

Minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting of the Township Council on Monday, January 19, 2026 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey and via Zoom video conferencing.

Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan approaches the lectern and welcomes everyone to the Biennial Reorganizational Meeting of the Township Council. The Open Public Meetings Act statement is read and the all stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Kiernan honors dignitaries in attendance: NJ District 40 Senator Kristin Corrado, District 40 Assemblyman Al Barlas and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; Essex County Commissioner Leonard M. Luciano; Essex County Deputy Administrator/Director of Purchasing Julius N. Coltre; former Mayor of the Verona Township Council Maria Force; former Councilwoman of the Verona Township Council Catherine Tamasik; Chairperson of both the Planning Board and Environmental Commission, Jessica Pearson; Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Corey Schor; Verona Fire Chief Nick Polisino, Tommy Jacobsen Verona Construction Official; Pam Priscoe, Director of Community Services and longtime Verona resident John LoCrasto who served as this year's Grand Marshall in the 2025 Memorial Day Parade.

Swearing In Ceremony:

Cynthia Holland takes the oath of office for Councilmember (term ending 1/14/2030), administered by Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan.

Comments from Councilwoman Holland.

Jack McEvoy takes the oath of office for Councilmember (term ending 1/14/2030), administered by Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan.

Comments from Councilman McEvoy.

Christopher Tamburro takes the oath of office for Councilmember (term ending 1/14/2030), administered by Assemblyman Al Barlas.

Comments from Councilman Tamburro

Roll Call:

The Municipal Clerk calls the roll call of the new Councilmembers.

Election of Mayor:

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Township and Chapter 5 of the Township Code, the Municipal Clerk asks for a nomination for Mayor of the Township Council.

Councilman McEvoy nominates Councilman Christopher Tamburro; seconded by Councilman Alex Roman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES: McEvoy, Roman, Tamburro**

**NAYS: Holland, McGrath**

Christopher Tamburro accepts the position of Mayor for a two-year term ending 1/14/2028. The Municipal Clerk administers the oath.

Election of Deputy Mayor:

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the Township and Chapter 5 of the Township Code, the Municipal Clerk asks for a nomination for Deputy Mayor of the Township Council.

Councilman Roman nominates Councilman Jack McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

Jack McEvoy accepts the position of Deputy Mayor for a two-year term ending 1/14/2028. The Municipal Clerk administers the oath.

Mayor Tamburro presides over the remainder of the meeting.

**Mayor's Report:**

Essex County Liaison, Julius Coltre and Essex County Commissioner, Len Luciano approach the lectern. They both congratulate all Council members on their re-election. Jay Coltre also reports on the county's deer management program and announces their future dates.

**Manager's Report:**

1. Appointments		Term Expires
a. Planning Board		
i. Kevin O'Sullivan	Class II Member (Emp Des)	12/31/2026
b. New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund		
i. Kevin O'Sullivan	Commissioner	12/31/2026
ii. Michael Kraus	Alt. Commissioner	12/31/2026
c. Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (Gateway BMED)		
i. Michael Kraus	Commissioner	12/31/2026
ii. Jennifer Muscara	Alt. Commissioner	12/31/2026

Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan reports on various construction projects and their weather updates. There is a pending change order on tonight's resolution and a number of climate dependent projects are on hold until warmer weather arrives. There was also a Flood Control Advisory Board meeting which provided good discussions on a number of items.

**Deputy Manager's Report:**

Deputy Township Manager Michael Kraus reports on Town Hall improvements, roof replacement at the Community Center, staffing changes, pool memberships and some public safety updates.

**ORDINANCE No. 2026-01**

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO  
COMCAST OF NEW JERSEY II, LLC TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT,  
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE MUNICAPALITY OF  
VERONA, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. F-1 by title into the record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. F-1 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Ordinance No. F-1 will be numbered 2026-01 and passes 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**ORDINANCE No. 2026-02**

**ADOPTING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 320 BLOOMFIELD  
AVENUE AND 11 CHURCH STREET (BLOCK 704, LOTS 18 AND 20)  
REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. F-2 by title into the record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. F-2 is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance F-2 will be numbered 2026-02 and passes 5-0. It will be sent to the Planning Board for consistency.

