

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, June 17, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey.

Call to Order:

Municipal Clerk reads notice of Open Public Meetings law. The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting; specifically, the time, date and location were included in the annual notice of meetings adopted by the governing body, posted in the Municipal Building, and sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger. Additionally, the agenda for this meeting was posted in the Municipal Building and sent to the two newspapers before 4:30 p.m. on the Friday preceding this meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Kevin Ryan, Deputy Mayor Nochimson, Councilman Roman, Councilman Ted Giblin and Councilman Jack McEvoy are present. Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present. Township Manager Matthew is not present this evening. Steven Neale, Director of Administration and Economic Development is present in Mr. Cavallo's absence.

Mayor's Report:

Mr. Ryan invites Jay Coltre, Essex County Liaison to the lectern. Mr. Coltre reports the County Summer Music Series will hold a concert on June 26 in Verona Park at 7:30 pm. Fireworks will be at Brookdale Park on June 28 and July 1 at Weequahic Park. He reports that the flagpole at the south-side of the lake in Verona Park needing a flag is being looked into by the Parks Department. The issue brought up last meeting by Mayor Ryan of water under the benches is also being looked into.

Mayor Ryan presents out-going Councilman/Deputy Mayor Michael Nochimson with a plaque commending his service to the community.

Mayor Ryan invites Essex County Freeholder Len Luciano to the lectern. Mr. Luciano presents the Deputy Mayor with a proclamation from the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mayor Ryan informs the public that there is a recycling flyer posted on the Township website. He reminds the public that if a recycling stream is contaminated, it will not be accepted by the vendor. Although the leaf dump is closed, leaf bags may be left at the curb for pickup. He warns the public to not put garbage in leaf bags as they are for vegetative waste only.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Neale reports the Do Not Knock Registry is now in effect. A currently list is posted to the Township Clerk's webpage. The Municipal Building Roof Replacement Construction on the actual roof is finished. Work continues on the Police awning and the clock cupola.

The Township's annual resurfacing project continues. All milling has been completed and paving has started. There have been some delays due to rain so the schedule has been adjusted. The VPD has been sending out updated Nixle notifications to try and communicate changes as best they can.

There are openings on several Boards and Commissions. In addition, there are some positions that are vacant on July 1 due to expiration of terms. Any resident who wishes to be considered for any position on a Board or Commission is requested to submit an application on the Township's website. Anyone with questions, please contact the Township Clerk's Office.

The Teen Pool Party will be Tuesday, June 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Essex County Clerk Outreach at the Library will be held Wednesday, June 19, Tuesday, June 25 and Wednesday, June 26 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bingo Night at Holy Spirit to benefit the Food Pantry is Friday, June 21st at 7:00pm. Verona Pool Opens FULL TIME on Friday, June 21. Summer Recreation Playground begins Monday, June 24. Fireworks at the Verona Community Center will be Monday, July 1 (rain date Tuesday, July 2). The fireworks will be held at the Verona Community Center starting at dusk. Music and entertainment will begin at 7pm on Liberty Field off White Rock Road.

Summer Concert Series – July 10, 17, 24 and 31. Thank you to our Sponsors DeCozen and Investors Bank. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 6 – 6-9pm at the Community Center.

Movie Under the Stars is Tuesday, August 20 (rain date Wednesday, August 21) The movie will be "A Dog's Way Home". We are collaborating with Rosemarie's Rescue Ranch that night who will be on site to collect pet donations. More info to come.

Councilmember Reports:

Deputy Mayor Nochimson reports that this Thursday, the Verona High School Class of 2019 will graduate at Caldwell University. Last week the Recreation Committee discussed open fields and the vandalism that occurred at the upper field on White Rock Road. The Deputy Mayor closes his report with stating that he is proud of the accomplishments the Township made as a team while he served on the governing body.

Councilman Roman congratulates the Deputy Mayor on his eight years of service and the huge effect he has had on the community.

Councilman McEvoy reports the at over the past few Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Committee meeting the Superintendent of Schools sent the principals to express morning and afternoon school drop off issues. The Councilman urges parents to adhere to the yellow curbs. The Historical Preservation Commission is trying to designate White Rock Road as a historically significant site. Councilman McEvoy thanks Deputy Mayor Nochimson for his years of service and for being an advocate for what’s best for Verona.

Councilman Giblin acknowledges the passing of West Point cadet Christopher Morgan from West Orange. He is hoping the County Executive will do something special in honor of Cadet Morgan in one of the county’s parks. The Councilman states that the June 6 primary election had a low turnout with just 4% of registered voters going to the polls. He comments that on an interesting note, district 1 (Claridge House II) had the highest turnout – almost double the next closest district. He congratulates Mr. Nochimson on his 8 years of service.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-16

**ADOPTING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN ENTITLED “DEPOT AND PINE
REDEVELOPMENT AREA” PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL
REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 *et seq.***

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2019-16 by title into record.

Public Hearing: Herb Lev, 45 Summit Road, Verona, NJ
 Monica Martin, 84 Pine Street, Verona, NJ

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-16 is moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan
NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2019-16 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2019-19

**AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS
BLOCK 2301, LOT 19 ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
VERONA FOR PURPOSES OF REDEVELOPMENT AND AUTHORIZING
THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2019-19 by title into record.

Public Hearing: none.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-19 is moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Roman.

