

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, February 22, 2021, beginning at 7:03 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing platform.

Call to Order:

Municipal Clerk reads notice of Open Public Meetings law. The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting of the Township Council which is being held via Zoom video conferencing due to restrictions on indoor public gatherings resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the time and date were included in the public meeting notice. This information, along with the public internet link and telephone call-in information was posted in the Municipal Building, and sent the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger and MyVeronaNJ.com, TAPinto and the Verona/Cedar Grove PATCH, the official online news source(s) of the Township, at least 48 hours preceding the start time of this meeting. The agenda and public handouts for this meeting can be viewed online at [www.veronanj.org/councilmeetings](http://www.veronanj.org/councilmeetings). A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda and instructions on how to comment will be provided at the appropriate time. This meeting is being recorded, both audibly and visually for retention purposes and for rebroadcast on the Township's YouTube.

Roll Call:

Mayor Jack McEvoy, Deputy Mayor Alex Roman, Councilman Kevin Ryan, Councilman Ted Giblin and Councilwoman Christine McGrath. Township Manager Matthew Cavallo, Brian Aloia, Township Attorney and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present.

Mayor's Report:

Essex County Liaison Julius Coltre reports that the food distribution was postponed due to last week's storm. This week, the food distribution will be held at Bloomfield Public Library. COVID vaccination shots were canceled due to the storm, but all will be rescheduled this week. Email [admin@EssexCounty.nj.org](mailto:admin@EssexCounty.nj.org) for info or visit [EssexCovid.org](http://EssexCovid.org).

Mayor McEvoy reads a proclamation for COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor McEvoy commends the people of Verona for "being Verona". When asked to step up to help those in need and thanks them on behalf of the Council and the entire town.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Cavallo reports that the Council received the 2021 draft Municipal Budget. This year there is a proposed increase of 2 ½ per cent. Special public meetings will be held on March 3 and March 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The draft budget will be posted online prior to the meeting.

Snow has taken a toll on our 2021 Budget. Overtime for the snow storms has cost the Township around \$32,000 through the first of February. We have submitted our Preliminary Damage Assessment to FEMA for Winter Storm Orlena and are awaiting a Presidential Declaration.

Municipal Election Candidate Packets are available. The deadline for submitting a complete candidate packet to be on the ballot is Monday, March 8, 2021. Contact the Township Clerk for more information.

The Township will begin rolling out our new emergency and community notification system, ALERT VERONA, during the first week in March. This system will allow for greater communication between Verona and the residents, especially in an emergency. The system includes options for voice calls to every land line in Verona. More information will be coming out next week and a flyer is being prepared to be mailed to each and every residence in Verona.

After a one year hiatus the Township will be hosting the Summer Concert Series again this summer. We are currently working on finalizing the lineup and we hope to have material ready for distribution by April.

Beginning Monday, April 5, overnight parking, municipal lot parking and metered parking enforcement throughout the Township will be enforced. This enforcement has been suspended since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. More information with regard to a few changes to the overnight parking ordinance, specifically the eligibility requirements will be announced in March.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor Roman has no report this evening.

Councilman Ryan states DPW is doing an excellent job with snow removal from the storms. He commends the County Executive in notifications of COVID vaccines with robo calls. He states Essex County is leading in how administering the vaccine should be handled.

Councilman Giblin reports that Governor Murphy signed the legal marijuana bill into law today. He asks the Township Manager if the Towns can implement a grace period for a couple of weeks for cars that are parked on the street overnight once the moratorium is lifted.

Councilwoman McGrath states that in lieu of the lengthy agenda, her report will be short. She thanks DPW and first responders for keeping us safe through the storm.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-04**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADA IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VERONA COMMUNITY CENTER, INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS CURB RAMPS, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$200,000 THEREFOR, INCLUDING \$99,840 EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED AS A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$200,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-04 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-04 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Ryan.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-04 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 8, 2021.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-05**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF LYNWOOD ROAD IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$975,000 THEREFOR, INCLUDING \$525,000 EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED AS A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$975,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-05 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-05 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Giblin.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-05 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 8, 2021.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-06**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000 FROM CAPITAL FUND BALANCE FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-06 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-06 is moved by Deputy Mayor Roman; seconded by Councilman Ryan.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-06 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 8, 2021.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-07**

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

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-07 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-07 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Giblin.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-07 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 22, 2021.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-08**

**REPEALING CHAPTER 402 "RENT CONTROL" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 402 "RENTAL REGULATIONS"**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-08 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-08 is moved by Deputy Mayor Roman; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-08 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 8, 2021.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-09**

**REPEALING CHAPTER 455 "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 455 "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT"**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-09 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-09 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

John Jahr and Aaron Schrage of Brightview Engineering give a presentation on this ordinance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-09 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 8, 2021.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-10**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER A565-7 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-10 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-10 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Giblin.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-10 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 8, 2021.

Public Participation on Consent Agenda:

None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes from the February 8, 2021 Regular meeting and February 17, 2021 Special meeting are unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-034**

A motion was made by Councilman Giblin; seconded by Councilman Ryan 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 2020 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; and

**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, 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 2020 Municipal Budget as follows:

|                                   | <b>To:</b>         | <b>From:</b>       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Legal Services - Other Expenses   | \$30,000.00        |                    |
| Rent Control - Other Expenses     | \$3,500.00         |                    |
| Fire Department - Other Expenses  | \$10,000.00        |                    |
| Administration - Other Expenses   |                    | \$10,000.00        |
| Street and Roads - Other Expenses |                    | \$30,000.00        |
| Rent Control - Salary and Wage    |                    | \$3,500.00         |
|                                   | <u>\$43,500.00</u> | <u>\$43,500.00</u> |

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-035**

A motion was made by Councilman Giblin; seconded by Councilman Ryan that the following resolution be adopted:

**REFUNDING TAX LIEN REDEMPTION**

**WHEREAS**, property located at 1 Claridge Drive #9GE, Block 101 Lot 1 Qualifier C0913, owned by Valentyna Deresh, has been held in tax lien since December 3, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, payment was received, in the amount of \$9,898.47 from Vitaliy Deresh, clearing the lien as follows:

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Certificate #20-00003    |                        |
| Certificate              | \$ 2,678.67            |
| 2% Redemption Penalty    | \$ 53.57               |
| Recording Fee            | \$ 53.00               |
| Search Fee               | \$ 12.00               |
| 2020 Taxes plus Interest | \$ 7,101.23            |
| <br>Premium              | <br>\$31,100.00        |
| <br><b>Total</b>         | <br><b>\$40,998.47</b> |

**WHEREAS**, this certificate has been held by the Township of Verona and the certificate has been received and properly signed for cancellation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from Trust, \$40,998.47 to:

Greymorr LLC  
BMO 85  
PO Box 1414  
Minneapolis, MN 55480

Trust Check - Greymorr, LLC - \$40,998.47 Certificate #20-00003

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy**

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-036**

A motion was made by Councilman Giblin; seconded by Councilman Ryan 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 of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - a. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation and Contract Negotiations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)
    - Docket No. ESX-L-4773-15  
(In All Declaratory Judgement Actions Filed by Various Municipalities, County of Essex, Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Decision in In re Adoption of N.J.A.C. 5:96, 221 N.J. 1 (2015))
    - Sunset Avenue Redevelopment Plan

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

**NAYS:**

Public Comment:

Kathleen Laterza, 810 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Adjournment:

Council enters into Executive Session at 8:25 pm. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm is motioned by Councilman Giblin; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Kiernan*  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

*Jack McEvoy*  
Jack McEvoy, Mayor

APPROVED: March 8, 2021