

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018
6:00 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:

Councilman David Acosta
Councilwoman Angela Calakos
Councilman Ronald J. Franceschini, Jr.
Councilman Albert Vargas
President Paul F. Spinelli

Also present were: Richard P. Tonetta, Esq., City Solicitor
Robert E. Dickenson, Jr., Business Administrator

President Spinelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy Clerk stated Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given on December 13, 2017 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.

President Spinelli asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

There was no public comment.

Quarterly Board of Health Meeting

Health Officer Robert Dickinson and Assistant Health Officer Emma Lopez were present.

President Spinelli entertained a motion by Councilwoman Calakos and seconded by Councilman Vargas to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2107 meeting.

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

There being no discussion to be heard, the Deputy Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Councilman Acosta
Councilwoman Calakos
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Spinelli

Health Officer Dickinson stated there was nothing to report on the Director's report.

City Solicitor Tonetta updated Council on the current SPCA negotiations. The SPCA wants a base amount of funds from the Municipalities. They do not care how it is split up or paid. He is currently in possession of the last three years of audits showing the loss of donations and potential litigation circumstances existing. He does not believe the City should be based on our tax retables. If the base amount includes animal control services this has to be deducted from our cost as we have our own animal control division. Health Officer Dickinson stated the SPCA fee to his understanding did not include animal control services, long term, cruelty hearings, or dangerous animals. He stated the neighboring shelters could not support the amount of animals in Vineland. The City's only other option would be to have the City open and run its own shelter. Solicitor Tonetta said that a resolution is going to be needed for representation at meetings. This resolution will not have any binding effect at the meetings. Councilman Franceschini advised for the Solicitor and Health Officer to look at the numbers the City has paid for the past four years and calculate from those numbers how much the City should pay the SPCA. Solicitor Tonetta voiced his opinion with the SPCA being mismanaged and over employed. President Spinelli said the City pays per service and the vets should only charge the municipalities. He suggested breaking down all payments and services. He stated the County is going to contribute \$65,000.00. Solicitor Tonetta stated they are still having septic system issues. Health Officer Dickinson wants to expand canvassing unlicensed animals. Solicitor Tonetta stated the Courts are saying this encourages ticket writing.

Health Officer Dickinson said the annual rabies clinics amounts of vaccinations are up from the previous year.

Heath Officer Dickinson stated training for Board of Health members is going to be at a future meeting as annual training is required per the State.

Assistant Health Officer Lopez updated Council that funding for the Live Healthy Vineland projects has been found for 2018. The annual park hop is going to be up and running with programs running every day during the summer.

Assistant Health Officer Lopez stated the childhood lead poisoning prevention grant is going to be a shared service agreement. With this agreement we will get equipment, nurse, lead inspectors, training and traveling for training.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

~ 2 ~

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health will be on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

The President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Calakos, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the quarterly Board of Health meeting and return to the work session matters. The Deputy Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilman Acosta
Councilwoman Calakos
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Spinelli

The Deputy Municipal Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Resolution No. 2018-37, regarding the execution of a professional services agreement with the law firm of Kanner and Witeley, LC, for representation in the opioid drug litigation was discussed. Solicitor Tonetta explained that this law firm is experts in opioid drug litigation and representation. He stated considering the negligent option for claiming of dependency and over usage he hopes the City with help will manage to break even or receive more. There is going to be damages and claims. All the municipalities are suffering as more claims are being submitted.

Deputy Clerk Scarpa stated the appointment for Carlos Villar to the Landis Sewerage Authority is soon to be expiring.

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

Councilman Vargas stated everything is good with both the Recreation Commission and the Police Athletic League.

Councilwoman Calakos updated Council the Vineland Downtown Improvement District will be changing their meet and greet. Vineland High School is going to be hosting a food vendor truck event.

President Spinelli stated the UEZ portfolio is extremely full. The City is now being extremely picky on who they are approving. He stated the Police Building ground breaking was a very nice event.

There being no other Council Members to be heard, the President entertained a motion by Councilwoman Calakos, and seconded by Councilman Vargas, to adjourn the meeting. The Deputy Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilman Acosta
Councilwoman Calakos
Councilman Franceschini
Councilman Vargas
President Spinelli

Paul F. Spinelli
President of Council

ATTEST:

Christine A. Scarpa,
Deputy Municipal Clerk