

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, June 7, 2021, beginning at 7:04 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. 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 reports that Kmart is distributing the Moderna vaccine from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and Johnson & Johnson vaccines from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m., and Pfizer from 3 – 4:00 p.m. Walk-in are still welcome to adults wanting to receive the vaccine. Food distribution will be held in West Side Park on the South 13th Street entrance beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Coltre reminds the public to visit www.EssexCovid.org for testing locations. The Fishing Derby will be held in Verona Park for those 15 years of age and under on Wednesday, June 9. Registration is from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., fishing from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. and the award ceremony immediately following at 7:00 p.m. Fireworks will be at Brookdale Park on July 1 at dusk. The Essex County Summer Concert Series in on the Parks Department's website.

Mayor McEvoy reads a proclamation for Gun Violence Awareness Day.

As the Mayor's Designee for the Library Board of Trustees has resigned effective immediately, Mayor McEvoy appoints Ben Blinder, [REDACTED] to fulfill the unexpired term ending June 30, 2021.

Mayor McEvoy thanks all who joined in the Memorial Day Ceremony. He reports that the Pride flag raising ceremony was well run. He thanks the Public Library and Sustainable Verona (Green Team) for showing the film, "The Sacrifice Zone" about the Ironbound section of Newark and the impacts the garbage incinerator has on the community.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Cavallo reminds the public to sign up for the Township's Online Monthly Newsletter and ALERT VERONA. The last day to take advantage of early bird discount pricing for pool memberships during the 2021 Pool Season was this past Saturday, May 15. Registrations received from now on include a \$25 administrative fee. The Planning Board meets this Thursday and next Thursday. Ordinance No. 2021-14 an ordinance to amend the Sunset Avenue Redevelopment Area Redevelopment Plan requires consistency review with the Master Plan by the Planning Board prior to adoption. A special meeting of the Planning Board has been scheduled for Thursday, May 20 to review this Ordinance. Ordinance No. 2021-15 an ordinance to prohibit the operation of any class of cannabis business within the geographical limits of the Township requires consistency review with the Master Plan by the Planning Board prior to adoption. He expects this ordinance will be reviewed by the Planning Board at their regular meeting on Thursday, May 27.

Overnight parking permits are available by contacting the Police Records Bureau.

Single night overnight parking permission can be requested online at www.VeronaPolice.org by clicking the "Overnight Parking" tab.

Moody's has reaffirmed the Township's Aa2 Bond Rating on May 5. Mr. Cavallo states that new hardware for VTV has been backordered for almost a year now. It has finally been delivered. The technicians are coming in hopefully next week or the week after to get it up and running.

Mr. Cavallo states that as we enter into the Primary Election season, temporary signs (including political signs and construction signs) should not be placed in the public right of way. This is the area between the curb and the sidewalk or if the property does not have a sidewalk, the area adjacent to the roadway between the curb and any Township shade tree or utility pole. Any signs that are found to be in violation may be removed by DPW or Code Enforcement. In addition, no signs may be placed on public property including those of the Township, the County, the School District or the State.

The Verona Police Department Outreach Unit in Partnership with EZ Ride for a Bicycle Rodeo. Students will learn bicycle safety and participate in drills to learn new skills. The event will be held again this upcoming Sunday, May 23, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (time slots are assigned per age). More information can be found on the Police Department website or on the Township's webpage calendar.

The Summer Concert Series is returning to Verona this year. The dates are July 7th - The Dad Band - local musicians right from Verona; July 14th - Time Machine - NJ's premier party band; July 21st - Frontiers - Tribute to Journey and July 28th - Strawberry Fields - A journey through the Beatles

This year's Independence Day Fireworks are Wednesday, June 30th (rain date is Thursday, July 1st) at dark. National Night Out - Tuesday, August 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 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. School Crossing Guards and Part-Time Public Safety Tele communicators are also needed. Visit the Township Website for more information. The Township is also seeking applicants for summer employment at the Pool and within Summer Recreation. Contact the Community Center for more information.

Those volunteer members of our very important Advisory Boards, Commission and Committees whose terms end on June 30 will be notified by the Township Clerk by the end of next week of the upcoming expirations and asking them if they would like to be considered for reappointment after July 1. Anyone who is interested in serving on any of our Advisory Boards, Commission and Committees, please visit the Township Website for a complete description of what bodies we do have here in Verona.

