

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, August 17, 2015 beginning at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey.

Call to Order:

Municipal Clerk reads notice of Open Public Meetings law.

Roll Call:

Mayor Kevin Ryan, Deputy Mayor Michael Nochimson; Councilman Jay Sniatkowski; Councilman Bob Manley and Councilman Alex Roman. Also present are Interim Township Manager Mitchell Stern, Township Attorney Michael Gannaio and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan.

Mayor Ryan leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the Council Meeting on July 20th are moved for approval by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilman Manley. Vote: 5 ayes.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ryan introduces Rich Williamson of the Verona Baseball & Softball League to the lectern. Mr. Williamson thanks the Mayor and Council for their continued support of the program. Last season's rosters had 500+ players from grades K-12. The VBSL has presented a check to the Children's Fund since 2012. Mr. Williamson explains that a \$10 donation is made to the fund for each homerun batted at Everett Field. In previous years the mayor has matched the donation helping raise over \$4,000 to date. This year's home run hitters were Nick Algieri, Brooke Anquillae, Christian Castner, Tyler Coppola, Sinclair Infusino, Annie Johnson, Collin Knight, Ben Mackey, Nicolette Marino, Melanie Matarazzo, Kyle McCaffrey, Andrew Meyer, Tommy Monroe, Allison Naeris, Melanie Naeris, Cadden Pelfree, Brianna Rigney, Matthew Siegel, Steven Tafuri and Quinn Zebrowski. The VBSL presented \$ 1,400 to the Verona Children's Fund from their Home Run Challenge.

Mayor Ryan announces that Essex County liaison Anthony Burke has retired. The County will hold the annual 9/11 Ceremony beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Eagle Rock Reservation at the 9/11 Memorial with chamber music played until 2:00 p.m. The ceremony is open to the public. The Township of Verona will hold its annual 9/11 Ceremony at 8:30 a.m. in the Civic Center.

The Mayor announces the Verona Municipal Court received a visit from Essex Vicinage Municipal Division. Municipal Division Manager, Al Restaino attended along with Presiding Judge of Municipal Courts, Anthony J. Frasca and Assignment Judge Sallyann Floria. They were impressed with the Township's Municipal Court as well as the efforts of Municipal Judge Paparazzo and Municipal Court Clerk Jean DePoe to implement video and language ports for hearings.

Mayor Ryan informs the public that the pending litigation regarding Restrictive Covenant (Pearson, et al. v. DMH2, Limited Liability Company.) is being investigated by the Township Attorney and a determination as to whether or not the Township will join as plaintiffs will be examined and a decision made in the near future.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor Nochimson states he has no committee report but would like to follow up on status reports. He asks the Township Engineer, Jim Helb to approach the lectern. Mr. Helb gives an update on the Centennial Field and U-12 Soccer situation. Mr. Stern states Jim Cunningham has met with United Soccer and the field at HB will be painted as a short field to accommodate the players. Mayor Ryan comments that between the Board of Education and Township there are many fields available. He reminds the public that the two new fields will be gated and there are ample facilities available throughout town.

Mr. Helb updates the recycling receptacle placement on Bloomfield Avenue. He states that providing garbage cans to business on Bloomfield Avenue are problematic due to the times of pick up and garbage can retrieval from the businesses depending on when those businesses open for business.

Deputy Mayor Nochimson requests that the logistics of running a jitney bus for residents to Montclair train stations be explored. Councilman Sniatkowski states that the option was researched by previous councils and it

was determined that it was not feasible. The Deputy Mayor suggests looking in to the cost because it could be an added service to benefit Verona.

Councilman Sniatkowski congratulates former Township Councilman James Paganelli on his nomination as Superior Court Judge.

Councilman Manley and Councilman Roman attended the dedication of the new rescue squad truck to Fred Tempesta who passed away in May 2012. Mr. Tempesta was a dedicated volunteer on the Rescue Squad who responded to over 6,120 calls.

He reminds residents to donate to the Rescue Squad annual fund drive. This year less than 20% of the township's residents have donated.

Councilman Manley asked Jim Helb about the soil status on the new Hilltop fields. Mr. Helb states that removal of the contaminated soil entails a systematic approach to remove the material. The contractor was reluctant to return to the site until he could have full access, thereby delaying the continuation of work. Mr. Helb states the focus now is to get the lower field online around Labor Day weekend.

Councilman Roman echoes Councilman Manley's sentiments pertaining to the Rescue Squad. He requests to have an early conversation on the 2016 budget, prioritizing tax levy and operations. He would like early numbers on debt obligations, capital obligations, review of departments and other factors that shape the budget. He asks Mr. Helb for a vehicle inventory or fleet management plan and requests for Mr. Helb to give an overview of major projects. Mr. Helb comments that public works is in the final stages of installing township trees, a meeting is scheduled regarding the stand by generator, the trickling filter for the wastewater treatment plant is underway, the treatment plant roofs are in need of repair, there are ongoing meetings with the architect for the library reconstruction, the department will continue the road sealing projects in the cooler fall months and he is expecting to go out to bid in the near future for the purchasing of trucks. Mr. Helb also states he is working with Matt Laracy to formulate a capital ordinance for a roadwork project on Claremont Avenue. Councilman Roman also requests members of the library staff come before Council to discuss their operations. He requests that CFO Matt Laracy approach the lectern to discuss the payroll process. Mr. Laracy explains that the difficult payroll process currently follows a 26 bi-weekly pay period. Many employees still receive hard copy checks to deposit and have not opted into the direct deposit process. Having the overtime pay period run concurrent with the regular pay period allowing for both payments to be issued in one check would cut payroll costs by \$5,000-\$10,000.

