

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, October 18, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey and via Zoom video conferencing platform.

Call to Order:

Township Manager Matthew Cavallo 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. 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:

Councilwoman Cynthia Holland, Councilman Chris Tamburro, Councilman Jack McEvoy, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath and Mayor Alex Roman. Also present is Township Manager Matthew Cavallo and Township Attorney Brian Aloia. Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan is absent this evening.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Roman read a Proclamation for the Junior Women's Club thanking the charitable organization for work in Verona Fights Hunger Campaign to benefit local food pantries. Mayor Roman welcomes representatives from the Verona Junior Woman's Club to the lectern to speak. Co-president Amanda Mioli describes the club and its mission. Yvonne Nolan Co-President Verona Juniors also speaks about the Verona Fights Hunger Campaign. Naomi Gruchacz, club member speaks at the lectern about the logistics of the food drive and mentions local businesses supporting the food drive. Final event is October 23rd in the Civic Center. Deputy Mayor McGrath mentions the engagement with local businesses this year and thanks the dedication of the Junior Women's Club.

Mayor Roman mentions and invites the public to the Interfaith Service hosted by Reverend Jerry on Nov 21st 5:00 p.m. at OLL. All the faith leaders come together to participate at one service, the Mayor will be a speaker.

Claudine Pascale was invited to the lectern to discuss Safe Homes Month. Deputy Mayor McGrath makes a motion to move Resolution seconded by Councilman Tamburro. Ms. Pascale is happy to serve as the coordinator of the Verona Municipal Alliance Grant. Along with co-chairs Wendi Caplan-Carol and Rachel Klansky. The coordinator thanks the Council for support of VMAC whose mandates include combating underage drinking, mission is to celebrate compassion, character to support youths to make good choices. Programs are delivered through Verona Schools, including OLL. Peer Leader clubs support the Middle-School celebrate Red-Ribbon week next week focusing on living drug and alcohol free. Working closely with Detective Martin and VPD to support their programs in the schools and they in turn support VMAC. Family night is a town-wide favorite. It provides families the opportunity to slow down and talk. Safe Homes encompasses a message to secure firearms, matches, chemicals and alcohol, actively prevent underage alcohol and drug use, forbid bullying and evaluate computer phone and social media use. Parents are asked to sign a pledge. Visit website at VMACNJ.org. Special thanks to Council and Council liaison, Christine McGrath and members of the community. Deputy Mayor McGrath thanks Ms. Pascale for taking on the Coordinator position and to the new Chair and Assistant Chair. Thank you for a Family Night, discount for local businesses and Safe Homes are important especially during COVID. Firearm safety is so important. Any public members can join the VMAC meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Tamburro thanks Ms. Pascale for her leadership and encourages all to pay attention to what the organization is doing. Mentoring skills help students make good decision. Mayor Roman thanks Ms. Pascale.

Township Manager's Report

Township Manager, Matthew Cavallo states that an additional 21 COVID cases have been reported in Verona. COVID Tests and or vaccines can be obtained from the County at www.essexcovid.org or residents can speak to their primary care provider.

PFOA remediation. Five (5) proposals were received ranged from \$580,000 - \$1,100,000 for engineering and design work. Township has been in discussions with other water operators in area who are in the same positions. We are hoping to make project move quicker and brainstorming ways to make it happen.

There was a water main break at Franklin Street. The engineer's office is obtaining estimates to repair damaged roadway.

The Halloween House Decorating Contest, deadline is October 28.

Opioid Awareness Walk will occur on October 23 and is expected in Verona around 10 a.m.

Italian-American Heritage Month Flag Raising, if passed by Resolution tonight, will be in Civic Center on October 20 at 6 p.m.

Diwali Celebration is scheduled for October 27 at 6 p.m.

Landlord Tenant Information Session by Essex County Vicinage Superior Court will occur on October 21.

Minette's Angels Walk will occur on October 21.

The First Presbyterian Church's Trunk or Treat is October 24 and their Fish Fry on October 29.