On Tuesday, May 11, the Township received 11 proposals for the Re-Examination of the Master Plan. The responses now goes to the Planning Board Master Plan Committee for review and scoring. The Council will have an Ordinance on the next meeting's agenda to fund the Master Plan process.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor Roman states both the Memorial Day Ceremony and Progress Flag raising ceremony were both well attended and well organized. He comments that there were a lot of representatives from Essex County and Township Department Heads at the Progress Flag raising ceremony.

Councilman Ryan thanks the Environmental Commission and volunteers who attended the Peckman River clean-up last Saturday. He compliments those who took part in the Memorial Day Ceremony and raising of the Pride flag. The Councilman mentions he received a complaint from a resident who stated that painting the American flag on the grass is against flag protocol.

Councilman Giblin states that in regards to the Gun Violence Awareness proclamation, no one on the Council has done more for raising awareness than Councilwoman McGrath. As a leader with Moms Demand Action, Councilwoman McGrath, along with MDA have led a strong campaign to enact responsible gun laws. He also reports that a few weeks ago he attended the band concert behind HB Whitehorne middle school. He thanks all who invested in the music program and that the programs typifies the town as a whole to be creative in putting on events. Councilman Giblin states that he will be leaving the Council at the end of the month and hopes the next mayor can carry out a Mayor's Ball event since none have been held since 2014. He would like to see that fundraiser brought back.

Councilwoman McGrath thanks Kris Gould in organizing the Memorial Day Ceremony and the Boys

and Girl Scout troops who participated. She thanks everyone who helped put together the Progress Flag raising ceremony and praises the community who came together to make it a robust event. She echoes the Mayor's comments on "The Sacrifice Zone", adding that it was an eye opening presentation. The pool attendance almost hit 1,000 on Sunday. To date, she has heard only positive things. However, as the swim team is the crown jewel after the recreation basketball program, she was disappointed that the pool focused on the "A" team and not the "B" team this season. She thanks the Township Manager and Director of Community Services who announced a swim clinic so kids can take part. The Recreation Advisory Committee expressed an interest in knowing when the tennis courts at the pool would be fixed. She thanks the Mayor for the Gun Violence proclamation and Councilman Giblin for his kind words in his report.

ORDINANCE No. 2021-17

ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 156 "BLASTING" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-17 by title into record.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-17 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

Public Hearing:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2021-17 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2021-18

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REEXAMINATION AND UPDATE OF THE VERONA TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN AND ZONING CODE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$185,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$176,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-18 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-18 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Ryan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2021-18 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on June 21, 2021.

ORDINANCE No. 2021-19

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR UPGRADES TO THE 911 SYSTEM IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$245,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$233,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-19 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-19 is moved by Deputy Mayor Roman; seconded by Councilman Ryan.

ROLL CALL:

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

Ordinance No. 2021-19 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on June 21, 2021.

ORDINANCE No. 2021-20

**AMENDING CHAPTER 140 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC)
BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-20 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-20 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

ROLL CALL:

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

Ordinance No. 2021-20 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on June 21, 2021.

Township Manager Matt Cavallo recommends moving to the Consent Agenda as there is a resolution that needs adopting before introduction of the next ordinance on the agenda.

The meeting minutes from May 17th and May 24th 2021 are unanimously approved.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

None.

RESOLUTION No. 2021-082

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

**DESIGNATING VERONA SUNSET URBAN RENEWAL, LLC AS REDEVELOPER
OF THE SUNSET AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Redevelopment Law, on August 19, 2019 the Township Council ("**Township Council**") of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey (the "**Township**"), duly adopted Resolution No. 2019-140 designating the property identified on the tax maps of the Township as Block 303, Lot 4 (the "**Property**") as a "non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment" (the "**Redevelopment Area**"); and