Public Comment:

Nick Poliseno, Verona, New Jersey

Corey Schor, Verona, New Jersey

Consent Agenda:

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-005**

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

**TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that, where any contracts, commitments, or payments are to be made prior to the adoption of the 2026 budget, temporary appropriations be made for the purpose and amount required in the manner and time therein provided; and

**WHEREAS**, the total appropriation in the 2026 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for principal and interest of debt, public assistance, and capital improvement fund, is the sum of \$25,605,000 for the Current Fund, \$7,251,000 for the Water/Sewer Utility Fund, and \$650,000 for the Pool Utility; and

**WHEREAS**, the temporary budget shall not exceed 26.25% of the total appropriations in the 2025 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for principal and interest of debt, public assistance, and capital improvement fund, which is the sum of \$6,700,000 for the Current Fund, \$1,900,000 for the Water/Sewer Utility Fund, and \$170,000 for the Pool Utility Fund.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY** the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, that the following temporary appropriations for 2026 operating purposes be made in the amount of \$6,700,000 for the Current Fund, \$1,900,000 for the Water/Sewer Utility Fund, and \$170,000 for the Pool Utility Fund.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

## **RESOLUTION No. 2026-006**

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

### **ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the Township of Verona to earn additional revenue through the investment and prudent management of its cash receipts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Fiscal Affairs Law requires that each local unit shall adopt a cash management plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the following shall constitute the Cash Management Plan for the Township of Verona and the Township of Verona shall deposit and manage its funds pursuant to this plan:

#### **Definitions**

1. Treasurer shall mean the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the Township of Verona.
2. Fiscal year shall mean the twelve-month period beginning January 1 ending December 31.
3. Cash Management Plan shall mean the plan as approved by this resolution.

#### **Designation of Depositories**

1. At least once each fiscal year the Township Council shall by resolution designate the depositories for the Township of Verona in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14*.

#### **Audit Requirement**

1. The Cash Management Plan shall be subject to the annual audit conducted pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4*.

#### **Authority to Invest**

1. The Chief Financial Officer and the Township Manager shall make and be responsible for municipal deposits and investments.

#### **Investment Instruments**

1. In accordance with the Local Fiscal Affairs Law, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer may use moneys which may be in hand for the purchase, at his/her discretion, of any of the types of securities listed under *N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15.1a*, and if said security is suitable for registry, may be registered in the name of the Township.

#### **Records and Reports**

1. The Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer shall report all investments in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15.2*.
2. At a minimum the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer shall:
  - a. Keep a record of all investments.
  - b. Keep a cash position record, which reveals on a daily basis, the status of the Township's cash in its bank accounts.
  - c. Report monthly to the Township Council as to the status of cash balances in bank

accounts, revenue collection and cash receipts and disbursements  
Cash Flow

1. The Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer shall ensure that the Township's accounting system provides regular information concerning the Township's cash position and investment performance.
2. All monies shall be turned over to the Tax Collector/Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer and deposited in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15.
3. The Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer is authorized and directed to invest surplus funds of the Township of Verona as the availability of the funds permit. In addition, it shall be the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer to minimize the possibility of idle cash by depositing the Township's monies in interest bearing accounts wherever practical and in the best interest of the Township of Verona.
4. The Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer shall ensure that funds are borrowed for Capital Projects in a timely fashion.
5. The Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer is authorized to make de minimums petty cash disbursements upon being presented a Receipt of Petty Cash slip, detailing the nature of the expenditure not to exceed \$60.00. The expense will be supported by an original receipt and will be approved by the employee's supervisor and also the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-007**

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

**FIXING DEPOSITORIES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14 provides that monies held in any separate fund shall be treated as monies held in trust and shall not be diverted to any other purposes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Investors Bank, New York Community Bank, Kearny Bank and BCB Bank shall be authorized as the depository for the separate funds of the Township and that the custodian shall be Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Jennifer Muscara.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all withdrawals for the following accounts shall be on orders signed by at least two of the authorized officers. The authorized officers for the following accounts shall be the Mayor, Chief Financial Officer and Township Manager.

