

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, December 16, 2024, 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, Councilwoman McGrath, Councilwoman Holland, Township Manager Joseph D’Arco, Deputy Township Manager Kevin O’Sullivan, Township Attorney Rosemary Ferreira, from the Aloia Law Firm and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are present.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Tamburro makes the following appointments:		<b>Term Expiring</b>
a. Library Board of Trustees		
1. Arjun Thakur	Member	12/31/2029
b. Shade Tree Commission		
ii. Ira Jacobs	Member	12/31/2029

Manager’ Update:  
Township Manager Joseph O. D’Arco has submitted his report to the Council and there are no questions.

Public Hearing for FY 2025 Community Development Block Grant Application:  
Deputy Manager Kevin O’Sullivan reports that the Municipal Clerk has published the notice of public hearing for the FY 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. The Township was awarded a \$60,000 grant last year from the CDBG for ADA at Everett Field. This year’s application has the same intention for the same Everett Field project as additional ADA facilities are part of the project.

Public Hearing:  
None.

Deputy Manager Kevin O’Sullivan reports on wastewater infrastructure, the Claridge Pump Station and various road projects for Linden Avenue and Afterglow Way, Dodd Terrace and Summit Road for 2025. He also updates the Council on Everett Field, the pickleball and tennis court project and the pool improvement project construction meetings have been scheduled. He provides updates on the emergency repairs on the collections system on Derwent, the Linn Drive and Fairview Avenue wells and reports that the Council will receive a partially completed design of Everett Field and a presentation sometime in February.

Walt Jordan from D-Gen and Austin Williams from Mantis give a presentation on solar panels on Township properties.

Eric Callocchia from NewGen gives a presentation on the pool rate study.

Council Members Reports:  
Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Tamburro thanks everyone who participated in Fair in the Square. The Verona Environmental Commission had its Junior Commissioner Presentations last week and also met this week. The Mayor also addresses the drone issue in New Jersey and announces the Hanukkah Menorah lighting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December.

Essex County Liaison J. Coltre announces that there will be a food distribution at the Cherry Blossom Center in Newark on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Holiday Lights that will be open until the end of the year. He concludes by wishing everyone a Happy Holiday.

Council Members Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy thanks all those involved in Fair in the Square and attended a Public Safety Meeting with Senator Corrado and various LD40 representatives. He also attended the Verona Environmental Commission’s Junior Commission Members Presentation and congratulates the new Fire Chief, Nick Polisen. He lastly recognizes Chief Tedesco’s exceptional job over the last couple of years and wishes everyone a Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

Councilman Roman echoes the positive comments regarding Fair in the Square and thanks all involved. He lastly thanks all fellow Council Members, professionals and dedicated staff of Verona Township and hopes everyone enjoys the rest of the Holiday season.

Councilwoman McGrath echoes all comments about Fair in the Square and thanks the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee for the addition of the new Sensitive Santa Event. She congratulates the friends of the Verona Public Library on their very successful Book Sale and attended a heartwarming event called Ally’s Elves at the Community Center. She also attended Congresswoman LaMonica McIver’s virtual listening session for Verona residents and the Verona Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Committee’s casual meet and greet event in Montclair. She lastly wishes everyone a Happy Holidays and New Year and looks forward to the upcoming holiday events.

Councilwoman Holland was also in attendance at Fair in the Square and congratulates all involved for the very successful event that it was. She also attended the Ally’s Elves event and participated in the Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>. She was very impressed by the Junior Commissioner Presentations and also compliments the Women’s Club on their ability to change gear on the date of the Share Your Light Night event. Lastly, she reminds all residents of the Winter Termination Program and wishes everyone a Happy Holidays and a happy and healthy New Year.

Public Comment:

Joseph Pannullo, WeCare, Essex Fells, New Jersey  
Jessica Pearson, Verona, New Jersey  
Jesse Lilley, Verona, New Jersey  
Paul Petrangeli, Verona, New Jersey

Hearing and Adoption of Ordinances:

**ORDINANCE No. 2024-41**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REVISION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL  
ELECTION DATE FROM MAY TO NOVEMBER**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-41 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Hearing:

None

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance 2024-41 is adopted by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law.

