

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, August 2, 2021, beginning at 7:04 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey and 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 and in person due to 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 Alex Roman, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath, Councilman Jack McEvoy, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland and Councilman Chris Tamburro. Township Manager Matthew Cavallo, Victoria Lucidio, Attorney for the Aloia Law Firm and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present.

Mayor's Report:

Essex County Liaison Julius Coltre reports that Kmart is distributing Moderna vaccines from 10.00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Johnson & Johnson vaccines from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., and Pfizer from 3 - 4:00 p.m. Mr. Coltre reminds the public that the Mosquito Hotline phone number is 973-239-3366, x2480. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, the Symphonics will play a concert in Verona Park at 7pm. The Tom & Jerry show will take place for all kids on the Turtle Back Zoo parking deck on August 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Roman is thankful no one was hurt during the significant storm incidents. He was the tree removed by DPW at the Holy Spirit Church. The Township's Summer Concert Series has ended and he thanks all involved for putting everything together and he's sorry he didn't get to see the Dad Band perform.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Cavallo reports that the Township has been notified by the NJDEP that the Verona Water Utility was issued a Notice of Noncompliance for exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of PFOA in the water at the Fairview Well. The Township blends water purchased from Passaic Valley Water Commission with water supplied by the Fairview Avenue Well and the Linn Drive Well. Even though the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act allows water systems up to a year from the DEP issuing a Notice of Noncompliance for PFOA to design and build a treatment facility without having to take the system out of service, out of an abundance of caution the Township has removed the Fairview Avenue Well and the Linn Drive Well from service. The Township is now solely utilizing water purchased from the Passaic Valley Water Commission until such time as we remediate this issue. The Township Engineer is working with the utility consulting engineer to design and engineer a proper remediation system for both Wells. It is anticipated that the problem will be solved within a year. The Township is required to issue a Public Notice to all water users of the exceedance, although the Township is awaiting the approved notice from NJDEP and will get it the notice mailed out by the end of next week. Mr. Cavallo states that this does not seem to be just Verona dealing with this mater. Multiple water systems, especially those that distribute groundwater around New Jersey have been recently dealing or will be dealing with it as well in the very near future. Mr. Cavallo has asked John Jahr from Brightview Engineering, our Township Engineer, to be here this evening along with Jordan Volk, a water engineer with Colliers Engineering & Design to present what is known and what is being done to remediate PFAS and the related chemicals from the Township's wells.

Mr. Jahr stated he will complete a 12 month internal action plan for remediation for the Township Manager's review. He then will have Lyons Environmental, the Township's Licensed Water Treatment and Licensed Water Distribution System Operators, who will sign and submit the appropriate documentation to the NJ DEP. Mr. Jahr asserts that there are many other towns encountering the same problem. There is a need to create a structure at the Fairview well to house two (2) 6-8 foot cylinders to remedy the problem. There is already a structure usable at the Linn Drive well. A survey of the Fairview well needs to occur as soon as possible along with a site plan and soon after, put out an RFQ for a water engineer. Mr. Jahr also states that the cost to the Township of having the wells offline will amount to about \$3,000 per day. Mr. Volk states that I-Bank can be used to secure low interest funding.

Mr. Cavallo reminds the public to sign up for the Township's monthly electronic newsletter as well as AlertVerona.

COVID is spreading quickly in nearly all of NJ. – Unfortunately, this past week, Verona had its 1,000th reported COVID case since the start of the pandemic. We went several weeks without even one new case. As of today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends masks indoors in all but Warren County. The CDC recommends that everyone in the 20 counties – vaccinated and unvaccinated – should wear masks in public spaces indoors, based on new guidelines the CDC announced last week. The guidelines are a recommendation, and Governor Phil Murphy has not reinstated the indoor mask mandate that he lifted in May.

The National Weather Service Storm Survey Team has confirmed that an EF0 Tornado did indeed touch down in the Wayland Section of Verona this past Thursday evening. Fortunately no one was injured but several trees were knocked down causing damage to several homes. I would like to thank our first responders, Township staff and PSE&G for making the scene safe and secured quickly. If you have storm debris, you can begin putting it out at the curb for collection this week and DPW will be going around to pick it up.

