

PRE-MEETING CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013
5:30 P.M.

The Pre-Meeting Conference 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:

Councilman 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
Richard P. Tonetta, City 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 there was any public comment.

Dale Lewis reported a bad pothole on Southwest Boulevard, near the Waste Management facility. Administrator Lutz will notify the Road Department.

The Municipal Clerk reviewed the changes to the agenda since the October 15 work session. Resolution No. 2013-453, authorizing a closed meeting for collective bargaining, was added. The Clerk explained the procedure of opening the regular meeting, handling the public hearings and first readings on the ordinances, then recessing for the closed meeting. After the closed meeting is finished Council will reconvene to handle the remainder of the agenda. Resolution No. 2013-454, approving agreement with the Policemen's Benevolent Association, Local 266, from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2014, was added. A revised version of Resolution No. 2013-448 was distributed.

Councilman Spinelli inquired about the salary adjustment related to Ordinance No. 2013-51. Municipal Utilities Director Joseph Isabella explained that the utility has to remain competitive to retain our good people so they don't leave for a private utility. He also explained that the adjustment is part of the succession plan. Mr. Isabella agreed that the salary spread is probably too wide.

Councilman Spinelli questioned the apparent Camden connection with recently hired employees and was curious as to why this is. Mayor Bermudez explained that everyone had a right to apply and it just worked out that these individuals come from that area. Administrator Lutz stated that he does not personally know Judge Montanez.

Councilwoman Gonzalez asked members of Council for more time to evaluate the municipal judge appointment. Solicitor Tonetta stated that Judge Montanez has had a law office in Vineland and he has known him for approximately 30 years. The Judge demands respect from defendants and has earned respect from attorneys. He has been approved by the Assignment Judges in our Vicinage and that of Camden. Mayor Bermudez added that he applied and has experience. Councilwoman Calakos explained that she has limited experience in legal matters and relies on our Solicitor for his opinion. President Fanucci explained that he would afford any Council member the privilege of removing an item from the agenda for further examination. Councilwoman Gonzalez asked that Council at least be given more information in advance about such matters.

The President entertained a motion by Councilman Spinelli, and seconded by Councilwoman Calakos, 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:

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013

Keith Petrosky, RMC
Municipal Clerk