vargas

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 1, A RESOLUTION ELECTING PAUL F. SPINELLI AS PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL FOR THE TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025.

The Clerk entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 1 be adopted according to law.

The Clerk asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Spinelli  
Councilman Vargas

The Clerk turned the meeting over to Council President Paul F. Spinelli.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Vargas, and seconded by Councilwoman Arthur, nominating Councilman Cruz Gomez, Jr. as Vice President of City Council to serve a four (4) year term commencing on January 1, 2025 and expiring on December 31, 2028.

The President asked if there were any other nominations.

There being no other nominations, the President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, seconded by Councilman Vargas, that the nominations for Vice President of City Council for a four (4) year term commencing on January 1, 2025 and expiring on December 31, 2028, be closed.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-2, A RESOLUTION ELECTING CRUZ GOMEZ, JR. AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL FOR THE TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-2 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented a communication from Mayor Anthony R. Fanucci appointing the following Directors, with the advice and consent of the governing body:

- Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., Director of Law
- Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Director of Administration
- Susan M. Baldosaro, Director of Finance
- Richard G. Franchetta, E.J.D., Director of Fire
- Macleod Carre, Director of Health
- Matteo Rabbai, Director of Licenses & Inspections
- John Lillie, Director of Municipal Utilities
- Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that the communication as presented by the Clerk be received and filed.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD P. TONETTA, ESQ. AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW DESIGNATED AS CITY SOLICITOR.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING RICHARD G. FRANCHETTA, E.J.D. AS DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE NO. 678, AS AMENDED.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-5, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT E. DICKENSON, JR. AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION DESIGNATED AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-5 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-6, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN M. BALDOSARO AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-6 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-7, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD G. FRANCHETTA, E.J.D. AS DIRECTOR OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-7 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-8, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MACLEOD CARRE, MS, LSW, AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-8 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-9, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTEO RABBAI AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-9 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN LILLIE AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF EDWIN ALICEA AS DIRECTOR OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT DESIGNATED AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12, A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF H. JAMES NEHER AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, that RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12 be adopted according to law.

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The Clerk presented RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DR. ELIZABETH A. ARTHUR, A MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL, TO THE PLANNING BOARD (CLASS III).

The President asked if there was any discussion by Council members on this motion.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

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There being no discussion to be heard, the Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

The President asked all appointed directors present to come forward for the oath of office to be administered by the Municipal Clerk, Keith Petrosky.

The Clerk administered the oath of office.

As a preview of next week's regular meeting of City Council, the Clerk read the titles of the proposed ordinances, resolutions and other business. The Clerk noted that some people who don't know the process criticize Council members for being a 'rubber stamp' of only approvals. He noted that the process we use is transparent and when initiatives are brought up in work sessions and have objections, they are not advanced until the issues are resolved. President Spinelli also advised Council members that the public comment portion of our meeting is just that – public comment. Council members should refrain from dialogue and just listen.

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

Councilwoman Arthur welcomed the two new Council members and advised that though it could be a bumpy ride, we'll get through it. She also noted the upcoming retirement of Clerk Petrosky and thanked him for his guidance during her term as President.

Councilman Gomez stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Councilman English is also looking forward to working with everyone. He related that he took a job in Franklin Township noting that there are some things we could do better, and some things we do better than they do. He remarked that he does push the envelope.

Councilman Vargas welcomed Councilman English and Councilman Gomez, and our new President. He stated his full confidence in the President. He also congratulated and thanked Dr. Arthur for her service as President the previous four years.

President Spinelli welcomed Councilman English and Councilman Gomez. He advised all members to feel free to contact him if they have any questions. He thanked Councilwoman Arthur for her presidency, and thanked Councilman Vargas for his service.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Arthur, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the meeting.

The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Arthur  
Councilman English  
Councilman Gomez  
Councilman Vargas  
President Spinelli

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Paul F. Spinelli  
President of City Council

ATTEST:

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Keith Petrosky, RMC  
Municipal Clerk