The Verona Police Department has been made aware of two instances of vandalism at the Grove Avenue Park where unfortunately several houses on the Fairy Trail were destroyed. The Verona Police are obtaining video of today's act from a neighboring residence and are working to identify the suspects responsible. Anyone with information please contact Detective Joel Martin at (973) 239-5000.

The Planning Board Master Plan Committee has reviewed and scored the 11 proposals for the Re-Examination of the Master Plan. They are in the process of preparing a recommendation to be approved by the entire Planning Board at their regular meeting in August.

The Roadway Reconstruction project on Lynwood Road has started back up. We had a planning meeting today and we hope to begin milling and paving starting next week.

Ann Street, Cypress Avenue, Willow Terrace and Steven Avenue Natural Gas Replacement PSE&G is working to complete with gas main replacement. The main should be completely installed within the next two weeks and then they will move onto service replacement.

The Township professionals have prepared a draft Redeveloper's Agreement between the Township and the Redeveloper for Sunset Avenue Redevelopment Area. It will be discussed this evening in Executive Session with the hopes to approve it at the next meeting. The Redeveloper is anxious to get the process moving and is planning to submit the final plan to the Council this month and to the Planning Board by next month.

The 2021 Summer Concert Series was a great success. Within the next day or so we plan to post a survey online for people to give us their feedback on this year's concerts. We have rescheduled the Dad Band to perform at a concert that will be held on September 25. More information to come on this concert.

Mr. Cavallo expresses his sincere thanks to Investor's Bank for their generous donation of \$12,000 as the Primary Sponsor of this year's Summer Concert Series. I would also like to thank our other sponsors Hearth Realty, the Verona Chamber of Commerce, Verona UNICO, PKF O'Connor Davies, Verona PBA Local 72 and PSE&G.

National Night Out is TOMORROW – Tuesday, August 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the

Verona Community Center. Movie Under The Stars – Raya & The Last Dragon - Wednesday, August 18 at 8:00 p.m. outside on the Civic Center Lawn, 600 Bloomfield Avenue. September 11th – 20th Anniversary Remembrance Program – September 11, 2021 beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Essex County Surrogate’s Court National Make-A-Will Month Webinar – Join The Essex County Surrogate’s Court this upcoming Sunday, August 8 at 5:00 p.m. for a National Make-A- Will Month webinar about the importance of Wills & estate planning, featuring special guest speaker Harold Perrineau, award-winning actor and star of the Matrix franchise and ABC’s hit show Lost. Information on how to register is located on the Township Website.

John Rizzio, a Senior Maintenance Repair at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will be retiring as of September 1. Upon retirement, John will have worked for the Township for 31 years and 9 months. I thank John for his many years of service to the Township of Verona and wish him good luck in his retirement.

Mr. Cavallo states there are openings for a full-time Building Maintenance Worker at the Verona Community Center. Hours are Monday – Friday from 8am to 4pm. The Township is still looking for Site Managers to oversee the use of the Verona Community Center facility including the outdoor fields. \$15 per hour and you must be available nights and weekends and part-time bus drivers for our Senior Bus. Drivers are needed between 10-18 hours per week and there is still a need for additional School Crossing Guards and Part-Time Public Safety Telecommunicators. Please visit the Township Website for more information.

Deputy Mayor McGrath attended the last concert and thanks Investors, Township officials. She attended the opening of Compound Coffee Co. off of Grove Avenue. She thanks the first responders and township employees for their response to the tornado. The Shade Tree Commission will meet tomorrow at 5pm on Zoom. She and Councilman Tamburro met with the Township Manager and Steve Neale to talk strategic planning and a SMART goal will be ready for the next meeting. The Deputy Mayor states the water issues are a lot to take in and reiterates the importance that this Council is appraised of arising issue quickly.