Verona Library and Verona Women's Club is holding Fall-o-ween on Oct. 30.

All events are posted on the Township website.

Town Hall will be closed for Election Day, good luck to all running for office.

Township Manager updates the Council on elections in the absence of the Municipal Clerk. Beginning this fall, there are three ways to vote. Besides your regular polling place on November 2 and vote-by-mail or drop-box, you have early voting in person before the election. No matter where you live in Essex County you can vote at any in-person early voting machine. Closest locations are at the Essex County O'Toole Community Center Fairview Ave in Cedar Grove, Bloomfield at Watsessing Community Center, and West Orange New Education Center at South Mountain Recreation Complex in West Essex. There are sites in Fairfield, East Orange, Irvington and four in Newark. Early voting hours are October 23 through October 31 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday - Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., no appointment necessary. For more information go to vote.nj.gov a one-stop shop for voting information or essexboardofelections.com or call the board of elections.

Vote in-person at your assigned polling place on Election Day, November 2, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. The sample ballot will show your polling location. For information, please call the office of the Superintendent of Elections.

Drop box in front of municipal building will close and all drop boxes will close at 8 p.m. on election night. Ballots will be picked up.

Essex County has adopted a new, state-of-the-art, paper-ballot voting system, which offers the highest level of election security. When you arrive to vote on November 2, instead of the "full-face voting machine" you've been accustomed to, you will be issued a paper ballot, and asked to fill in the ovals next to the names of your candidates - similar to a standardized test in school, make marks heavy and dark. You will then insert your own ballot into the scanner, which records your vote electronically. We hope you will find it easy, there is a 3-minute video on EssexClerk.com to show people to use the system.

Sample Ballots have been mailed out. We urge all voters to please study their sample ballot. It will assist you in voting and save time on Election Day.

Polling hours -

Early Voting Weekdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Election Day 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Any registered voter who did receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot and who did not send it in may vote by Provisional Ballot at their assigned polling place on Election Day.

Lastly, when looking at your Sample Ballot, you will see a barcode by your address. To expedite the voting process, you should bring your sample ballot with you to vote. When signing in, simply scan that bar code and your voting information comes up, eliminating the wait for a poll worker to search the entire database for your name.

Councilmember's Reports

Deputy Mayor McGrath thanks the Environmental Commission for walk to school day and fellow Councilwoman Cynthia Holland and Forest Ave School for inviting her to participate. Thank you to the Council of SCA for food truck festival and raising money for school system. There was a cancelled meeting of Shade Tree Commission; unless the Manager knows otherwise it may not be rescheduled and they will meet in November. She thanks the Township Manager and Steven Neale for working with her for the first Breast Cancer Flag Raising Ceremony; thank you to Council members who came. Minette's Angels and Wings participated; they support women and breast cancer survivors. Thank you to Sustainable Verona for the West Essex Trail Park clean-up which she participated in. Highlights include a found wrench, large pipes and rusted cans including a can from Pathmark which isn't around anymore. The Councilwoman attended the League's Attorney General's briefing with Andrew Bruck. Interesting comments were made about issues the Town is having on community policing of minors on drug and alcohol offenses. That issue is on his radar in a strong way but no update is available on a way to go back to how we used to support parents in the drug and alcohol use of their children which they cannot have due to the new laws. They discussed scams with Ida and consumer protection scams. She advises residents to go to the Department of Consumer Affairs for information. The Deputy Mayor attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on the Essex County West Caldwell Technical School which she states was fabulous. The students were a pleasure, the future workforce is being trained there. Some are on a college track some on a job track. Congratulations to County Executive for what he has done there. Deputy Mayor McGrath attended a roundtable with Mikie Sherrill on Childcare challenges to prepare for her visit with the Vice President in Montclair to a local daycare.

