

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Wednesday, February 24, 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, 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 Victoria Lucidio of the Aloia Law Firm, LLC and Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk are present. Also present tonight is Joseph Baumann, Esq., of McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, Special Counsel of the Township of Verona.

The purpose of this special meeting is for Council to discuss ordinance 2021-01, which has been amended and therefore requires introduction.

Pledge of Allegiance

Proposed Ordinances:

ORDINANCE No. 2021-01-AMENDED

ADOPTING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN ENTITLED "THE SUNSET AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT AREA" PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-01 AMENDED by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-01 AMENDED is moved by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2021-01 AMENDED is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on March 8, 2021.

Public Comment on Proposed Resolutions:

Robert Blitz, [REDACTED]

RESOLUTION No. 2021-037

A motion was made by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath 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))
 - Settlement with Fair Share Housing Center

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Public Comment:

Jack Easley, [REDACTED]
Erica Davila, [REDACTED]
Daniel Callahan, [REDACTED]
Kevin Smith, [REDACTED]
Jessica Pearson, [REDACTED]
Jonathan McElroy, [REDACTED]
John Quattrocchi, [REDACTED]
Anne Studholme, Attorney representing First Ridge Alliance
Maria Squilanti, [REDACTED]
MaryAnn Maher, [REDACTED]
Daniel Callahan, [REDACTED]
John Quattrocchi, [REDACTED]
MaryAnn Maher, [REDACTED]

Executive Session:

Council enters into Executive Session at 8:51 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m. is motioned by Deputy Mayor Roman; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath. Vote: 5-0

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