WHEREAS, in order to effectuate the redevelopment of the Redevelopment Area, and pursuant to the authority granted under the Redevelopment Law, the Township caused Benecke Economics to prepare a redevelopment plan for the Redevelopment Area entitled, "The Sunset Avenue Redevelopment Area Redevelopment Plan" dated February 22, 2021 (the "**Redevelopment Plan**"); and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1*, et seq., as amended and supplemented provides for a procedure for Redevelopment Entities to enter into agreements with Redevelopers to carry out and effectuate the terms of a Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona is the Redevelopment Entity having the right to appoint a Redeveloper or Redevelopers of the Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona desires that the Redevelopment Area be redeveloped in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona received and reviewed the preliminary redevelopment proposal submitted by Verona Sunset Urban Renewal, LLC for redevelopment of Block 303, Lot 4 within

the Redevelopment Area (the “**Project Site**”); and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona has determined that the redevelopment proposal meets the Redevelopment Plan’s goal and objectives and is in the best interests of the Township; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

SECTION 2. The Township hereby designates and appoints Verona Sunset Urban Renewal, LLC as the Redeveloper of the Project Site for a period not to exceed 6 months from the adoption of this Resolution. If, at the expiration of 6 months, the Township shall not have authorized the execution of a redevelopment agreement, then the designation of Verona Sunset Urban Renewal, LLC as redeveloper of the Project Site shall terminate without the need for any other action by the Township to evidence same.

SECTION 3. If any part of this Resolution shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereby shall not affect the remaining parts of this resolution.

SECTION 4. A copy of this resolution shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Township Clerk.

SECTION 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-083

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM
OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE NJ DIVISION OF HIGHWAY AND TRAFFIC
SAFETY DISTRACTED DRIVING GRANT**

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the “**Director**”) may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has received \$6,000 from the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway and Traffic Safety Distracted Driving Program and wishes to amend its CY2021 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2021 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$6,000 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services –
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
Distracted Driving Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2021 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$6,000 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
Distracted Driving Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-084

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM
OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT**

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has received \$25,552.64 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the form of the Clean Communities Grant and wishes to amend its CY2021 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2021 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$25,552.64 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services -
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
Clean Communities Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2021 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$25,552.64 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
Clean Communities Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-085

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM
OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT**

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has received \$12,225 from the County of Essex in the form of the 2021 Municipal Alliance Grant and wishes to amend its CY2021 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2021 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$12,225 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services -
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
2021 Municipal Alliance Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2021 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$12,225 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
2021 Municipal Alliance Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-086

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

**AUTHORIZING A FIVE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE MORRIS
COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2021**

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)* permits the governing bodies of two or more contracting units to establish a cooperative pricing system whereby one participating contracting unit in the cooperative pricing system shall be empowered to advertise and receive bids to provide prices for all other participating contracting units in such system for the provision or performance of goods or services; and

WHEREAS, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council ("MCCPC") was created in 1974 to conduct a voluntary cooperative pricing system with municipalities, boards of educations, and other

public bodies located in the County of Morris and adjoining counties; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the MCCPC is to provide substantial savings on various goods and services to its members through the cooperative public bidding process; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona desires to renew an Agreement with the MCCPC, which is administered by Randolph Township as Lead Agency for the period five-years effective on October 1, 2021 and terminating on September 30, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the Township Manger and the Township Clerk to execute of a five-year membership renewal agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council by the Township of Randolph as Lead Agency pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)* effective on October 1, 2021 and terminating on September 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution, along with the executed Agreement, to Randolph Township as Lead Agency of the MCCPC.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-087

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

AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF ROSELAND TO PROVIDE STREET SWEEPING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, *N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.* (the "Act"), authorized local units of this State to enter into agreements with any other local unit or units to provide or receive any service that each local unit participating in the agreement is empowered to provide or receive in its own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona and the Borough of Roseland are desirous to renew an Interlocal Services agreement to provide Street Sweeping Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona and the Borough of Roseland have reached an agreement as to the terms and conditions associated with said agreement; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of both municipalities to enter into this Interlocal Services Agreement for the period beginning January 1, 2021 and terminating December 31, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Borough of Roseland to provide Street Sweeping Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Clerk of the Borough of Roseland.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-088

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

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees for the Board of Adjustment were received from Michael Nowicki, for the property located at [REDACTED] and the fees have been held in Trust; and

WHEREAS, certification has been received from the Engineer to release these funds, from Trust, as follows:

<u>ESCROW</u> <u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO</u> <u>BE REFUNDED</u>
\$500.00	\$117.00	\$383.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$383.00 to Michael Nowicki, [REDACTED]

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-089

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Roman; 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.
 - a. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation and Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*
 - Essex Fells Water
 - Municipal Agreement Reimbursement
 - Water Utility

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ORDINANCE No. 2021-21

**AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH VERONA
SUNSET URBAN RENEWAL, LLC FOR PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON THE
VERONA TAX MAPS AS BLOCK 303, LOT 4 PURSUANT TO THE LONG TERM
TAX EXEMPTION LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 ET SEQ.)**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2021-21 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2021-21 is moved by Councilman Giblin; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2021-21 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on June 21, 2021.