Councilman McEvoy thanks those who helped with the Summer Concert Series and the sponsors, as well as Kris Gould. He also thanks the DPW, PD and first responders for their actions taken during the storm.

Councilman Tamburro congratulates Compound Coffee Co. and states the owners have great plans. He would like to recognize the municipal staff and volunteers for the storm response, especially Matt Cavallo. He congratulates Gail Sferrazza on her retirement after 24+ years. The Councilman encourages anyone with information on the vandalism on Grove Avenue to notify the police department. He and the Deputy Mayor met with Matt Cavallo, Chief Kiernan and Captain Wardrope and learned the needs of the police department and their necessities for the modern age. Finally, he hopes to see everyone at National Night Out tomorrow at the Community Center.

Councilwoman Holland reports that the entire Council had the honor of attending the ribbon cutting for the new Fairy Trail, which was a Girl Scout Gold Award Project and included the work of various troops in creating the fairy houses. Unfortunately, in less than a month, some of the houses have been destroyed. While that is upsetting, she is happy to say that many more people are interested in supporting the trail. Earlier today, she connected the Verona Environmental Commission, the Verona Library, and the Girl Scouts about a possible fall program. Hopefully, with planning, collaboration, and cooperation, this magical trail can be maintained for all to enjoy - even when some actively work against it. She reminds the public of the subcommittees discussed at the last Council meeting. The utilities subcommittee has met and, as stated on the 19th, Regulatory Compliance is a significant matter for the Township’s utilities and infrastructure, something that has not previously been a top priority, but must be - and she will speak further to that. It is her hope that a meeting for the subcommittee on Fire and Rescue will be scheduled soon. She is also serving on the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee, which will hopefully meet later this week. Relatedly, she serves as the liaison to our Recreation Committee, which held their meeting on July 20th, a day after the last Council meeting where some members of the public spoke about the need for recreation programs that are inclusive of the disabled community. This topic also came up during the recreation committee meeting. Different ideas were discussed, including programs for persons over the age of 20 and shared services with other towns. She states she believes more needs to be done here and she is happy

to serve as both the liaison to that committee and as a member of the DEI committee, because it provides an opportunity for Verona to make very positive changes toward being more inclusive. Recreation programs should serve all ages and abilities.

“Finally, circling back to my subcommittee comments, I want to address the water matter Mr. Cavallo raised in his manager’s report. As I said earlier, it is my opinion that regulatory compliance needs to be a top priority for this Township. As a mother, as a resident, as a utility and environmental attorney, and as a Council member, I was deeply disappointed to learn (on July 26) that DEP had to issue Verona a water quality violation. The action taken on July 26 - closing the wells and purchasing our water elsewhere was the right thing to do. Accordingly, **our water is safe to drink**. But I do think it is important for the citizens of Verona to understand that this action was a *reaction*. Despite over a year of testing and the lengthy rulemaking lead time from the DEP (which is all publicly available information), Verona had not taken the more cost effective, proactive, and protective measures before we fell out of compliance. Rather than paying then (in 2020), the choice was made (whether intentionally or unintentionally) to pay a lot more later. And that is likely what we’ll face, greater cost due to the delay and reaction -- *even* if we can avail ourselves of the no interest and principal forgiveness loans from the infrastructure bank (which were also available in 2020 as well). Cost is not merely a monetary thing. When people wondered why my campaign began the dialogue about utilities, infrastructure, and the need to have asset management plans in place to ensure necessary maintenance (to continue to provide quality service), it was precisely because I understood Verona was at a critical moment. We have work to do. I’m grateful to the people of Verona for electing me. I’m committed to helping us navigate this regulatory compliance matter to move Verona forward. I’m similarly committed to addressing the other areas that will also require attention in the utility and infrastructure space (including wastewater and stormwater). While I have the mandate from the voters of Verona to do this job, ensuring that our municipal utilities serve our community **safely** must be the priority of all of us here on the Council. I trust that we all agree and I’m eager to work with my colleagues to ensure we are *truly proactive* and **forward moving**.”