Mr. Helb gives an update on the sewer well. He states an issue developed with one of the water tanks in early spring detecting trace elements of arsenic has been fully resolved. The DEP has been involved in the process and upon the wells picking up a non-detect, the DEP authorized the well to go back online.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Stern reports the IT upgrade to the police department is in its final stages. The Finance office has been very busy with payment of quarterly taxes. All 33 units on Durrell have been sold. DPW is continually busy with sign repairs, curb painting, etc. The Township website is being updated. Mr. Stern reminds residents that the Community Pool will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday September 2, 3, and 4th because of the public schools opening early this year causing the lack of staffing. Mr. Stern reminds residents about the Township's new phone application called *Remyndr*, which notifies users of recycling and trash pick-up dates, produces notifications and other pertinent information to assist residents.

Introduction of Ordinances:

Ordinance #7-15 – An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving a Financial Agreement Between the Township of Verona and Verona Place Urban Renewal LLC.

Mrs. Kiernan reads Ordinance #7-15 by title into record.

Planning Board attorney Greg Mascera explains to Council that the next step in the redevelopment of the property is to enter into a financial agreement. The application has been reviewed by the CFO. There is discussion among Council regarding Ordinance #7-15.

Motion to approve introduction of Ordinance #7-15 is moved by Councilman Manley; seconded by Councilman Sniatkowski. Vote: 5 ayes.

Ordinance #8-15 – An Ordinance Amending the Township of Verona’s Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance to replace Article VX, Towing.

Mrs. Kiernan reads Ordinance #8-15 by title into record.

Police Chief Huber explains this ordinance amends and replaces the Township’s current Towing ordinance. It was drafted with the assistance of the Joint Insurance Fund.

Motion to approve introduction of Ordinance #8-15 is moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolutions:

Resolution #83 – Designating Block 9, Lots 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24 & 52 as an Area in Need of Redevelopment. Moved by Councilman Manley; seconded by Council Roman. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #84 – Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87. Moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Mayor Ryan. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #85 – Award Contract to Edmunds & Associates Inc. for Financial Software Upgrade and Maintenance Agreement. Moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Mayor Ryan. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #86 – Authorize CFO to Engage PrimePoint LLC for Payroll Software Upgrade and Maintenance Agreement. Moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Mayor Ryan. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #87– Award of Contract #15-06 for the “Reconstruction of Laurel Court and Hemlock Drive” be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Stanziale Construction, PO Box 2597, Bloomfield, New Jersey. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Mayor Ryan. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #88 – Award of Contract #15-08 for the “Removal, Transportation and Disposal of Wastewater Treatment Plant Liquid Sludge” be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Accurate Waste Systems, 226 Prospect Point Avenue, Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Mayor Ryan. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #89 – Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption and Plenary Retail Distribution License for the 2015/2016 year. Moved by Councilman Manley; seconded by Councilman Roman. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #90 – Appointments to Planning Board Committee. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #91 – Appointment to Environmental Commission. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #92 – Appointments to the Recreation Committee. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #93 – Appointments to the Public Safety Committee. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #94 – Appointment to Shade Tree Commission. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #95 – Establish Lien - #98.1 – Property Maintenance - \$75.00. Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Manley. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #96– Establish Lien - #92.4 – Property Maintenance - \$75.00. Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Manley. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #97 – Establish Lien - #10.2 – Property Maintenance - \$75.00. Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Manley. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #98 – Establish Lien - #119.15 – Property Maintenance - \$75.00. Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Manley. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #99 – Establish Lien - #35.12 – Property Maintenance - \$75.00. Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Manley. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #100 – Establish Lien - #45.16 – Property Maintenance - \$75.00. Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Manley. Vote: 5 ayes.

Resolution #101 - Closed Session. Moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Councilman Roman. Vote: 5 ayes.

Public Participation: Motion to open public participation is moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes

Rich Aloia – 37 Malvern Place, Verona, New Jersey

Motion to close public participation is moved by Councilman Manley; seconded by Councilman Sniatkowski. Vote: 5 ayes.

New Business:
RA# 823 – OLL HSA – Off Premise Merchandise Raffle; RA# 824 – LANING AVENUE SCA – On Premise Merchandise Raffle; RA# 825 – LANING AVENUE SCA – On Premise 50/50 Raffle and RA# 826 – BROOKDALE SCA – On Premise 50/50 Raffle are approved by consensus

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Vote: 5 ayes

The meeting is adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

The next regular scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer Kiernan

Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Kevin Ryan

Kevin Ryan, Mayor