- Claims Fund
- Current Fund
- General Capital Fund
- Water/Sewer Utility Operating Fund
- Water/Sewer Utility Capital Fund
- Swimming Pool Utility Operating Fund
- Swimming Pool Utility Capital Fund
- All Payroll Funds
- State Unemployment Compensation Insurance Account
- Animal Control Funds
- Development Fee Trust Funds
- Affordable Housing Trust Funds
- Open Space Trust Funds
- Trust Funds (Other/Escrow)

- Check Clearing Account

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all withdrawals for the following account shall be on orders signed by the Municipal Court Administrator and the Judge of the Municipal Court.

- All Court Funds

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-008**

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

**DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR ALL LEGAL  
PUBLICATIONS AND NOTICES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:53.1 permits the governing body of every municipality to designate official newspapers for the publication of all advertisements and notices required by law to be published; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-6 *et seq.*, requires the governing body of each municipality to designate two newspapers to receive the notices of its meetings.

**WHEREAS**, all municipal advertisements shall be published in one or both of the designated official newspapers according to the various statutory provisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Verona is desirous of designating two official newspapers for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of these statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the VERONA-CEDAR GROVE TIMES and THE STAR LEDGER, a newspaper published within the County of Essex meets the statutory criteria for designation as the official newspapers for the Township of Verona.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the VERONA-CEDAR GROVE TIMES and THE STAR LEDGER be hereby designated as the official newspapers for all advertisements and notices of the Township of Verona required to be published.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all legal publications and notices sent to the designated official newspapers of the Township will also be posted on the Township's website, [www.veronanj.org/LegalPublicNotices](http://www.veronanj.org/LegalPublicNotices) pursuant to P.L. 2025, c. 72.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-009**

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

**APPROPRIATING DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides authority for appropriating in a temporary resolution the permanent debt service requirement for the coming fiscal year providing that such resolution is not made earlier than the last ten days of the preceding fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the date of this resolution is subsequent to that date; and

**WHEREAS**, the debt payments are due prior to our budget being adopted; and

**WHEREAS**, principal and interest will be due on various dates from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 inclusive, in sundry bonds issued and outstanding.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the following appropriations be made to cover the period from January 1, 2026 to May 1, 2026 inclusive:

<b>DEBT SERVICE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT</b>	
Bond Principal	\$ 1,225,000
Interest on Bonds	\$ 200,000
Green Acres Loan	\$ 61,095
<b>DEBT SERVICE - WATER UTILITY</b>	
Bond Principal	\$ 195,000
Interest on Bonds	\$ 55,000
<b>DEBT SERVICE - POOL UTILITY</b>	
Bond Principal	\$ 15,000
Interest on Bonds	\$ 3,000
Legal Installments	\$ 38,700
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>	
Principal	\$ 300,000
Interest	\$ 257,313

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-010**

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

**AUTHORIZING TAX COLLECTOR TO MAKE CORRECTIONS AND/OR  
ADJUSTMENT NOT EXCEEDING \$10.00**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has to make certain corrections and adjustments to the accounts in the Tax Collector's Office; and

**WHEREAS**, it is proper bookkeeping procedure to have the Tax Collector's record reflect that there are no monies due and owing; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A 40A:5-17.1 allows the Tax Collector to process property tax refunds and cancellations or delinquency of less than \$10.00.