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-22**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$40,000 FROM CAPITAL FUND  
BALANCE FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
RECONSTRUCTION OF DERWENT AVENUE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP  
OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-22 by title into record.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-22 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Tamburro.

Public Hearing:

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-22 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

**ORDINANCE No. 2021-23**

**WATER & SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$40,000 FROM  
THE WATER & SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR ANALYSIS AND  
ENGINEERING COSTS REQUIRED IN REVIEWING WATER DISTRIBUTION ISSUES AT  
THE CLARIDGE PROPERTIES IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-23 is moved by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2021-23 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 16, 2021.

The meeting minutes from July 19, 2021 are unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

Robert Blitz, 12 Stonewood Parkway, Verona, New Jersey

Councilman Tamburro makes a motion to remove resolution K-7 from the consent agenda so it can be voted on separately. Unanimously agreed among the Council.

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-103**

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

**APPROVING CONTRACT CHANGE NO. 1 AND CONTRACT CLOSEOUT  
CONTRACT NO. 20-03B - RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITIONS (REBID-2)**

**WHEREAS**, All County Services, LLC and the Township of Verona have heretofore entered into an Agreement, more particularly known as Contract No. 20-03B - "Residential Demolitions (Rebid-2)" for the furnishing of labor, equipment and materials in the amount of \$160,008.00, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.*; and

**WHEREAS**, the original contract included allowances for the decommission of wells at \$1 each, decommission of septic at \$1 each, and decommission of storage tanks in the amount of \$1,000 each; and

**WHEREAS**, there were no wells or septic discovered during demolition and only two of the residential structures had storage tanks that required decommission; and

**WHEREAS**, final approval has been granted for the site grading pursuant to the Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Act, Chapter 251, P.L. 1975 and all demolition permits have been closed out by the Construction Code Official; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has prepared Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Close-Out for the within contract in an amount of minus \$2,008.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager/Qualified Purchasing Agent recommends that Contract Change No. 1 for the within contract and that the Contract be closed out; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Closeout do not expand the scope of the within contract and are in the best interest of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds for this contract, a copy of said Certification is annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit A.

**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 in the amount of minus \$2,008.00 for a final contract amount of \$158,000 be approved and Contract No. 20-03B be closed out; and

**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 and Contract Closeout for Contract No. 20-03B on behalf of the Township.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**EXHIBIT A**

**TO:** Township Council of the Township of Verona  
**FROM:** Matthew M. Laracy, CPA, CMFO, Chief Financial Officer  
**RE:** Certification of Availability of Funds  
**DATE:** July 27, 2021

This is to certify to the Township Council that funds for the above referenced contract are available.

**Contractor:** All County Services, LLC  
128 Little Falls Road  
Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009

**Contract:** CONTRACT NO. 20-03B - RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITIONS (REBID-2)  
CONTRACT CHANGE NO. 1 AND CONTRACT CLOSEOUT

Budget Account No.	Amount	Account Description
C-53-46-035-000	\$158,000.00	Ord # 2020-12

/s/ Matthew Laracy  
MATTHEW M. LARACY, CPA, CMFO  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-104**

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

**APPROVING CONTRACT CHANGE NO. 1 AND CONTRACT CLOSEOUT  
CONTRACT NO. 20-09 - DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES AT 860  
BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, VERONA, NJ**

**WHEREAS**, All County Services, LLC and the Township of Verona have heretofore entered into an Agreement, more particularly known as Contract No. 20-09 - "Demolition of Structures at 860 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ" for the furnishing of labor, equipment and materials in the amount of \$39,002.00, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.*; and

**WHEREAS**, the original contract included allowances for the decommission of wells at \$1, decommission of septic at \$1, and decommission of storage tanks in the amount of \$1,000 each; and

**WHEREAS**, there were no wells, septic tanks or storage tanks that required decommission; and

**WHEREAS**, final approval has been granted for the site grading pursuant to the Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Act, Chapter 251, P.L. 1975 and all demolition permits have been closed out by the Construction Code Official; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has prepared Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Close-Out for the within contract in an amount of minus \$1,002.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager/Qualified Purchasing Agent recommends that Contract Change No. 1 for the within contract and that the Contract be closed out; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Closeout does not expand the scope of the within contract and are in the best interest of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds for this contract, a copy of said Certification is annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit A.

