

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, March 25, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey and via Zoom video conferencing platform.

Call to Order:

The Municipal Clerk reads the notice of Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

Mayor Christopher Tamburro, Deputy Mayor Jack McEvoy, Councilwoman Christine McGrath, Councilman Alex Roman and Councilwoman Cynthia Holland are present. Township Attorney Brian Aloia, Township Manager Joseph D'Arco, Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan and Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan are also present.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro along with the Administration and the Deputy Mayor met with the Appropriations team at Senator Booker's office to follow up on their original Outreach to them and he looks forward to their future support. The Mayor attended the opening of Palmetto Venues and announces this evening the Council attended the ground breaking for the inclusive playground at the Community Center. The Verona Environmental Commission meeting last week. The Verona Conservancy will hold a clean-up at the Verona Park on April 20th. Mr. Coltre is welcomed to the lectern to update the Council on Essex County's initiatives.

Mayor Tamburro presents a proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month and a proclamation for National Vietnam Veteran's Day.

Manager's Report:

Mr. D'Arco invites Deputy Manager Kevin O'Sullivan to the lectern. Mr. O'Sullivan reports that the water and sewer rate study has been completed. There will be a kickoff meeting later this week regarding the pool rate study and a full presentation on the wastewater treatment plant. Linn Drive is expected to be breaking ground in early April and the Fairview Avenue well will be going out to bid in May or June. Various meeting are announced where discussions will continue on future and current projects. A number of road projects are continuing to advance, construction bids will be received by April 2nd, and grant applications are continuing to be worked on.

He invites Giselle Diaz from Boswell Engineering to the lectern. Ms. Diaz speaks about the various paths the Council can take for updates for the Wastewater Treatment Plant that are greatly needed and presents Boswell's recommendations.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy attended ribbon cutting ceremony for Palmetto Venues and the official Grand Opening of Sabor de mi Tierra on Saturday. Chuck Molinaro and George Zhender for running resident meeting for the Balston, Whitney, Windemere road project and reviewing trees that were coming down and for saving a couple more.

Councilman Roman congratulates Palmetto Venues on their creative use of the retail space and wishes them the best of luck in Verona. He thanks everyone involved in the ground breaking ceremony for the playground this evening..

Councilwoman McGrath attended the celebration and official grand opening of Sabor de mi Tierra, as well as the Essex County Commissioners Women History Event. She reports that the Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee had a meeting.

Councilwoman Holland traveled to Washington DC on business and also attended the Essex County Commissioners Women History Event while there. She joined the League of Women Voters and had the benefit of speaking to women candidates for office and acknowledges and compliments the Makers Day Celebration at the Library. She joined the Recreation Advisory Committee meeting on March 19th and attended the successful event at Sabor de mi Tierra. Lastly,

she acknowledges World Down Syndrome Day and Epilepsy Awareness Day as it is important to raise awareness and to be truly inclusive.

Public Comment:

None.

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE No. 2024-014

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

A motion to move Ordinance No. 2024-14 is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Public Hearing:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2024-14 passes 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-15

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING \$42,225 FROM THE
GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVE FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE
RESCUE SQUAD SPECIAL OPERATIONS VEHICLE THE TOWNSHIP OF
VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

Mayor Tamburro relinquishes the chair to Deputy Mayor McEvoy as he is recusing himself from the discussion as he is a member of the Rescue Squad.

A motion to move Ordinance No. 2024-15 is made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Public Hearing:

Fred Tempesta, Verona, NJ

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN (recusal): Tamburro

Ordinance No. 2024-15 passes 4-0 and will be published according to law.

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

None.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-59

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

**AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A MILITARY HARDWARE
DONATION TO BE PLACED ON DISPLAY ON PUBLIC LAND**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona recognizes the importance of honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by our nation's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to display military hardware as a symbol of appreciation and respect for our military heritage; and

WHEREAS, it is customary for municipalities to request donations of surplus military equipment from one of the branches of the United States Armed Forces for display purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that:

1. The Township is authorized to request a donation of military hardware from the United States military for display on Township property.
2. The Township Manager is directed to submit a formal request to the US Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, or a similar destination if so instructed, for the donation of military hardware, in accordance with established procedures.
3. The Township Manager is authorized to take all necessary steps to facilitate the donation process and ensure compliance with any requirements set forth by the United States military
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-060

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

PERMITTING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

1. Purchase, Lease or Acquisition of Real Property pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (5)*
2. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation and Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

New & Unfinished Business:

Discussion of the Zoning fees and Liquor License fees.

Public Comment:

None.


Executive Session:

Council enters into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Adjournment:

Council returns to Public Session at 8:54 p.m. and a motion to adjourn is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman. Vote: 5-0. The next meeting is Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan
Municipal Clerk


Dr. Christopher Tamburro
Mayor

APPROVED: April 8, 2024