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

in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to make any corrections or adjustments to the accounts in the office of the Tax Collector where the correction or adjustment does not exceed \$10.00.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-11**

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

**AUTHORIZING TAX COLLECTOR TO REFUND  
PROPERTY TAX AND UTILITY OVERPAYMENTS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to refund property tax and utility overpayments to the accounts in the office of the Tax Collector when deemed appropriate and necessary.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-012**

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

**SETTING THE RATE OF PENALTIES AND GRACE PERIOD FOR RECEIPT  
OF DELINQUENT TAXES AND MUNICIPAL CHARGES**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 54:67(a) permits the governing body to fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became payable. The rate so fixed shall not exceed 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, to be calculated from the date the tax was payable until the date that actual payment to the tax collector is made; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 54:67(c) permits the governing body to fix a penalty to be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000 who fails to pay that delinquency as billed, prior to the end of the fiscal year, the penalty so fixed shall not exceed 6% of the amount of the delinquency with respect to each most recent fiscal year only; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation is permissive in nature and requires the adoption of a resolution by the governing body imposing the penalty for delinquencies in the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, it has determined that it is in the best interests of the Township to authorize imposition of such penalty.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a) that the interest

rate for delinquent taxes and any delinquency for the year 2024 be set at the rate of 8% per annum for amounts under \$1,500 and 18% per annum for amounts over \$1,500 unless otherwise superseded by law, rule, regulation or order of the State.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made by the 10th of the month after the date upon which the same became payable, effective January 1, 2025. In the event that the 10th of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Legal Holiday, the date of the Grace Period ends with the following working day.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to N.J.S.A.54:4-67 the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to impose a penalty of 6% on any delinquent taxes and municipal charges in excess of \$10,000 in addition to the interest charges set forth above.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-013**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF TAX APPEALS RESULTING IN A  
REDUCTION NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000.00**

**WHEREAS**, there are tax appeals before the County Tax Board or the Tax Court of New Jersey where the amount of reduction in the total annual taxes as a result of a settlement does not exceed \$10,000.00 per tax year; and

**WHEREAS**, it will be more cost efficient for the Township to permit the Tax Assessor, the Attorney and the Township Manager to settle those tax appeals without the necessity of obtaining Township Council approval by way of a resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Tax Assessor, the Attorney and the Township Manager are hereby authorized to settle any tax appeal where the amount of reduction in the total annual taxes as a result of a settlement does not exceed \$10,000.00 per tax year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all settlements authorized pursuant to this Resolution shall be reported at the next meeting thereafter of the Township Council.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-014**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF ASSESSOR'S TAX APPEALS, ANSWERS,  
COUNTERCLAIMS, APPEALS AND CROSS APPEALS IN TAX MATTERS  
ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

**WHEREAS**, statutory tax appeals and other matters and applications affecting the taxation of real property within the Township of Verona are routinely filed with the Essex County Board of

Taxation and the Superior Court of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council finds it to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Township to authorize and direct the Tax Assessor to take any and all action that he/she deems advisable in such tax matters in order to protect, promote and advance the Township's interest in assuring that each property within the Township is fairly and equitably assessed in accordance with the law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council finds it to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Township to authorize and direct the Township Attorney and/or Special Counsel to assist the Tax Assessor in such tax matters referred to herein;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the Tax Assessor of the Township of Verona be and is hereby authorized and directed to prepare, file, pursue and litigate, if necessary, any Assessor's Tax Appeals, Answers to Tax Appeals, Counterclaims, Appeals and Cross-Appeals in statutory tax appeals and other matters and applications affecting the taxation of real property within the Township of Verona as may be filed with the Essex County Board of Taxation and/or the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, that the Tax Assessor deems advisable in such tax matters in order to protect, promote and advance the Township's interest in assuring that each property within the Township is fairly and equitably assessed in accordance with the law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notwithstanding the foregoing, the Tax Assessor shall provide the Township Manager and the Township Council with a quarterly report detailing all pending tax appeals, and shall be required to obtain the prior approval and consent of the Township Council for the following:

1. The settlement of all non-residential tax appeals.
2. The hiring of expert witnesses for purposes other than real property appraisals.
3. The Tax Attorney for the Township of Verona be and are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all action said Attorney deems advisable to assist the Tax Assessor of the Township of Verona in such tax matters as are referred to herein.
4. The Township Manager, Township Tax Assessor, Township Tax Attorney be and are hereby authorized to take all necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the subject and intent of this Resolution.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-015**