Consent Agenda:

December 2, 2024 minutes are unanimously approved.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

A motion is made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman to appoint Sean Byrnes

to the Rent Control Board for a term ending 12/31/2028.

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-241**

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

**ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)  
PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FY25**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona is a participating municipality in the Essex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona desires to request \$100,000.00 in funding under the CDBG grant application year 2025 for the following project:

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>
<u>ADA Compliant Sidewalk Improvements at Everett Field</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council does hereby authorize the Township Administration to submit an application for funding under the Essex County Community Block Grant Program for the proposed project.

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-242**

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

**AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:40-1**

**WHEREAS**, certain transfers of funds for various 2024 budget appropriations are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for transfer of appropriations with an excess over and above the amount deemed necessary to fulfil their purposes to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

**WHEREAS**, the appropriations subject to fund transfers hereby are not within those restricted by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 for transfer purposes;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Chief Financial Officer shall and is hereby authorized to make transfers between appropriations accounts of the 2024 Municipal Budget as follows:

	<b>To:</b>	<b>From:</b>
Recreation – Salary and Wages	\$20,000.00	
Police – Salary and Wages	\$15,000.00	
Dispatch – Salary and Wages	\$3,000.00	
Clerk – Operating Expenses		\$20,000.00

Building and Grounds – Operating Expenses		\$15,000.00
Emergency Management – Operating Expenses		\$3,000.00
TOTALS	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-243**

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

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOEL MARTIN AS EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management requires each municipality to appoint an “Emergency Management Coordinator” pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.1 and Directive NJOEM-7 issued by the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management on April 20, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator (“Coordinator”) for the Township shall serve a term of three years as required by statute and is appointed by the Township Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coordinator is responsible for the planning, activating, coordinating and the conduct of emergency management operations within the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, The Township Manager appoints Officer Joel Martin of the Verona Township Police Department as the Coordinator as he has shown himself to be a committed public servant to the Township throughout his tenure with the department and serving as OEM Coordinator for the past three years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council agrees with the Township Manager’s appointment and finds that Officer Joel Martin has the experience, character, and level of dedication needed of a Coordinator.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Officer Joel Martin is hereby appointed to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Verona.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Officer Joel Martin shall assume the position of Emergency Management Coordinator effective January 1, 2025, terminating on December 31, 2027.

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-244**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH KEVIN O’SULLIVAN AS  
VERONA TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

**WHEREAS**, Township Manager Joseph O. D’Arco’s three-year employment agreement which began February 7, 2022, is set to expire on February 6, 2025, and he has indicated that he is not seeking an extension of his employment and will be retiring from full time service after 56 years of public employment; and

**WHEREAS**, Township Manager D’Arco previously hired and appointed Kevin O’Sullivan as Verona’s Deputy Township Manager in an effort to have a succession plan in place for Mr. D’Arco’s eventual retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, the number and complexity of ongoing projects and initiatives within the Township of Verona require continued strategic leadership based on institutional knowledge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has determined that Mr. O’Sullivan combination of prior experience as Borough Administrator in North Caldwell, his work in Verona, and his education and training exceptionally qualify him to be Township Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. O’Sullivan, formally interviewed him, and agreed to implement the previously identified succession plan and therefore desires to appoint Mr. O’Sullivan to serve as the next Manager for the Township of Verona; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council, through the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, have offered Mr. O’Sullivan the position and presented him with the attached employment agreement for consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. O’Sullivan has accepted the position and indicated an ability to begin performing the duties of the Township Manager on February 7, 2025; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Kevin O’Sullivan is hereby appointed as Township Manager effective February 7, 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Council authorizes the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the contract with Kevin O’Sullivan a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council hereby authorizes the Mayor, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-245**

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

**ACCEPTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
FUNDS FOR THE 2024 PROGRAMMING YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona received notice, from the office of Essex County Housing and Community Development, of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) prospective budget for program year 2024 in the amount of \$40,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Essex County Housing and Community Development office has recommended that the allocation for the program year 2024 Consolidation Plan be proposed in the amount of \$40,000 and be utilized for ADA improvements to Town Hall and the Verona Community Center.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, that the use of CDBG funds are hereby approved and the Mayor is authorized to execute any subrecipient agreements.