Councilman McEvoy attended AFSP walk. Commended those who organize and obtain volunteers. It's a worthy cause. Thank you Deputy Mayor on the Breast Cancer ceremony. He learned a lot about local organizations. He encourages everyone to reach out to these organizations in time of need. This Saturday, the Festival of Bands is at 4 p.m. where a talented group of young adults battle each other. Encourages all to support this fundraiser. Verona Park Conservancy did a park clean-up. It was very well attended. He commends those who keep the park as clean as they do and thanks everyone who helped over the weekend. A Verona resident was honored by County. A plaque was given at the 2021 Legends Way, Mr. John Alati was honored. He did a lot for Verona and the County. It was given by the County Executive and the Board of Commissioners. He took great pride to help others and worked diligently to promote Italian American culture and history. He was the UNICO President he joined elevated the status of UNICO and Italian Americans nationwide. He thanks the County for the tribute. Councilman McEvoy pays his condolences for the passing of Pat Filoso. A longtime resident and generous individual will be greatly missed by the family and town of Verona.

Councilman Tamburro thanks Ken McKenna and Diane Broshy who represent Minette's Angels and Wings. There is information on cancer treatments on their websites or you may contact the Municipal Clerk. Councilman Tamburro encourages everyone to vote. It is important for Municipality and State. Voter turnout is relatively low and hopes the information in Township Clerk's report will help those to vote. Councilman Tamburro thanks Verona's SCA and League of Women Voters in the meet the candidate event for Board of Education election. Questions came from the public a great example of the democratic process. Councilman Tamburro thanks the Verona Junior Women's Club for Verona Fights Hunger week. Food insecurity is still there and should be addressed as grassroots events. He encourages the public to reach out to the Council for help and guidance for any other causes. Councilman Tamburro states advertisement will go out soon for Open Space Trust Fund Advisory meeting. Thanks Mr. Cavallo for putting it together. So many events reminds him of what he has missed over the past year. It feels very Verona. Thank you Councilman McEvoy for bringing up Festival of Bands. VHS crew goes on at 9pm although they are not competing because they are the home band. He echoes McEvoy's comments and offers condolences on passing of Pat Filoso. He was an incredible asset to the community and cared deeply about Verona. He recognized the passing of Colin Powel who along with Pat Filoso love the country and help to transform society and the system.

Councilwoman Holland shares sentiments about Townships events VEC held monthly meeting including discussion of various cleanups mentioned. They are holding their own clean up this Sunday, she encourages residents to participate. If you missed the previous two cleanups, attend this event. Councilwoman Holland acknowledges VEC who voted on and forwarded a recommendation to Council for an anti-idling Resolution. NJ does have an idling law in place but carbon emissions contribute to climate change and affect public health. Councilwoman Holland attended webinars on issues ranging from FEMA flood mapping, Master Plan reviews, Ida recovery and the same session as Deputy Mayor McGrath mentioned with Acting Attorney General, webinar with Congresswoman Sherrill and session on Nexus between Energy and Water Sewer Utilities. So much of information is available on a variety of topics. She encourages colleagues and interested members of public to avail themselves on these resources. It is tremendously helpful. Many of webinars are available for replay. Councilwoman notes Community need not noted is that 350,000 households in NJ received notice of overdue electric and gas bills. Department of Community Affairs is offering assistance to those in need of help to pay bills. If you received a letter from DCA do not throw it out. The State received a lot of Federal Aid \$375,000,000. The program eligibility has been significantly expanded to include more people. If you weren't eligible before you may be now. Moratoriums on overdue utility bills have been in place for an unprecedented period of time due to COVID. It cannot last forever. She urges those affected to apply for assistance.

Mayor Roman states that there are no Ordinances on the agenda for first or second reading but there is an additional Resolution on the agenda. He asks Township Attorney on whether it should be on consent agenda or take it up under new business. Counsel states there is no preference.

Mayor Roman makes a motion to add the additional Resolution to the consent agenda. It was seconded by Councilman McEvoy. Mayor Roman reads it by title.

APPROVING THE FACADE FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 2301, LOTS 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, A PORTION OF 18, AND 19 IN SATISFACTION OF CONDITION C OF THE PLANNING BOARD RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.