**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 in the amount of minus \$1,002.00 for a final contract amount of \$38,000 be approved and Contract No. 20-09 be closed out; and

**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 and Contract Closeout for Contract No. 20-09 on behalf of the Township.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**EXHIBIT A**

**TO:** Township Council of the Township of Verona  
**FROM:** Matthew M. Laracy, CPA, CMFO, Chief Financial Officer  
**RE:** Certification of Availability of Funds  
**DATE:** July 27, 2021

This is to certify to the Township Council that funds for the above referenced contract are available.

**Contractor:** All County Services, LLC  
128 Little Falls Road  
Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009

**Contract:** CONTRACT NO. 20-03B - DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES AT 860  
BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, VERONA, N  
CONTRACT CHANGE NO. 1 AND CONTRACT CLOSEOUT

Budget Account No.	Amount	Account Description
C-53-46-035-000	\$38,000.00	Ord # 2020-12

/s/ Matthew Laracy  
MATTHEW M. LARACY, CPA, CMFO  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-105**

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

**REJECTING BIDS RECEIVED FOR CONTRACT No. 2020-07  
PROPOSED ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT F.N. BROWN SCHOOL &  
PROPOSED ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**WHEREAS**, on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the Township of Verona received bids for Contract No. 2020-07 - Proposed ADA Improvements at F.N. Brown School and Proposed ADA Improvements at Municipal Building; and

**WHEREAS**, three (3) bids were received from ZN Construction, A-Tech Concrete and Zenith Construction Services; and

**WHEREAS**, upon review of the bid submissions, it was discovered that the bid specifications contained a technical error in the form of discrepancy between the Plans and the Form of Proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the bids received substantially exceed the project estimate of \$178,230 and available funds for this project totaling \$195,000; and

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2* permits a contracting unit to reject all bids if the lowest bid substantially exceeds the cost estimates for the good or services or if the lowest bid substantially exceeds the contracting unit's appropriate for the goods or services.

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Resident Engineer, Glenn Beckmeyer, P.E. that the bids received for Contract No. 2020-07 be rejected and the plans and specifications revised and rebid; and

**WHEREAS**, Township Manager/Qualified Purchasing Agent, concurring with the Resident Engineer, agrees with the recommendation that all bids be rejected and the plans and specifications revised and rebid.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the bids received for Contract No. 2020-07 are hereby rejected, in accordance with the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2(a) and (b)*.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that that Township Manager is hereby authorized to revise and rebid the contract.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-106**

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

**AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE TO THE MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT  
WITH McMANIMON, SCOTLAND & BAUMANN, LLC FOR SERVICES AS  
SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL**

**WHEREAS**, on January 4, 2021 the Township Council passed Resolution No. 2021-18 appointing McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, 75 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, New Jersey 07068 as Special Legal Counsel at a rate not to exceed \$50,000 for the calendar year without further authorization by the Township Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Attorney and the Township Manager have determined a need for outside Special Legal Counsel to handle certain matters related to but not limited to land acquisition, litigation, and redevelopment matters which are expected to exceed the \$50,000 maximum contract amount set by Resolution 2021-18; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(1)(i)*) permits contracts for professional services to be negotiated and awarded by the governing body without public advertising for bids and requires that the resolution authorizing the award of a contract for professional services without competitive bids and the contract itself be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of the contract to McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* and the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form completed by McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC is annexed to Resolution No. 2021-18; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost for said professional services shall be set at a fixed hourly rates of ranging from \$125.00 to \$ 215.00 per hour for services plus the cost of reimbursable expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. 1-01-20-155-028, certain Capital Ordinances, Certain Escrow/Trust Accounts or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee, and the availability of funds which shall be certified by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township upon presentation of a property executed Purchase Order.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the maximum contract amount awarded to



McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, 75 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, New Jersey 07068 acting as Special Legal Counsel and shall be increased to a maximum amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the calendar year without further authorization by the Township Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township reserves the right to cancel this contract upon thirty (30) days' notice and McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC shall only be paid for the work completed; furthermore, no minimum amount of work or payment is implied or guaranteed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary for the aforementioned services a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Township Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-107**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MOTT MACDONALD, LLC FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE WATER/SEWER UTILITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has a need for an specialized engineering firm to handle certain matters related to the maintenance of the Water/Sewer Utility specifically related to the rehabilitation of the Primary Clarifier Pump Station at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the investigation into the removal of nitrates from the effluent at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and general engineering and permitting services; and

**WHEREAS**, Mott MacDonald, LLC, 111 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-4112 has the knowledge and expertise to complete the tasks required and has extensive experience with the Verona Water/Sewer Utility; and

**WHEREAS**, proposals have been received from Mott MacDonald, LLC for the engineering services related to the below projects as follows:

- Primary Clarifier Pump Station Rehabilitation
  - Preliminary Design/Final Design Phase & Bidding Phase
  - Not to exceed (NTE) \$106,800.00
- Evaluation of Nitrate Removal from Effluent
  - NTE \$27,500
- General Engineering & Permitting Services
  - NTE \$20,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer has recommended that that it would be beneficial to award these contracts to Mott MacDonald, LLC to provide engineering services; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available to award contracts for the services listed shall be shall be charged to the budget accounts or capital ordinances listed on the availability of funds, a copy of said Certification is annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit B.

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(1)(i)*) permits contracts for professional services to be negotiated and awarded by the governing body without public advertising for bids and requires that the resolution authorizing the award of a contract for professional services without competitive bids and the contract itself be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of the contract to Mott MacDonald, LLC is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* and the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution

Disclosure Form completed by Mott MacDonald have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit C; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Mott MacDonald, LLC, 111 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-4112 hereby authorizes contracts be awarded to Mott MacDonald, LLC for engineering services related to:

Primary Clarifier Pump Station Rehabilitation  
Preliminary Design/Final Design Phase & Bidding Phase - NTE \$106,800.00  
Evaluation of Nitrate Removal from Effluent  
NTE \$27,500  
General Engineering & Permitting Services  
NTE \$20,000,

without further authorization of the Township Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township reserves the right to cancel this contract upon thirty (30) days' notice and Mott MacDonald, LLC shall only be paid for the work completed; furthermore, no minimum amount of work or payment is implied or guaranteed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary for the aforementioned services a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Township Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-108**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH L&P INTEGRATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Township needed to upgrade the programmable logic controller (PLC) on the Linn Drive Well; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township received three quotes to perform this work; and

**WHEREAS**, Integrated Systems & Controls bid \$15,900, Shamrock Controls bid \$15,980 and L&P Integration ("L&P") bid \$14,900; and

**WHEREAS**, L&P, the vendor providing the lowest quote was awarded a Purchase Order in the amount of \$14,900 for the upgrading and programming of the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) on the Linn Drive Well because they were the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, in or around May, a flooding condition in the Claridge Tank control pit caused damage to the PLC at the Claridge Tank which required immediate replacement at a cost of \$9,500; and

**WHEREAS**, because L&P had successfully performed the upgrading and programming of the PLC on the Linn Drive Well they were chosen to replace the PLC at the Claridge Tank which required immediate replacement at a cost of \$9,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township needs to upgrade and program the PLC on the Fairview Avenue Well; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township received three quotes to perform this work; and

