

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, April 7, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey, and via Zoom video conferencing.

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Mayor Tamburro, Deputy Mayor McEvoy, Councilman Roman, attending via Zoom, Councilwoman McGrath, Councilwoman Holland, Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan, Deputy Township Manager Michael Kraus, Township Attorney Brian Aloia, and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are present.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro attended the VBSL opening day on Saturday and states that over 500 athletes participated. The Open Space Committee met and received an update on the finances of the trust fund. He also reports that the Planning Board met and at the Board's next meeting they will hear an application regarding the removal of trees at Kimberly Gardens.

Essex County liaison, J. Coltre reports that the annual Cherry Blossom 10k Run in Branch Brook Park, over 2,000 runners participated. Hazardous waste drop-off will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-4pm at the County's Public Works Building at 99 West Bradford Avenue in Cedar Grove. Electronics/Computer drop-off will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Tamburro reads a proclamation for National Vietnam War Veteran's Day. Vietnam war veteran John LoCrasto is present to accept the proclamation. The Mayor also presents a proclamation to the Verona Woman's Club recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month. Woman's Club member Coni Evans and Julia Prout, Co-President of the Verona Junior Woman's Club are present to accept the proclamation.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan reports on the pool improvement project and wastewater infrastructure projects. Congresswoman Lamonica McIver will be holding office hours on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 in Council Chambers from 11:30am - 3:30pm. He then introduces Michael Kraus, the Township's new Deputy Manager. Mr. Kraus' first day was today. Mr. O'Sullivan then invites Sarah Walters and Amanda Muench NJ Local Government Energy Audit Managers to the lectern for their presentation on the NJ Clean Energy Program. Michelle Rossi, NJBPU Energy Savings Improvement Program Coordinator is also present via Zoom.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy thanks the Verona Board of Education for hosting the joint meeting with the Township Council. The Historical Preservation Commission met. The historic freight shed will be moved so it is on 100% of Township property. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sustainable Verona will meet and have an energy efficiency presentation. He attended the VBSL parade over the weekend. He welcomes the new Deputy Township Manager and looks forward to working with him.

Councilman Alex Roman also welcomes the new Deputy Township Manager and looks forward to working with him.

Councilwoman McGrath attended the VBSL opening day ceremony. She acknowledges Joan Milano, who was a trailblazer for women's softball in Verona. She attended the Women of Impact panel and congratulates Councilwoman Cynthia Holland and former Mayor Maria Force who were on the Panel. She also reports that MIAAC has many projects and events on the horizon.

Councilwoman Holland states she was honored to be nominated for the Women on Impact panel. She attended a special meeting of the Municipal Alliance Committee where their strategic plan for the 2025-2026 year was approved.

Public Comment:

Dex Polizzi, Verona, New Jersey  
Paul Petrangeli, Verona, New Jersey  
Kristin Kistner, Verona, New Jersey

Introduction of Ordinances:

**ORDINANCE No. 2025-07**

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

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2025-07 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Mayor Tamburro.

Public Hearing:

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance 2025-07 is adopted by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law.

**ORDINANCE No. 2025-08**

**AMENDING CHAPTER 140, VEHICLES & TRAFFIC, ARTICLE XII,  
SCHEDULE IV "TIME LIMIT PARKING"**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2025-08 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro.

Public Hearing:

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance 2025-08 is adopted by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes from the March 17, 2025, regular meeting, March 25, 2025 Special Meeting and April 1, 2025 Special meeting are unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-069**

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

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTION - N.J.S.A.40A:4-20 TO EXTEND TEMPORARY  
BUDGET (TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS)**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40a:4-20, the Council of the Township of Verona adopted resolutions to provide temporary funds for the period from January 1, 2025 until the adoption of the Operating Budget for the Township of Verona, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, additional appropriations will be required from April 1, 2025 until the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides that the governing body by two-thirds vote may make temporary emergency appropriations for any purpose for which appropriations may lawfully be made for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the budget for said year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, New Jersey:

- 1. The governing body by a two-thirds vote of its full membership hereby amends its temporary budget by making the following temporary appropriations:

CURRENT FUND	\$2,000,000
WATER/SEWER UTILITY FUND	\$1,000,000
POOL UTILITY FUND	\$150,000
- 2. This action shall take effect April 1, 2025
- 3. A copy of this resolution shall be immediately filed with the Director of Local Government Services by the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Verona.

**ROLL CALL:**  
**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-070**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A CHANGE FUND  
FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, from time to time the Recreation Department is required to make change for cash payments received; and

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need to maintain such a fund for use of operation of the Recreation Department; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey State regulations allow change funds to be established by an initial resolution and to continue from year to year without additional governing body action until such time as they take action to have funds returned; and

**WHEREAS**, such fund will allow for easy separation of accounts.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that a change fund be authorized and created for the Recreation Department to an amount not the exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for the purpose of making change to insure the proper exact payment due is paid.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said change fund be safely secured in keeping with established prudent business practices.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said change fund be used to make change only and shall not be used to purchase good and/or services of any kind.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue the change funds in the amount of one hundred dollar (\$100.00) for use set forth in the resolution.

**ROLL CALL:**  
**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-071**

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

**ACCEPTING THE 2025 FEDERAL HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$14,000 from the Federal Highway Safety Program for the March 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 project period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is not required to match the contribution provided by the Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the acceptance for the 2025 Federal Highway Safety Grant in the amount of \$14,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager, Chief of Police, Municipal Clerk and any other officer deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to accept this grant.

**ROLL CALL:**  
**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-072**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM  
OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE 2025 FEDERAL HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the “Director”) may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$7,000 from the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway and Traffic Safety Distracted Driving Program and wishes to amend its CY2024 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$7,000 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of  
Local Government Services –  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
Distracted Driving Grant.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2025 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$7,000 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from “CAPS”  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
Distracted Driving Grant.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-073**

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

**ACCEPTING THE 2025 DISTRACTED DRIVING GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$7,000 from the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway and Traffic Safety Distracted Driving Program for the April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025 project period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is not required to match the contribution provided by the Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the acceptance for the 2025 Distracted Driving Grant in the amount of \$7,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager, Chief of Police, Municipal Clerk and any other officer deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to accept this grant.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-074**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM  
OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE NJ DIVISION OF HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC  
SAFETY DISTRACTED DRIVING GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the “Director”) may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$7,000 from the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway and Traffic Safety Distracted Driving Program and wishes to amend its CY2024 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$7,000 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services –  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
Distracted Driving Grant.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2025 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$7,000 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from “CAPS”  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
Distracted Driving Grant.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-075**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND TO D&R VERONA  
URBAN RENEWAL, LLC**

**WHEREAS**, Russo Development (D&R Verona Urban Renewal, LLC), the developer of Annin Lofts, 141-151 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, posted a letter of Credit in the amount of \$171,231.57 to remain in place for two years to cover the required maintenance bond, as indicated in the attached; and

**WHEREAS**, the two-year maintenance period has expired and the developer has requested release of the Letter of Credit; and

**WHEREAS**, this request has been reviewed by the Township Engineer, Peter TenKate of Boswell Engineering, and;

**WHEREAS**, upon inspection of the final site, Boswell Engineering determined maintenance items required have been addressed and take no exception to release the Letter of Credit/Maintenance Bond.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey the Letter of Credit/Maintenance Bond for Annin Lofts in the amount of \$171,231.57 shall be released.

**ROLL CALL:**  
**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-076**

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

**AWARDING CONTRACT No. 2024-20  
CLARIDGE DRIVE BOOSTER PUMPING STATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona received bids for the Claridge Drive Booster Pumping Station – Contract No. 2024-20 on January 22, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, eight (8) bids were received for Contract 2024-20; and

**WHEREAS**, Ray Palmer Associates, Inc., 95 King Street, Dover, New Jersey 07801 submitted the lowest bid but discovered a critical calculation error in their submission which cause significant costs to be excluded in the bid total;

**WHEREAS**, Ray Palmer Associates, Inc. requested to withdraw their bid, as stated in the attached; and

**WHEREAS**, the Consulting Engineer has reviewed the submissions and recommends the Contract be awarded to Sovereign Consulting, Inc., 111-A North Gold Drive, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in the Base Bid Amount of \$1,425,550.00; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Contract No. 2024-20 be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Sovereign Consulting, Inc., 111-A North Gold Drive, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 with the Base Bid Amount of \$1,425,550.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that an expenditure in the amount of \$1,425,550.00 shall be charged against budget line-item C-51-44-997-005 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or her designee, and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

**ROLL CALL:**  
**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-077**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN EASEMENT TO OBTAIN PROPERTY  
RIGHTS ON BLOCK 103, LOT 2, FOR CLARIDGE DRIVE PUMPING STATION**

**WHEREAS**, Township Verona needs a Permanent Utility Easement for a fresh water Booster Pumping Station as described in the attached easement description; and

**WHEREAS**, the owners of Block 103, Lot 2, have agreed to provide the Township with an easement as described in the attached document entitled Permanent Utility Easement, Claridge Drive Booster Pumping Station, Block 103, Lot 2, Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to executed any and all documents and take any and all necessary action to have an easement as described herein effectuated and filed so as to realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.

**ROLL CALL:**  
**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-078**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 (2025-26)**

**WHEREAS,** the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS,** the Township Council recognizes that substance use disorder is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** the Township Council further recognize that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance use disorder in our community; and

**WHEREAS,** the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Essex.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Verona Municipal Alliance grant for Fiscal Year 2026 (2025-26) in the amount of:

GCSUD	\$18,100.00
Cash Match	\$ 4,525.00
In-Kind	\$13,575.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<u><b>\$36,200.00</b></u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

**ROLL CALL:**  
**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro  
**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-079**

A motion was made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Mayor Tamburro 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 exist.

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:

The Municipal Clerk’s 1<sup>st</sup> quarter raffle/bingo report is approved upon submission.

New Business:

The Township Council makes the following appointments:

		Unexpired Term Ending
1. Environmental Commission		
a. Jean Deo	Alternate #2	12/31/2025
2. Multicultural Inclusion Accessibility Advisory Committee		
a. Naura Reynoso	Member	12/31/2026
3. Sustainable Verona Green Team		
a. Viktoriya Kostinenko	Member	12/31/2025
b. Daniel Murray	Member	12/31/2025

The Council discusses an ordinance to increase the fees for Plenary Retail Distribution licensees within the Township. They also discuss implementing an attendance policy for committee/commission members by ordinance. The Township Attorney will draft an ordinance for the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Dex Polizzi, Verona, New Jersey

Council goes into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. and returns to the Public Session at 9:12 p.m.

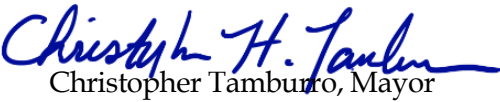
Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy at 9:12 p.m. Vote: 5 ayes.

The next meeting is April 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: May 5, 2025