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

**AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATION  
ACCOUNTS PURSUANT TO NJSA 40A:4-59**

**WHEREAS**, certain transfers of funds for various 2025 budget appropriations are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40a:4-59 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:4-59 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 2025 Municipal Budget as follows:

	TO	FROM
S&H - Salary and Wages	30,000.00	
Clerk - Other Expenses		30,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-016**

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

**APPOINTING A PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 requires a municipality to designate an officer or employee to serve as its Public Agency Compliance Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the Township Manager, Kevin O'Sullivan, shall serve as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that in pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 the Township Manager, Kevin O'Sullivan, is hereby designated as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Township of Verona.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Public Contract Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance Monitoring Program.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-017**

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

**APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR CONTRACT No. 2025-04  
IMPROVEMENTS TO EVERETT FIELD**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2025-153 awarded Contract 2025-04 Improvements to Everett Field to Gallen Contracting, Inc. Midland Park, New Jersey in the base bid amount of \$3,874,065.50; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township approved Contract Change No. 1 for additional work based on unforeseen site conditions and additional tree plantings requested by the Township in the amount of +\$83,546.27, an increase of 2.16% for a final contract amount of \$3,957,611.77; and

**WHEREAS**, Contract Change No. 1 is in the best interests of the Township of Verona.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Contract Change No. 1 be approved for a final contract amount of \$3,957,611.77 be approved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the amount of this change order be charged against any account deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager, the Township Clerk and any other officer as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute Contract Change No. 1 for Contract No. 2025-04 on behalf of the Township.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-018**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT TO BOSWELL ENGINEERING FOR  
ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INCLUDING  
CONCEPT PLANS FOR BLOCK 1201, LOT 3.01, 25 COMMERCE COURT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township requires an engineering and environmental services for concept plans to improve public access to block 1201, lot 3.01, 25 Commerce Court, a parcel currently undeveloped and maintained as Open Space under Township ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager recommends the proposal for the scope of work submitted by Boswell Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$43,700; and

**WHEREAS**, the services provided shall be charged to the Verona Open Space Trust Fund, and the availability of funds have been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Boswell Engineering be award a contract to perform engineering and environmental services for concept plans to improve public access to block 1201, lot 3.01, 25 Commerce Court.

**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. 2026-019**

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

**ENABLING RESOLUTION FOR THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION  
SUBMITTAL TO THE STATE COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PURSUANT TO 2023 NJ  
REVISED STATUTES, TITLE 13, § 13:8C-53A, FOR OPEN SPACE  
ACQUISITION**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program ("State"), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition and development of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has previously obtained a Green Acres grant of \$1,900,000.00 from the State to fund the following project(s):

**# 0720-21-001 Verona Open Space Acquisition and**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona desires to further the public interest by requesting an additional Green Acres grant of \$2,726,000 to fund the project(s); and

**WHEREAS**, the State shall determine if the supplemental funding request is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant is willing to use the State's funds in accordance with its rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an Amendment of the Agreement with the State for the above-named project;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body that:

1. Kevin O'Sullivan or the successor to the office of Township Manager is hereby authorized to:
  - (a) request such a loan and/or such a grant,
  - (b) provide additional information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
  - (c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant.
2. The applicant agrees to provide the local government/nonprofit share if a match is required.
3. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-020**

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

**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE'S TO THE ESSEX COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan and Supervisor of Public Works Chuck Molinaro are hereby appointed to serve as the Township's representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for the year 2026.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-021**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF DISCRETIONARY AND OPEN  
CONTRACTS FOR MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR OF THE SHARED  
MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE BOROUGHS OF ESSEX FELLS AND NORTH  
CALDWELL AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

**WHEREAS**, the Township entered into a shared services agreement for Municipal Court services with the Boroughs of Essex Fells and North Caldwell; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for professional municipal prosecutor services for the Shared Municipal Court of the Boroughs of North Caldwell and Essex Fells and the Township of Verona; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44-20.8, the firm of Friend & Wenzel, LLC of Clifton, NJ has provided to the Borough written certification that it has not made a campaign contribution that would bar the award of a Contract to it by the Borough pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 (New Jersey Local Pay-to-Play) and said proposed Contract prohibit the making of contributions in violation of said statute during the term of the Contract; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, the New Jersey Local Pay-to-Play Law and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (1) (a) (1) of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, the Borough may enter into said Professional Service Agreement without public bidding under these circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township's Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds for this purpose.

