

REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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: William E. Lutz, Business Administrator
Richard P. Tonetta, City Solicitor

President Fanucci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy 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 wished to comment.

Michael Feaster and Robert Strain were present from the Vineland Fire Department to promote the sale of the department's pink tee shirt for breast cancer awareness. They explained the proceeds are going to be given to a patient randomly picked who is fighting breast cancer.

Steve Lewis spoke regarding helping men and women in the service with property taxes. He asked for Council to continue looking into acquiring or repairing the road department property.

Josephine Spinelli spoke regarding quality of life improvements. She questioned the legacy that the Mayor and Council are going to leave.

Board of Health Quarterly Meeting

President Fanucci entertained a motion by Councilman Procopio, seconded by Councilman Spinelli, to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2013 Board of Health Quarterly meeting.

The Deputy Clerk called the roll: YEAS: Councilwoman Calakos
Councilwoman Gonzalez
Councilman Procopio
Councilman Spinelli
President Fanucci

Health Department director Dale Jones explained the continuity/succession plan which was submitted to the Mayor and Business Administrator. He provided a letter from the State Commissioner of Health Mary O'Dowd congratulating Vineland on being the first health agency in the nation to fulfill all of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's National Voluntary Retail Food Program Standards. He updated Council on the 2013 revenue projections which will be met and exceeded. He clarified the Pure Earth site clean-up is being run by the Environmental Protection Agency which has been shut down due to all the funds being expended. The Environmental Protection Agency's new budget fiscal year begins on October 1, 2013 and they are hoping the clean-up can continue. Solicitor Tonetta stated he has written to Congressman LoBiondo for support and help in keeping the clean-up site running.

Health Officer Robert Dickenson briefed Council on the progress of the food safety calendar contest which is still on going. He stated flu shots will only be distributed to the elderly, City employees, and immune deficient residents. He expressed to Council the need to train school personnel on the bed bug infestation and what signs to look for.

Health Director Jones stated the Community Nursing Service is in the process of preparing next year's budget. He updated Council on the census/status numbers provided which are level.

Health Director Jones indicated the EMS Division is putting in a request for EMS vehicles to be included in the capital budget. He specified there is a vacant supervisor position and would like to have that filled. Solicitor Tonetta believes with the preliminary levy cap that is imposed there is not going to be funding for the position. He suggested looking for revenue increases.

Health Director Jones said the carbonless marriage certificates are available now and being used.

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting is at the work session of January 7, 2014.

President Fanucci entertained a motion by Councilman Procopio, seconded by Councilman Spinelli, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. The Deputy Clerk called the roll:

YEAS: Councilwoman Calakos
Councilwoman Gonzalez
Councilman Procopio
Councilman Spinelli
President Fanucci

The Deputy Clerk reviewed the agenda.

President Fanucci articulated his displeasure of the communication and companion resolution appointing Joseph A. Isabella as Director of Municipal Utilities. He clarified the main concern is the Mayor only spoke to certain members of Council regarding the appointment and not all members. He conveyed his concerns regarding a succession plan for the department and future. Councilman Spinelli expressed concern that the processes in place are not being followed. Director of Utilities Isabella declared he provided to the Mayor and Business Administrator a succession/contingency plan. He asserted the future of the utility is secured. Councilman Spinelli said the problem he is having is not with Mr. Isabella but the Mayor in the way the appointment was handled. Councilwoman Calakos stated she was led to understand the Mayor was going to be speaking to all members of Council regarding the appointment. Councilman Spinelli clarified he does not feel there is any communication from the Mayor. President Fanucci pointed out he wants succession/contingency plans for every department in the City.

President Fanucci asked Solicitor Tonetta to look into adjusting the by-laws of the City so that the agenda items only have to be approved by council not the Mayor. Solicitor Tonetta clarified the Business Administrator creates the agenda items and prepares the memo and the City Clerk's Office organizes the agenda and makes the actual agenda document. President Fanucci stated he wants the agenda by the Friday proceeding the work session at 3:00 p.m. Business Administrator Lutz stated he will make that happen. President Fanucci declared he wants total communication. Solicitor Tonetta and Business Administrator Lutz stated they will look into the deadlines and by-laws amendments for Council.

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

Councilwoman Calakos
Councilwoman Gonzalez
Councilman Procopio
Councilman Spinelli
President Fanucci

Anthony R. Fanucci
President of Council

ATTEST:

Christine A. Scarpa,
Deputy Municipal Clerk