The Council unanimously voted to move it to the consent agenda. There were no objections or abstentions.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

Councilman McEvoy corrects scrivener's error in L1.

Robert Williams [REDACTED] on behalf liquor license Resolution. Agenda corrected with Watchung Saints

Councilman Tamburro states his appreciation of recognition of Italian American Heritage Month Deputy Mayor McGrath echo's Councilman Tamburro's comments and is pleased about the Flag Raising. She questions a revised Resolution about the grant what were essence of changes. The Township Manager states that prefix N.J.A.C. was added as a reference.

RESOLUTION No. 2021-133

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro and seconded by Councilwoman Holland that the following resolution be adopted:

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS SAFE HOMES MONTH

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona recognize that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society among persons of all ages; and therefore has an established the Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Verona Municipal Alliance Committee is a sponsor of Safe Homes, a program that empowers parents and guardians to create a community of people who have pledged to not allow underage alcohol and drug use in their homes and on their property and to provide secure storage places for firearms, matches, toxic chemicals and to monitor computer use; and

WHEREAS, parents could be held civilly liable for any incident arising as a result of serving or allowing alcohol to be consumed on their property; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey recognize November to be Safe Homes Month.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-134

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

RECOGNIZING ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Verona's Italian American community has contributed greatly to the cultural fabric and demographic landscape of this diverse city since its earliest days; and

WHEREAS, Italians began migrating to the United States in 1880, and today there more than 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the country; and

WHEREAS, Italian Americans make up the fifth largest ethnic groups in the country and the United States has been fortified by the talents and culture of its residents of Italian descent; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is home to a proud and vibrant Italian American community that has undoubtedly impacted culture and industry by influencing the arts and education, business and government, social service, and scientific and technological advancements near and far; and

WHEREAS, October has been designated Italian American Heritage Month to celebrate the cultural heritage, achievements, and contributions Italian-Americans have made in the Township of Verona and across the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona do hereby resolve that October 2021 be recognized as Italian American Heritage Month in the Township of Verona and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the many contributions of Italian-Americans. Furthermore, the Township of Verona recognizes Italian American Heritage Month by flying the Italian Flag in the Verona Civic Center during the month of October.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-135

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

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF NJ DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION GRANT - ANN STREET, CYPRESS STREET AND
STEVEN AVENUE**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has submitted and subsequently been selected to receive funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2020 Municipal Aid Program for the Reconstruction of Ann Street, Cypress Avenue and Steven Avenue in the amount of \$525,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township was notified of this award by letter from the Department of Transportation on November 21, 2019, then once again on February 13, 2020 with the executed agreements which were approved by the Department; and

WHEREAS, by its terms the "construction contract must be awarded by the municipality within 24 months from the date of the grant notification" which in this case is November 21, 2021; and

WHEREAS, based upon the pandemic the Township has fallen behind on the schedule construction contract and for the following reasons requires an extension; and

WHEREAS, Verona has experienced a severe financial and employment-staffing shortage as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these problems forced a delay in all of the capital projects which were awarded 2019 PY grants by both the NJDOT and the County of Essex through their Community Development Grant Block Program; and

WHEREAS, during the state of emergency declared by the Governor there were no heavy highway construction companies operating since most of their employees were on a temporary layoff and as a result all of our anticipated work originally planned for the 2019-20 construction season was forced to wait until the health care crisis started to ease and the work restrictions were lifted; and

WHEREAS, this project was further delayed because early this year PSE&G began replacing all of its high pressure gas mains and they continue to do this work which must be complete before the Township's road work; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Township is to wait for the completion of the work being performed by PSE&G then bid and award the extensive sanitary sewer and water main work which is required but not included within the Township's design documents sent to the NJDOT for review and approval by our design engineer Beckmeyer Engineering.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that based upon the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the pandemic, the Governors declaration of state of emergency (*N.J.A.C. 16:20B-6.2(c)1v*), and the resulting impact on all construction projects, followed by the need for PSE&G to replace the gas mains (*N.J.A.C. 16:20B-6.2(c)1.iii*), the Township of Verona hereby requests for a six month extension of their contract/agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in regards to the reconstruction and to bid and award the construction contract by May 21, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-136