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

1. The Township and other officials of the Borough of North Caldwell are hereby directed and authorized to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Friend & Wenzel, LLC of Clifton, NJ for professional municipal prosecutor services for the Municipal Court of the Boroughs of North Caldwell and Essex Fells and the Township of Verona.
2. The Township Manager and Municipal Clerk are hereby directed and authorized to take any and all necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the subject and intent of this Resolution.
3. Notice of the award of the within Contract shall be published in accordance with law.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with law, if required.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-022**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:8-18.1, the Borough of North Caldwell and the Borough of Essex Fells and the Township of Verona have consolidated the use of the Municipal Court accommodations and personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council agrees upon the appointment of James Pomaco, Esq. as the Public Defender of the Shared Municipal Courts of Verona, North Caldwell and Essex Fells.

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

1. Consent is hereby given to the appointment of James Pomaco, Esq. as Public Defender of the Boroughs of North Caldwell and Essex Fells and the Township of Verona effective January 1, 2026 and continuing through December 31, 2026.
2. The Township Manager and Municipal Clerk of the Township of Verona are hereby directed and authorized to take any and all necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the subject and intent of this Resolution.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with law, if required.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-023**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA PLANNING BOARD TO  
CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE  
WHETHER PROPERTY LOCATED 251 1/2 GROVE AVENUE AND  
DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 1201, LOT 12 IS A NON-CONDEMNATION  
AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6 authorizes the governing body of any municipality, by resolution, to have its planning board conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether an area of the municipality is a non-condemnation “area in need of redevelopment” pursuant to the criteria contained in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Verona (the “Township Council” or the “Council”) considers it to be in the best interest of the Township of Verona (the “Township”) to have the Township of Verona Planning Board (the “Planning Board”) conduct such an investigation of property located at 251 1/2 Grove Avenue and designated as Block 1201, Lot 12 on the official Tax Maps of the Township (the “Property”), to determine whether such Property, qualifies as a non-condemnation redevelopment area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council authorizes and directs the Planning Board to conduct a preliminary investigation to evaluate and study the Property to determine whether the designation of the Property as a non-condemnation redevelopment area is appropriate and in conformance with the statutory criteria contained in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 of the Local

Redevelopment and Housing Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the preliminary investigation referenced herein shall be designed to evaluate and study the Property to determine whether the designation of the Property, as a non-condemnation redevelopment area is appropriate and in conformance with the statutory criteria contained in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 of the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law; and

**WHEREAS**, subject to the results of the preliminary investigation referenced herein, a **non-condemnation** redevelopment area determination concerning the Property, if so made, would authorize the Township to use all those powers provided by the Legislature for use in a redevelopment area and under the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq., other than the use of eminent domain to acquire all or a portion of the Property.

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

1. The Planning Board is hereby directed to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether property located at 251 1/2 Grove Avenue and designated as Block 1201, Lot 12 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Verona, qualifies as a "non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment" as described in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6.a according to the criteria set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 of the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.
2. The Planning Board is hereby further directed to study the property located at 251 1/2 Grove Avenue and identified as Block 1201, Lot 12 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Verona; to develop a map reflecting the boundaries of the proposed non-condemnation redevelopment area; to draft a preliminary investigation/report; and to provide public notice and to conduct public hearings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6.
3. The Planning Board shall, after completing its public hearing as referenced in Paragraph 2 immediately above, recommend that the delineated area, or any part thereof, be determined or not be determined, by the Township Council, to be a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-024**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE  
VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 (2026-27)**

**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 2027 (2026-27) 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. 2026-025**

