

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, beginning at 7:00 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 and TAPinto, 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 also present.

The purpose of this special meeting is for Council to discuss a drafted stormwater ordinance and enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation in regards to Affordable Housing litigation. Also present on the meeting is Victoria Lucidio of the Aloia Law Firm, LLC; Township Planner Chelsea Gleis of Benecke Economics, John Jahr, Principle of Brightview Engineering, the Township's appointed Engineering Company, Aaron Schragger of Brightview Engineering and Michael DeCarlo, Assistant Engineer of the Township of Verona.

Pledge of Allegiance

Proposed Resolutions:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-33

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; 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:

Erica Davila, [REDACTED]

Jonathan McElroy, [REDACTED]

Bob Blitz, [REDACTED]

Jeremy Katzeff, [REDACTED]

Allen Haynes, [REDACTED]

John Quattrocchi, [REDACTED]

George Manousos, [REDACTED]

Maria Squilanti, [REDACTED]

Daniel Callahan, [REDACTED]

Jessica Pearson, [REDACTED]

Executive Session:

Council enters into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and contact negotiations, specifically 1 Sunset Avenue. Bob Benecke and Chelsea Gleis of Benecke Economics, Joe Baumann of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann are present along with John Jahr of Brightview Engineering.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. is motioned by Deputy Mayor Roman; seconded by Mayor McEvoy. All in favor.

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan

Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Jack McEvoy

Jack McEvoy, Mayor

APPROVED: February 22, 2021