

REGULAR WORK SESSION
& QUARTERLY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025
5:00 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the President, Paul F. Spinelli.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilmember Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
Councilmember Scott E. English
Councilmember Cruz Gomez, Jr.
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were:

Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Greg Gallo, Business Administrator Staff
Edwin Alicea, Director of Public Safety
H. James Neher, Director of Public Works

The 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 11, 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;
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.

There being no one to be heard, the President invited Michael Kushuer and Nicholas Hornak, representatives of Aggreko ETS, (Vineland Solar) to the table. Solicitor Tonetta explained that this entity has proposed a contract to install a solar array at the former Mill Road landfill. Trading as Vineland Solar, there will be four resolutions relating to the matter on next week's agenda. The city will derive \$20,000 per megawatt, resulting in annual lease revenue of \$375,000. They will also sell power to our electric utility at a reduced rate. The proposed contract is for a 5-year lease, with four 5-year extension options. Vineland Solar will make the necessary improvements required by NJ DEP for remediation. The company will also pay a \$4 million interconnection fee to the city. The representatives seem optimistic and appreciative for being considered. Councilmembers thanked them for appearing.

Quarterly Board of Health Meeting

The President called the quarterly Board of Health meeting to order. The following members were present:

Councilmember Dr. Elizabeth A. Arthur
Councilmember Scott E. English
Councilmember Cruz Gomez, Jr.
Councilmember Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were:

Macleod Carre, Director
Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
Emma Lopez, Assistant Health Officer

The President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Arthur, to approve the minutes from the Quarterly Board of Health meeting conducted on October 1, 2024.

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

The staff presented a video and slide presentation to serve as the annual training required for Board of Health members. The training audio-visual material was an overview of the public health function and how the Board of Health is intertwined into the public health mechanism.

The Health Officer reviewed handouts provided to offer input on the subject of the Vineland Municipal Alliance. There was an apparent misunderstanding about the appointment of Alliance members. Solicitor Tonetta noted that it was discovered that we have an ordinance specifying that the Mayor makes appointments which are ratified and confirmed by City Council. There is a proposed ordinance to reduce the membership to five members. Health Officer Dickinson believes the number should be greater, offering documentation that indicates "membership may include," but is not limited to a list of sixteen various categories. It was decided that the Solicitor will review the recommendations from the Health Officer and consider any potential changes to the proposed ordinance amendment.

Health Officer Dickinson noted that he is preparing a request to amend the body art ordinance to set criteria for apprenticeship programs. He also advised that Solicitor Tonetta is working on an ordinance to move animal control from the Police Department to the Health Department.

There being no other business for the Board of Health, the President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Arthur, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025

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

The Clerk distributed copies of a resource guide to members of City Council, and reviewed the agenda.

Councilmember English noted that he is not comfortable with the provisions of Ordinance 2025-3, which increases the City Councilmember compensation from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and intends to vote “no.” Solicitor Tonetta advised that Councilmembers should wait until input is possibly received at the public hearing for such ordinance before making a determination on how they will vote.

Councilmember Vargas reported that the Recreation Commission decided that the collection of all recreation registration fees will be cashless. Additionally, signs will be posted at recreation event concession stands to alert the public. He noted that the PAL summer camp tuition is increasing to \$100 per week and they are employing three former Police Explorers.

Councilmember English stated that the city should work toward changing our school board to an appointed board, rather than elected.

Councilmember Arthur advised that Mennies School students would be leading the Pledge of Allegiance next week.

The President entertained a motion by Councilmember Vargas, and seconded by Councilmember Arthur, to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilmember Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

Paul F. Spinelli
President

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk