

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013
5:30 P.M.

The Regular Work Session of the City Council of the City of Vineland was called to order by the President, Anthony R. Fanucci.

The following members were present at roll call:

Councilwoman Angela Calakos
Councilwoman Maritza Gonzalez
Councilman John A. Procopio
Councilman Paul F. Spinelli
President Anthony R. Fanucci

Also present were: Mayor Ruben Bermudez
William Lutz, Business Administrator
Michael Benson, Associate Solicitor

President Fanucci 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 April 23, 2013 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 Fanucci asked if anyone from the public would like to comment.

Steve Lewis thanked Council for typically scheduling their closed meetings at the end of regular meetings or work sessions.

Mayor Bermudez stated that an e-mail was sent to Council members advising that Richard Tonetta was relieved of his duties as City Solicitor. He cited the statutory reference giving him the authority to do it. The Mayor commented about a legal opinion provided to City Council by Associate Solicitor Benson about the City Solicitor position. He questioned Associate Solicitor Benson about his elected position as a Council member in Woodbine, where Mr. Tonetta also serves as solicitor. Mayor Bermudez also noted that Mr. Benson serves as an Associate Solicitor under the supervision of City Solicitor Tonetta. Mayor Bermudez claimed any legal opinion involving Mr. Tonetta is a conflict of interest for Mr. Benson. Councilman Spinelli questioned Mayor Bermudez about who provided his legal opinion about the Solicitor. Mayor Bermudez responded that he read the statute himself.

Pete Coccaro stated that the Landis Theater investigation is a very important issue. He advised that confidentiality is important in the investigation and that taxpayers deserve an explanation.

Fire Director Robert Ternay and Fire Chief Robert Pagnini were present to discuss a firefighter grant application. The corresponding resolution is No. 2013-490 on the agenda. The main purpose is to replace air packs and replace the pumper. A 10% match is required from the municipality.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Council directed that a special meeting be scheduled by the Municipal Clerk for Monday, November 25 concerning Solicitor Tonetta.

President Fanucci asked Council members to report on their liaison assignments.

Councilman Spinelli reported that at the Recreation Commission the midget football issue is still going on. The PAL board meets next week and the VDID board meets tomorrow morning. Also, there was a meeting with Cumberland County representatives about the Main Road and Elmer Road intersection. The project is estimated to cost \$1.1 million and in exchange the County is asking the City to take action at the Mill Road and Garden Road intersection.

Councilwoman Gonzalez requested receipts on e-mails and wondered if there are issues with the City computer system. She asked Mr. Coccaro if, in his opinion, Vineland citizens are willing to expend a large sum of money for continuation of the Landis Theater audit. Mr. Coccaro responded in the affirmative, but could not put a price tag on it. Councilwoman Calakos added that the City owes it to the public to find out the truth.

Councilman Procopio reported about his high school students who are working to replace a downtown sign, "Keep Vineland Beautiful," that has fallen into disrepair.

President Fanucci reported that he has a committee working to restore the President John F. Kennedy statue in Landis Park. He noted that this was one of the first memorials in the nation after the 1963 assassination of the president.

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Councilwoman Calakos added that she likes the positive action being undertaken for the community, after the events of the past week.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilman Procopio, to adjourn the meeting. The Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Calakos
Councilwoman Gonzalez
Councilman Procopio
Councilman Spinelli
President Fanucci

Anthony R. Fanucci
President of Council

ATTEST:

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk