

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, May 5, 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, 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. Councilman Roman will be arriving late.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro attended the exhibit at the Verona Public Library. He also attended the Mayor's Breakfast at Caldwell University. Earlier today he attended the ribbon cutting at Acton Academy. He greeted the family and friends of Kenny Brown who dedicated a bench in his honor at Everett Field.

Essex County liaison, J. Coltre reports Electronic Recycling will be held there on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The Fishing Derby in Verona Park will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> for kids up to age 15. Registration is from 5-6pm and fishing is from 6-7pm.

The Mayor reads a Certificate of Recognition and presents them to this year's winners of the Environmental Commission's Annual Student Poster Contest – Tessa Flores, Eddie Koenigsfest, Julia Passero and Liam Rogers. He also reads proclamations for National Teacher's Appreciation Week and National Police Week.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan reports on the Pool projects, water infrastructure and the Derwent sewer trunk line. Bids will be received for the Fairview Avenue well project. The pickle ball courts will be surfaced in the coming week. The Shade Tree Commission submitted their plan for the Civic Center removal and replacement of a few trees in the mini-park, including the Holiday Tree. The Affordable Housing efforts are moving forward and a draft of the Fair Share Housing Plan will be discussed at the Planning Board.

Deputy Township Manager Michael Kraus explains the resolution authorizing a grant submission to the NJDOT for the Bloomfield Avenue Streetscape project. He informs the Council of the Health Department's required licensing for hair salons, massage parlors and nail salons.

Councilman Alex Roman arrives to the meeting via Zoom at 7:35 p.m.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy thanks the Shade Tree Commission for the tree planting at Sellito Field for Arbor Day and he thanks the Environmental Commission and Hillcrest Farms for the plant sale where close to 1400 plants were sold. Sustainable Green Team will be discussing the Home Energy Audit at their next meeting. Audits are just \$49.00

Councilman Roman has no report this evening.

Councilwoman McGrath attended the Arbor Day celebration and commends the high school environmental commission's work on heat islands as planted trees help mitigate the problem. The Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee will meet on 5/13 at 7:30pm. The Pride celebration will be held in the Civic Center on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilwoman Holland applauds the students who were recognized for their posters. As liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, she thanks Township Manager Kevin O’Sullivan for joining their meeting.

Public Comment:

Thea DeVita, Verona, New Jersey  
Ellen Lev, Verona, New Jersey  
Corey Schor, Verona, New Jersey  
Dax Polizzi, Verona, New Jersey  
John Tierney, Verona, New Jersey  
Emily Polizzi, Verona, New Jersey  
Herb Lev, Verona, New Jersey

**ORDINANCE No. 2025-09**

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER A565-1, FEES, OF THE CODE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA BY AMENDING  
PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE FEES**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2025-09 into the record.

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

Public Hearing:                      None

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance 2025-09 is adopted by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law.

Public Comment for Consent Agenda Items:

None.

Councilwoman Holland requests that resolution L-6 be removed from the consent agenda to be voted on separately. Motion made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-096**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW  
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2025  
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (BLOOMFIELD AVE  
STREETSCAPE)**

**WHEREAS**, the FY2025 Transportation Alternatives Program (the “Program”) provides federal funds for community based “non-traditional” projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation’s intermodal system; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY2025 Program is being administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum amount of grant funds available is \$1.5 million, and no municipal matching funds are required; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached grant application describes the terms and conditions of applying for the grant funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration wishes to apply for these grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million for Bloomfield Avenue Streetscape Improvements Project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona as follows:

- A. The Township Council of the Township of Verona hereby accepts the terms of the grant funding and authorizes the electronic submission of the grant application identified as Phase 1 – Bloomfield Avenue Streetscape to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Verona; and,
- B. The Township of Verona will assume maintenance responsibility over all improvements completed with grant funding awarded under the FY2025 Transportation Alternatives Program; and,
- C. In accordance with 23 CFR 635.105(a) (4) the Township of Verona is designating Kevin O’Sullivan as the responsible charge for this program. Kevin O’Sullivan is a full-time employee of the Township of Verona in the role of Township Manager and will be responsible charge for the proposed Federal-aid construction project.
- D. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-097**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MIRACLE CHEMICAL COMPANY**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the purchase of various chemicals used in the operation of Water/Sewer Utility specifically soda ash to adjust the PH level in the waste water treatment process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has a need to acquire such services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19-44A-20.5; and

**WHEREAS**, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services will not exceed \$44,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, quotes were obtained by the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Miracle Chemical Company quoted the lowest price; and

**WHEREAS**, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account Nos. 5-05-55-502-342 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or her designee, and the availability of funds have been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

**NOW, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that W.R. Neumann Company, Inc. d/b/a Miracle Chemical Company, 1151 B Highway #33, Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727 is hereby awarded a contract for the purchase of various chemicals used in the operation of Water/Sewer Utility not to exceed \$44,000.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement for the aforementioned services a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-098**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH OVERDRIVE, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, the Library purchases e-books and audio books that are accessible for use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Library Director has requested OverDrive, Inc., a distributor of e-books and audio books to public libraries; and

**WHEREAS**, the purchase of e-books is exempt under N.J.S.A 40:54-12.1 from requiring public advertisement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services will not exceed \$44,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the services provided shall be charged to the budget account 5-01-29-390-288 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or her designee, and the availability of funds have been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer.; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of the contract to OverDrive, Inc. is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* and the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form completed by OverDrive, Inc. have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that OverDrive, Inc., One OverDrive Way, Cleveland, OH 44125 is hereby awarded a contract for providing e-books and audio media not to exceed \$44,000; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary for the aforementioned services a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-099**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH SUBURBAN SPORTS GROUP, LLC**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has a need to award a contract for the Recreation Department's athletic programs requiring gaming officials; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will not exceed \$24,000; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township's recreation programs are part of a multi-municipality league where all municipalities utilize Suburban Sports Group for recreation program monitoring and officiating; and

**WHEREAS**, given the participation in a multi-municipality league it is impractical for the Township to obtain quotes for services or an independent vendor to provide program monitoring and officiating; and

**WHEREAS**, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. 5-01-26-306-212, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee, and the availability of funds have been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Township Manager and Municipal Clerk are authorized to enter into a contract with Suburban Sports Group, LLC, 7 Vreeland Lane, Cedar Grove, New Jersey.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Suburban Sports Group, LLC is hereby awarded a contract for providing gaming officials in an amount not to exceed \$24,000.00 without further authorization of the Governing Body.

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-100**

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

**DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE TOWNSHIP EQUIPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager has advised the Township Council that there is obsolete equipment that is no longer needed for public use; and

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36(7)* authorizes the disposition of personal property not needed for public use as part of a purchase to offset the price of the new purchase; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the Township to dispose of said equipment

- 1) 35 Motorola Si500 Body Worn Cameras
- 2) 27 Radio cords-Accessory Item
- 3) 27 Belt Clips-Accessory Item
- 4) 44 Lapel Clips-Accessory Item
- 5) 14 Spare Batteries-Accessory Item

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the obsolete equipment referenced by the Township Manager which is no longer needed for public use by the Township shall be disposed of according to the manner as prescribed by law.

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

**RESOLUTION 2025-101**

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

**SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN TO  
REDUCE FOOD WASTE, IMPLEMENT TIERED PERMITTING, AND ALLOW  
COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPOSTING**

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the State of New Jersey enacted a food waste reduction mandate with the goal of significantly decreasing food waste sent to landfills and incinerators; and

**WHEREAS**, this mandate has **not** been fully implemented, and over 1.3 million tons of food waste are still landfilled or incinerated annually in New Jersey – generating the equivalent of 1.5 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. According to ReFED, landfilled food waste has actually gone up by 10% since the Act was put in place; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s landfills are nearing capacity, with estimates showing a potential loss of 40% of remaining landfill space within the next decade – leading to increased tipping fees and greater financial burden on municipalities and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, composting food scraps, yard waste, and other organic materials significantly reduces landfill waste, curbs methane emissions, and contributes to soil health, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, community gardens are ideal sites for localized composting, enabling responsible reuse of organic materials while providing community, educational, and environmental benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing food waste and expanding composting efforts align with both local and statewide goals for sustainability, climate action, and cost-effective waste management; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation **S2426/A2090**, which calls for the development of a comprehensive county-level strategy to reduce food waste and implement tiered permitting for composting operations, would provide the Township of Verona with tools to lower disposal costs, increase recycling rates, conserve natural resources, and reduce pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation **S1040/A2102**, which exempts certain community composting operations from burdensome NJDEP permitting requirements, would make composting more accessible and affordable—encouraging community gardens to support environmental stewardship, resilience, and education.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Verona urges the New Jersey State Legislature to pass and enact a strong mandate for county-level food waste reduction planning and tiered permitting for composting operations (S2426/ A2090).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township of Verona strongly supports the passage of legislation allowing for on-site composting in community gardens without excessive regulatory barriers (S1040/ A2102).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of New Jersey, the State Senate President, the Speaker of the General Assembly, Senator Corrado, Assembly Members DePhillips and Barlas (LD40), and any other individuals or agencies deemed appropriate:

1. Senator Paul Sarlo, Chair Budget & Appropriations Committee, [sensarlo@njleg.org](mailto:sensarlo@njleg.org)
2. Senator Bob Smith, Chair Senate Environment, [senbsmith@njleg.org](mailto:senbsmith@njleg.org)
3. Assemblyman James Kennedy, Chair Assembly Environment, [asmkennedy@njleg.org](mailto:asmkennedy@njleg.org)
4. Matthew Wasserman, NJ Composting Council, [matt@njcomposting.com](mailto:matt@njcomposting.com)
5. Association of NJ Environmental Commissions, [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-102**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath 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:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-103**

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

**CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF ENERGY TAXES TO MUNICIPALITIES**

**WHEREAS**, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

**WHEREAS**, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities; the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, for years State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

**WHEREAS**, while the State may need to have the right to override the statutory dedication of these revenues to local governments, in order to deal with emergencies and crises that may occur; current State policymakers should not exercise that right automatically; and

**WHEREAS**, while that right should be the exception, it has become the rule; and

**WHEREAS**, by keeping flat funding of the appropriation for CMPTRA year-over-year, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2023, the State did provide some much-needed relief in the allocation of \$75 million of new funds identified as the Municipal Relief Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2024, the State allocated \$150 million in Municipal Relief Funds, however, in SFY 2025 and, as proposed in SFY 2026, no allocation will exist; and

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2024 the Energy Tax Receipts Program should have received over \$350 million to restore municipalities back to 2008 levels, however, the State's diversion of Energy Taxes has continued to grow causing more of a financial gap; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of years of flat funding and underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the county of Essex, New Jersey calls for the immediate restoration of funding diverted from Energy Taxes intended for local use; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we, respectfully, call on State policy makers to end the diversion of our municipal resources to cover State spending and to provide us with this important tool to relieve the worst-in-the-nation property tax burden borne, for too long, by the people of New Jersey; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded Senator Kristin M. Corrado, Assemblymembers Al Barlas and Christopher P. DePhillips, the Commissioner of the

Department of Community Affairs Jacquelyn Suárez, the State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio, the Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, the Governor of the State of New Jersey Phil Murphy, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:** Holland

New Business:

The Council has a discussion on setting the meeting dates for July through December 2025.

Public Comment:

Dax Polizzi, Verona, New Jersey

Council goes into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. and returns to the Public Session at 9:38 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Mayor Tamburro at 9:2 p.m. Vote: 5 ayes.

The next meeting is May 19, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: May 19, 2025