

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, May 24, 2021, beginning at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing platform (Meeting ID: 952 6266 2770).

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 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. 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 J. Ryan, Councilman Ted Giblin and Councilwoman Christine McGrath. Township Manager Matthew Cavallo, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk are present.

The purpose of this special meeting is for Council to approve a resolution of support and authoring the submission of the FY 2021 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Application.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public Comment on Proposed Resolutions:

None.

RESOLUTION No. 2021-081

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

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM LOCAL GOVERNING BODY
AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE FY2021 LOCAL RECREATION
IMPROVEMENT GRANT (LRIG) APPLICATION FUNDED BY THE NEW
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is offering the Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG); and

WHEREAS, the Local Recreation Improvement Grant is a competitive grant that supports improvement and repair of public recreation facilities including local parks, municipal recreation centers, and local stadiums.; and

WHEREAS, ensuring public access to community facilities is imperative given the current strain on communities confronting the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, access to outdoor recreation and community resources is critical for mental and physical health, particularly for those residents with limited or no other access to quality outdoor space or private recreational opportunities. Assisting local units in achieving unmet recreational obligations addresses these equity considerations, meeting the needs of communities that have been placed under substantial stress due to the lack of quality recreational facilities and spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Local Recreation Improvement Grant funds will be allocated to each grant recipient to help cover costs associated with updating community centers, playgrounds, pools, fields, walking or bicycle trails, rail trails, multi-sport courts, and recreational facilities; one-time personnel costs directly related to improvements; project development professional services costs; equipment costs including playground and recreation facilities equipment; and environmental remediation costs required to prepare recreation sites for use; and

WHEREAS, the Local Recreation Improvement Grant exists to: fund improvements to recreational facilities; provide quality outdoor recreational space to underserved communities, particularly in this time of heightened need; and assist local units in achieving unmet recreational obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air, and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona wishes to apply for funding through the NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant; and

WHEREAS, the NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant prioritizes unfunded projects and those that include a local match component; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is qualified to apply for this funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey formally supports this NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, Township Clerk, and any other officer deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to submit a grant application for the NJDCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant on behalf of the Township of Verona.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Verona and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 p.m. is motioned by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Councilman Giblin. Vote: 5-0

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Jack McEvoy
Jack McEvoy, Mayor

APPROVED: June 7, 2021