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilwoman Holland 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
 - Potential PFAS Litigation
 - Kensington Senior Development

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-137

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

APPROVING THE FACADE FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 2301, LOTS 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, A PORTION OF 18, AND 19 IN SATISFACTION OF CONDITION C OF THE PLANNING BOARD RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2019, the Township Council for the Township of Verona (the "Township Council") adopted Resolution No. 2019-55, designating as a non-condemnation redevelopment area, as defined in the New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, *et seq.* (the "Redevelopment Law"), Block 2301, Lots 1 through 12 and 14 through 19 as shown on the Tax Map of the Township, commonly known as the "Depot and Pine Redevelopment Area," (the "Redevelopment Area"); and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 2019-16 the Township Council adopted a redevelopment plan for the Redevelopment Area entitled "Depot and Pine Redevelopment Area, Redevelopment Plan, Block 2301, Lots 1-12, 14-19, Township of Verona, New Jersey", dated April 22, 2019 (as may be amended and supplemented from time to time, the "Original Redevelopment Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Township and PIRHL Developers, LLC (the "Redeveloper") have entered into that certain redeveloper agreement dated January 9, 2020, which contemplates the donation of Block 2301, Lots 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16 to the Redeveloper in exchange for the construction of an affordable housing project thereon (the "Redeveloper Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 2020-04 adopted on February 24, 2020, the Township Council adopted a First Amendment to the Original Redevelopment Plan dated January 21, 2020 (the "First Amendment to Redevelopment Plan"); and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 2020-14 adopted on June 29, 2020, the Township Council adopted a Second Amendment to the Original Redevelopment Plan dated May 28, 2020 (the "Second Amendment to Redevelopment Plan") (the Original Redevelopment Plan, First Amendment to Redevelopment Plan and Second Amendment to Redevelopment Plan, collectively referred to herein as the "Redevelopment Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Township and the Redeveloper entered into a First Amendment to the Redeveloper Agreement dated September 3, 2020 (the "First Amendment"), which included Lots 17, a portion of Lot 18 and Lot 19 to the Project Area and amended the project description to provide for an affordable housing project consisting of not less than 95 units to be constructed on Block 2301, Lots 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, a portion of Lot 18, and 19 (as more specifically detailed in the Redeveloper Agreement and First Amendment, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Redeveloper applied to the Verona Planning Board (the "Board") for preliminary site plan, minor subdivision and bulk variance approval for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board held public hearings on the application on August 18, 2020, August 25, 2020 and September 1, 2020 and voted to approve the application; and

WHEREAS, one of the conditions of the Board's approval is that the Redeveloper coordinate with the Township Council per the Redevelopment Plan to address the Board's feedback regarding the building façade, including expansion of the cornice (the "Condition C"); and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2021, the Township Council reviewed plans entitled, "Verona Family Apartments, Tax Credit Submission," dated August 18, 2021, and consisting of five sheets, which were prepared by Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC (the "Plans"); and

WHEREAS, the Township Council, desires to approve the Plans in satisfaction of Condition C.

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 foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The Township Council hereby approves the Plans attached hereto as Exhibit A for Building A, with Buildings B and C to be substantially similar in color and materials, in satisfaction of Condition C.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2021-138

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

TRANSFER OF PERSON-TO-PERSON PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE TO WATCHUNG SAINTS, LLC

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License #0720-33-004-005 heretofore issued to MACARI SPIRITS, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the license business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby authorize the Municipal Clerk to approve, effective this, the eighteenth day of October 2021, the transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to WATCHUNG SAINTS, LLC, does hereby authorize the Municipal Clerk to endorse the license certificate to the ownership pursuant to State statute.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

New/Unfinished Business:

Stormwater Discussion

Township Manager states the MS4 permit was not posted to our website, but it is now. SPPP (Stormwater Pollution Protection Plan) plan in progress to renew MS4 permit due to expire next year. It is posted on the Stormwater Page on Website. Councilwoman McGrath inquires about status of fixing streets with money from bonding. Township Manager states that the streets are finished and came in \$4000 under contract. Added work was done on Claremont due to a storm drain hit that was created many years ago probably due to improper construction. Afterglow project contract received a credit. It will be closed at next meeting. The contractor has been paid. Reconciliation of the emergency will be performed and close out any unused parts.