New Business:

Barbara Davis from the Land Conservancy Group is in attendance this evening to give a presentation the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Public Comment for the Open Space & Recreation Plan:

Bob Blitz, [REDACTED]
Jeremy Katzeff, [REDACTED]

A second public hearing on this topic will be held at the next Council meeting on June 21, 2021.

RESOLUTION No. 2021-090

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

OBSERVING JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the South and Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH!" combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth Flag commemorates the day that slavery ended in the US. The red, white and blue represents the American Flag, a reminder that slaves and their descendants were and are Americans. The star represents the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, do hereby acknowledge Saturday, June 19, 2021, as "JUNETEENTH" and urge all Verona residents to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in our Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Verona shall recognizes Juneteenth by flying the Juneteenth Flag in the Verona Civic Center from Wednesday, June 16, 2021 through Sunday, June 20, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Steve Neale, Director of Administration and Economic Development is in attendance tonight to give a presentation on the Essex-Hudson Greenway Project.

RESOLUTION No. 2021-091

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

IN SUPPORT OF THE ESSEX-HUDSON GREENWAY

WHEREAS, the Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc., a regional charity active in the development of parks and rail trails, has entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company to acquire the 8.63-mile rail right-of-way of the former New York & Greenwood Lake Railroad beginning at the point of abandonment in Montclair Township at Mile Post WD 11.6 (near Station 600+46), and lying within the municipalities of Montclair Township, Glen Ridge

DL042023

Borough, Bloomfield Township, Belleville Township, and the City of Newark in Essex County, and the Town of Kearny, the Town of Secaucus and to the point of abandonment in the City of Jersey City in Hudson County at Mile Post WD 2.9 (near Station 255 + 61) (hereinafter referred to as the 11 Old Boonton Right of Way); and

WHEREAS, the Old Boonton Right-of-Way, which averages 100' in width, passes through portions of 2 counties and 8 municipalities, including Verona, and will connect users to a myriad of schools, businesses, transit stations, and facilities providing a safe corridor of travel for students and commuters alike; the proposed Essex-Hudson Greenway ("Greenway") will provide new recreational and alternative transportation opportunities for residents of the towns within the Greenway, as well as the surrounding communities throughout the counties; and

WHEREAS, the design and construction of the Greenway will incorporate stormwater mitigation measures and green infrastructure designed to mitigate stormwater flooding and Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) overflows in the communities where such Greenway will be; and

WHEREAS, the project will provide Township residents, employees and visitors with safe bicycle connections to the communities, parks, colleges, commerce and other destinations along the route; ease local congestion on roads; and provide a close-to-home, inexpensive venue for regular outdoor exercise.

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 the Essex Hudson Greenway project through this act of resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council applauds the reuse of the Old Boonton Right of Way for the purpose of conservation and recreation and to enable the establishment and construction of a multi-use trail along the right-of-way to be known as the Essex-Hudson Greenway.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Public Comment:

Susan Redmerski, [REDACTED]

Sean DiBartolo, [REDACTED]

Susan Redmerski, [REDACTED]

Township Attorney Brian Aloia states a Councilmember has raised the issue of having Councilmembers-Elect participate in Executive Session be considered by the governing body. Mr. Aloia opines that should a majority of the sitting Councilmembers vote to invite the Councilmembers-Elect into Executive Session, they would be able to observe, but not participate. Councilman Giblin make a motion to allow it; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Roman

NAYS: Ryan, McEvoy

Council enters into Executive Session at 10:02 p.m.

Adjournment:

Council returns from Executive Session and a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m. is made by Councilman Giblin; seconded by Mayor McEvoy.

The next regular scheduled meeting is June 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan

Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Jack McEvoy

Jack McEvoy, Mayor

APPROVED: June 21, 2021