**WHEREAS**, Integrated Systems & Controls bid \$18,900, Shamrock Controls bid \$19,980 and L&P bid \$18,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer recommends that a contract be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsive bidder, L&P, in the amount of \$18,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager/Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services has exceeded \$17,500.00 but will not exceed the Township's bid threshold of \$44,000; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available to award contracts for the services listed shall be charged to the budget accounts or capital ordinances listed on the availability of funds, a copy of said Certification is annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit B; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of the contract to Patrick Dorsey DBA L&P Integration is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* and the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form completed by Patrick Dorsey DBA L&P Integration have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit C; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Patrick Dorsey DBA L&P Integration, 941 Home Grove Drive, Winter Garden, Florida, 34787 is hereby awarded a contract for providing upgrade and maintenance services of the SCADA system on the water distribution system not to exceed \$43,900.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary 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, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-109**

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

**ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF THE SFY21 BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Police Department has been awarded a grant in the sum of \$61,140.00 from the New Jersey Department of Law And Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General for the SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program – Award No. 21-BWC-490 for a period covering January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025; 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 SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant in the amount of \$61,140.00.

**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, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman**

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-110**

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

**REFUNDING TAX LIEN REDEMPTION**

**WHEREAS**, property located at 1 Claridge Drive #1004, Block 101 Lot 1 Qualifier C1004, owned by Robert Mautone, has been held in tax lien since December 3, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, payment was received, in the amount of \$14,961.43 from the PTCS Title Agency, LLC, clearing the lien as follows:

<b>Certificate #20-00002</b>	
Certificate	\$ 5,856.00
4% Redemption Penalty	\$ 234.24
Recording Fee	\$ 53.00
Search fee	\$ 12.00
2020 Taxes plus Interest	\$ 6,110.86
2021 Taxes plus Interest	\$ 2,695.33
Premium	\$22,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,961.43</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, \$36,961.43 to:

LSG TL Holdings LLC  
1985 Cedar Bridge Avenue  
Suite 1  
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Trust Check - LSG TL Holdings LLC - \$36,961.43 Certificate #20-00002

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-111**

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Mayor Roman 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.

- a. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation and Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*
  - Docket No. ESX-L-2705-21  
(Marie Simpson v. Verona)
  - Essex Fells Water
  - Water Utility - PFAS MCL Compliance
  - Potential PFAS Litigation
  - Verona Sunset Urban Renewal LLC Redevelopers Agreement

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-112**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BENECKE ECONOMICS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has a need for the planning, financial analysis, economic, and strategic needs of the development and redevelopment for the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Benecke Economics, previously conducted planning, financial analysis, economic, and strategic needs of the development and redevelopment for Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager/Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services will exceed \$17,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(1)(i)*) permits contracts for professional services to be negotiated and awarded by the governing body without public advertising for bids and requires that the resolution authorizing the award of a contract for professional services without competitive bids and the contract itself be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager has recommended that Benecke Economics, 8410 Sanctuary Boulevard, Riverdale, New Jersey 07457 be awarded a contract to continue said services for the Township, when necessary not to exceed \$35,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available to award contracts for the services listed shall be shall be charged to the budget account listed on the availability of funds, a copy of said Certification is annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit B; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of the contract to Benecke Economics is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* and the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form completed by Benecke Economics have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit C.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Benecke Economics is hereby awarded a contract for said services when necessary, not to exceed \$35,000.00 without further authorization of the Governing Body.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Determination of Value are to be placed on file with this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Township 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 Township Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN: Tamburro**

New/Unfinished Business:

The Council appoints Rachel Klansky to the Municipal Alliance Commission as a Public Member for a 3 year term expiring in 6/30/2024 by a voice vote of 5-0.

The Council then discusses the CPI and Chapter 402 of the Code of the Township entitled, Rent Regulations. The Township Manager will present an amended ordinance to the Council at the August 16 meeting.

Public Comment:

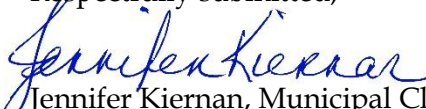
Kathleen Laterza, 810 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Adjournment:

Council enters into Executive Session at 8:47. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m. is made by Mayor Roman; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council is on August 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Alex Roman, Mayor

APPROVED: August 16, 2021