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-246**

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

**ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF THE 2024 SFY NEW JERSEY STATE  
BODY ARMOR REPLACEMENT FUND GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Police Department has been awarded a grant in the sum of \$2,782.14 from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General for the Body Armor Replacement Fund (BARF) Program for a period covering January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; 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, New Jersey hereby authorizes the acceptance for the 2023 SFY Body-Armor Grant in the amount of \$2,782.14.

**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. 2024-247**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2024 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 NEW JERSEY STATE BODY ARMOR  
REPLACEMENT FUND 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 \$2,782.14 from the State of New Jersey in the form of the Body Armor Replacement Fund Grant 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 CY2024 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$2,782.14 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:  
Body Armor Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2024 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$2,782.14 appropriated under the caption of:  
General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from “CAPS”  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
Body Armor 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. 2024-248**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA TO ENTER INTO A  
COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM WITH 791 PURCHASING COOPERATIVE FOR  
THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into a voluntary cooperative pricing for its administration; and

**WHEREAS**, 791 Purchasing Cooperative has offered voluntary participation in the cooperative pricing system for the purchase of goods and services.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the administration is hereby authorized to enter into a voluntary Cooperative Pricing System with 791 Purchasing Cooperative.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that 791 Purchasing Cooperative shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-249**

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

**RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY AWARDING CONTRACT No. 2024-17  
TOWN HALL REPOINTING AND WINDOW REPLACEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, resolution # 2024-231 awarded contract #2024-17, Town Hall Repointing and Window Replacement to Panoramic Window & Door Systems, at a regular meeting held on December 2, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the wording of the resolution was to award in a base bid amount of \$773,000.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, this resolution is to clarify that the award is for a base bid with alternates in the amount of \$773,000.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-250**

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

**CANCEL TAXES BLOCK 902 LOT 11 TOTALLY EXEMPT VETERAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector was notified from the Tax Assessor's office that Block 902 Lot 11, property known as 109 Linden Avenue, as of October 3, 2024 should be totally exempt due to the owner being a totally disabled veteran, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter billing on Block 902 lot 11.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-251**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH GROUNDVIEW, LLC**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona purchases Christmas decorations annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Groundview, LLC provides such goods; and

**WHEREAS**, the QPA has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed the pay to play threshold of \$17,500 but will not exceed \$20,000; and,

**WHEREAS**, Groundview, LLC, 18 Wayland Drive, Verona, New Jersey has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Groundview, LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Groundview, LLC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that a contract is awarded to Groundview, LLC. to provide Christmas decorations in and around the Township of Verona:

1. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
2. The Township is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.
3. The services requested shall not exceed \$20,000 and no services or materials shall be requested without a certification of funds.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-252**

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

**AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE CONTRACT WITH NEGLIA ENGINEERING**

**WHEREAS**, the Township required a qualified firm to serve as project engineer for the reconstruction of Everett Field; and

**WHEREAS**, Neglia Engineering, located at 34 Park Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071 was awarded that contract on March 13, 2023 by Resolution No. 2023-055 and increased the amount in Resolution 2024-016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township will expend funds above the amount set in Resolution No. 2024-016; and

**WHEREAS**, these professional services are not to exceed \$234,000 from an account deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Manager or his designee are hereby authorized to increase the contract 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. 2024-253**

A motion was made by Mayor Tamburro; 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 Business:  
None.

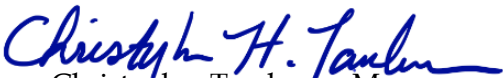
Public Comment:  
Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

Council goes into Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. and returns to the public session at 9:49 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:49 p.m. is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman.

The next meeting is Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED:   January 6, 2025