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

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF  
2026 QUALIFIED PRIVATE COMMUNITY SERVICES AGREEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-23.1 *et seq.*, the Township is required either to perform certain specified services on public roads and streets in the Condominium, which is a qualified private community, or to reimburse said Condominium to the extent specified in that statute for the actual costs to the Association of providing said specified services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Qualified Private Communities in the Township of Verona for the year 2025 are as follows:

1. The Claridges LLC
2. Claridge House II Condominium Association
3. Green Acres/Ardleigh Mews
4. Verona Bloomfield Association
5. 300 Claremont Avenue
6. 284 Claremont Avenue
7. Verona Invest.
8. Kimberly Gardens
9. Kathleen Gardens
10. Beacon Hill
11. Kips Ridge
12. Wedgewood Gardens
13. Commons at Verona
14. Huntington Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township wishes to enter into a Qualified Private Community Services Agreement with the Qualified Private Communities for purposes of providing reimbursement for street ice and snow removal, street lighting, solid waste collection and leaf collection where

applicable at a rate not to exceed the cost that would be incurred by the municipality in providing those services directly.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey that the Township is hereby authorized to enter into 2026 Qualified Private Community Service Agreements with all the Qualified Private Communities for the purpose providing reimbursement for street ice and snow removal, street lighting, solid waste collection and leaf collection where applicable at a rate not to exceed the cost that would be incurred by the municipality in providing those services directly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute said agreements on behalf of the Township of Verona to effectuate same.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-026**

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. 2026-027**

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

**PROVIDING MUNICIPAL CONSENT FOR VERONA TOWNSHIP'S  
TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL APPLICATION SUBMITTAL TO THE  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR  
THE VERONA TOWNSHIP WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
UPGRADES PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Verona Township (Verona) has authorized necessary upgrades to its Wastewater Treatment Facility, including the Tertiary Treatment Filters and Ultraviolet Disinfection System (the Upgrades Project);

**WHEREAS**, in order to proceed with these improvements, Verona must first obtain a Treatment Works Approval (TWA) Permit from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP);

**WHEREAS**, one of the requirements of the TWA Application Process is to submit a Certification of Municipal Consent Form for the Upgrades Project from all impacted municipalities;

**WHEREAS**, Verona owns and operates the Wastewater Treatment Facility where the Upgrades Project will occur;

**WHEREAS**, the Certification of Municipal Consent by the Township of Verona must be authorized by a Resolution passed by the municipal governing body;

**WHEREAS**, the Consulting Engineer for Verona has represented that these upgrades will be constructed entirely within the existing property of the facility, are solely operational in nature and will not increase the facility's hydraulic treatment capacity or sewer service area or have any discernable negative impacts on the surrounding community;

**WHEREAS**, the Upgrades Project will be subject to intensive review by NJDEP through the TWA permitting process;

**WHEREAS**, after review and due deliberation, the Township Council of the Township of Verona believes that the Upgrades Project is in the best interest of the Township of Verona and its residents;

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

1. The Township Manager is hereby authorized to sign the NJDEP Certification of Municipal Consent Form for the Verona Township Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades Project;
2. The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to forward the signed NJDEP Certification of Municipal Consent Form and a certified copy of this Resolution to Verona's consulting engineer for inclusion in Verona's TWA Submittal to NJDEP for the Verona Township Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades Project.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

New/Unfinished Business:

Council Representatives to Boards/Committees/Commissions	
a. Environmental Commission	Roman
b. Green Team	McEvoy
c. Historical Preservation Commission	Tamburro
d. Joint Flood Advisory Committee	Holland
e. Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory	Holland
f. Municipal Alliance	Tamburro
g. Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory	McGrath
h. Open Space Trust Fund Advisory (2)	Roman
	McGrath
i. Parks & Recreation Advisory	McEvoy
j. Planning Board (Class III Member)	McEvoy
k. Shade Tree Commission	McGrath

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:** **McGrath**

Council Representatives passes 4-1.

Public Comment:

None.

Executive Session:

Council goes into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

Adjournment:

Council goes back into public session at 8:22 p.m. A motion to adjourn is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman.

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: February 9, 2026