

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 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
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator
Richard G. Franchetta, RMC, EJD, Municipal Clerk
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.

Steve Lewis raised some questions regarding the harm reduction centers, and stated that all syringes have numbers that could be tracked to their source and asked who ultimately is responsible for handing out the needles.

There being no one further to be heard, the Clerk reviewed the agenda. Solicitor Tonetta explained the proposed changes to Ordinance 2025-9. Solicitor Tonetta interjected to make it abundantly clear the issue before council is a zoning issue not about whether or not a specific business should belong where they operate. The original ordinance removed drug counseling services from the B-1 and B-2 zones, and permitting such uses in the B-3 and IN-1 zones. After hearing the public comment so far, it is now proposed to permit such uses only in the IN-1 zone. Tonetta cited the Municipal Land Use Law and said the sole issue for Council to consider is what use is best placed in what zone. A 3rd party firm, already on retainer, will give their findings and recommendations on how they feel the city should proceed.

Solicitor Tonetta mentioned the title of Ordinance No. 2025-19 is a bit confusing but for clarification, it is to allow the construction of one (1) four-story building.

Solicitor Tonetta mentioned Conover supplied a report to council validating the costs and adjust the homes to the a fair value and assessment and will testify at the Public Hearing. Councilmember English asked some clarifying questions about the Public Hearing for the Cavallo Drive Sewer Extension Project.

Councilmember Vargas requested Resolution No. 2025-144 be pulled out of consent and Councilmember Dr. Arthur requested the same for Resolution No. 2025-115.

Councilmember Dr. Arthur commented that unfortunately that Gina Randazzo recently passed away. She was a former Library board member, and her funeral is Friday. A Red Cross spokesperson will be attending the upcoming council meeting to appear for a photo-opportunity of Council issuing a commending resolution.

Councilmember Vargas met with Recreation who advised the Vineland Soccer registration is strong. Basketball courts are being painted and new fencing is to be installed at South Vineland Little League Batting Cage, Landis Park and the basketballs courts. Romano park track was scheduled to be worked on today. They are waiting on the State as far as Jake's Park is concerned as all the equipment is ready per B.A. Dickenson. Equipment needs to be purchased for Paglugh Park and he handed out three sketches of equipment placement ideas provided by GameTime. Franchetta mentioned he will scan and email the sketches to all council members. BA Dickenson said that Capital money was budget over the years for this project so the money is available. Vargas received all the financials for all the leagues, everyone is cooperating and is reviewing. They received a bit of push-back for the "No Cash Accepted" for transactions at the park for food, etc....for all sanctioned leagues. Vargas did mention however, he believes it will all work out. Vargas asked Director Alicea to comment on the status of the PAL. Alicea mentioned he had several meeting with Rich Kott (PAL Executive Director) and tour of the building. He mentioned the need to update the security camera system for transparency and safety issues for the children. They mentioned taking a tour of Egg Harbor Twp which a model complex and program to which the city could strive for.

President Spinelli mentioned about a few new members to the PAL board and discussed moving forward with the building. He also mentioned looking to construct a monument for the War on Terror at Landis Park. He will meet with committee members to discuss.

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

Councilmember Dr. Arthur
Councilmember English
Councilmember Gomez
Councilmember Vargas
President Spinelli

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 P.M.

Paul F. Spinelli
President

ATTEST:

Richard G. Franchetta, RMC, EJD
Municipal Clerk