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan
NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2019-19 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

Deputy Mayor abstains from voting to approve the June 3, 2019 minutes as he was not present for that meeting.

RESOLUTION No. 2019-117

A motion was made by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman McEvoy that the following resolution be adopted:

AWARDING CONTRACT NO. 19-05 - LOWERING OF TRICKLING FILTERS

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2019 the Township of Verona received bids for Contract No. 19-05 - Lowering of Trickling Filters; and

WHEREAS, one (1) responsive and responsible bid was received for Contract No. 19-04; and

WHEREAS, the apparent lowest responsive and responsible bid was submitted by JEV Construction, 116 West Main Street, Clinton, New Jersey 08809; and

WHEREAS, John J. Sheri, P.E, Senior Project Manager at Mott MacDonald, the Township Consulting Engineer has reviewed and recommends the Contract award be made to JEV Construction, as the lowest responsive and responsible bid.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the contract for Contract No. 19-05 be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, JEV Construction, 116 West Main Street, Clinton, New Jersey 08809 for the base bid amount of \$156,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expenditure shall be charged against Capital Account No. C-51-44-935-894 (Bond Ordinance No. 2010-8(A)) or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee, and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, the Township Engineer, the Township Clerk, and any other officer as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement or any other required documents for the aforementioned services a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2019-118

A motion was made by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman McEvoy that the following resolution be adopted:

**AUTHORIZING THE VERONA TOWNSHIP
TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED
TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L 1994, C.72**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has not certified Municipal County Budgets as of this date, and

WHEREAS, as a result thereof, the Essex County Board of Taxation is unable to verify Verona’s tax rate and the Verona Township Collector will be unable to mail the Township’s 2019 tax bills on a timely basis;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 72, P.L. 1994, the Township Council request the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the estimated tax levy exceeding 105% listed below. Approval will enable the Township to meet its financial obligations, maintain the tax collection rate, providing uniformity for tax payments and save the unnecessary cost of interest expense on borrowing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey on this 17th day of June 2019 as follows:

1. The Verona Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Township for the third installment of 2019 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as are permitted and required by L.1994, C. 72(N.J.S.A 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3).
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2019 is hereby set at \$66,391,317.00.
3. The Estimated tax rate (based on estimated levy) is hereby set at \$2.769.

4. In accordance with law, the third installment of 2019 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 12 or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2019-119

A motion was made by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman McEvoy that the following resolution be adopted:

**APPROVAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS**

WHEREAS, the submitted renewal application forms are complete in all respects and the applicants are qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by *N.J.S.A. 33* and regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the following licensees have obtained a Tax Clearance Certificate from the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the following applications for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License be granted, effective July 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to sign and issue said license certificates to the following applicants:

0720-33-007-008	470 Bloomfield Avenue Inc., dba AVENUE BISTRO 470 Bloomfield Avenue Verona, New Jersey
0720-33-006-014	Amadeo, Inc., dba MIELE'S RESTAURANT 125 Bloomfield Avenue Verona, New Jersey
0720-33-004-009	Macari Spirits Inc., dba ARIANE KITCHEN & BAR 706 Pompton Avenue Verona, New Jersey
0720-33-008-005	RJV Corporation, dba RICHFIELD REGENCY 420 Bloomfield Avenue Verona, New Jersey
0720-33-011-010	Verona Liquor License LLC, dba VERONA INN 624 Pompton Avenue Verona, New Jersey

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2019-120

A motion was made by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman McEvoy that the following resolution be adopted:

**APPROVAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR
LICENSE RENEWALS**

WHEREAS, the submitted renewal application forms are complete in all respects and the applicants are qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by *N.J.S.A. 33* and regulations promulgated

thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the following licensees have obtained a Tax Clearance Certificate from the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the following applications for renewal of Plenary Retail Distribution License be granted, effective July 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk be and is hereby authorized to sign and issue said license certificates to the following applicants:

0720-44-010-009	Ami & Tithi LLC t/a KRAUSER’S LIQUOR LOCKER 645 Bloomfield Avenue Verona, New Jersey
0720-44-001-003	Hinixi, LLC t/a VERONA WINE CELLAR 360 Bloomfield Avenue Verona, New Jersey
0720-44-003-005	Vallabh Krupa Inc. t/a PILGRIM LIQUORS 283 Pompton Avenue Verona, New Jersey

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan
NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2019-121

A motion was made by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman McEvoy that the following resolution be adopted:

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from Brian Kistner, for property located at 31 Derwent Avenue and the fees have been held in Trust; and

WHEREAS, certification has been received from the Engineer to release these funds, from Trust, as follows:

<u>ESCROW</u> <u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>LAWYER</u> <u>FEES</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO</u> <u>BE REFUNDED</u>
\$500.00	\$104.00	\$396.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$396.00 to:
Brian Kistner
31 Derwent Avenue
Verona, NJ 07044

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan
NAYS:

Public Participation:
Tina Lily, 52 Brookside Avenue, Verona, NJ
Bob Ostman, 66 Newman Avenue, Verona, NJ

Kathleen Laterza, 810 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ
Jesse Lily, 52 Brookside Avenue, Verona, NJ

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn is made by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman at 8:33 p.m. Vote: 5 ayes.

The next regular scheduled meeting is July 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Kevin Ryan
Kevin Ryan, Mayor

APPROVED: July 15, 2019