Councilman Tamburro mentions he spoke to County liaison regarding Mount Prospect. He finds the response unacceptable that it just floods. It's not a Township road. This has been reported multiple times with respect to ice, there have been multiple accidents. In addition to local streets, advocate to state and county roads when planning. Mayor Roman agrees and wants to get beyond the answer of it just floods. Township cannot be totally regraded but if there is a possibility to resolve it, figure it out. The county has always worked with the Township but hopes to advocate to get it into the County budget.

Councilwoman Holland wished to add Bloomfield Avenue to the dialogue. A NJDEP meeting has been scheduled and hopefully the kickoff meeting will be one of several.

McEvoy echo's Tamburro regarding Mount Prospect and mentioned a resident he spoke to who had flooding again in his basement and is struggling to afford it. Responsibility for the piping underground that crosses Mount Prospect and empties behind Annin. Debris was washed into piping and responsibility for cleaning it out needs to be put on the list. He suggests that it is a possibility that the Township should perform it and get reimbursed by the County. Discussion on proper equipment and the system that dump into the system may be the responsibility of others. A list of future projects should be addressed by Council even if it's only one (1) project for 2022. Councilwoman Holland states a plan should be thoughtful and well planned for incremental progress. Deputy Mayor McGrath states nonprofits cannot write a check for families and how to come together to support the families.

Goals:

DEI: Deputy Mayor McGrath states meeting with 15 members, 3 groups gave a mission statements. They were evaluated for commonalities. The mission statement is being developed. She states it would be nice to have the committee present at next council meeting.

Councilman Tamburro states Police Building Subcommittee is scheduled to meet with architect to review options.

Public Comment: (via Zoom)

- Mr. Alex Muniz, [REDACTED] - comment of flooding/creek
- Mr. Kevin Ryan, [REDACTED] - Lakeside Ave/Verona Park water issue
- Mr. Sean DiBartolo, [REDACTED] - BOA meeting not being on Zoom

Mayor Roman closes Public Comment and discussion on public comments.

Before Council enters into Executive Session, Mayor Roman states that the Council may re-enter Public Session to take official action. Council enters into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

The Council returned into Open Session.

RESOLUTION No. 2021-139

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

AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AND KENNEDY & MADONNA, L.L.P. AND ITS ASSOCIATED LAW FIRMS

WHEREAS, there exists the need for the Township of Verona to obtain professional legal

services related to responsibility for the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") in the Township's drinking water supplies and related professional legal services; and

WHEREAS, it is agreed that Kennedy & Madonna, L.L.P. and its associated law firms will provide professional legal services; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Chief Financial Officer need not certify that funds are available for this purpose because Kennedy & Madonna, LLP and its associated law firms will represent the Township of Verona on a contingency fee basis and will cover all litigation costs at no risk to the Township meaning that if the litigation is unsuccessful, the Township will not be responsible for any costs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" must be available for public inspection;

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

SECTION 1. The Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Kennedy & Madonna, L.L.P. and its associated law firms for professional legal services related to responsibility for the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS") in the Township's drinking water supplies and related professional services in the form attached hereto.

SECTION 2. This contract is awarded as a "Professional Service" in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11- 5(1)(a)* of the Local Public Contracts Law because the contract is for a service performed by a person(s) authorized by law to practice a recognized profession that is regulated by law.

SECTION 3. A notice of this action shall be printed once in the legal newspaper of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman


NAYS:

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. is made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council is on November 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Matthew Cavallo, Township Manager


Alex Roman, Mayor

APPROVED: November 8, 2021