

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, February 28, 2022, 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:

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 in-person and via Zoom video conferencing. 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 Alex Roman, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath, Councilman Jack McEvoy, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland and Councilman Chris Tamburro, Township Manager Joe D'Arco, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Roman announces that Verona Girl Scout Troops 20515, 20528 and 20915 are present tonight as we celebrate the Girl Scouts of America's 110 year anniversary. The Mayor invites the Troops to lead the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Roman then reads a proclamation proclaiming March 12, 2022 as Girl Scout Day in the Township of Verona.

Mayor Roman holds a moment of silence for the Ukraine conflict and asks everyone to please say a silent prayer for peace in Ukraine and those lost and pray for the safety of the families suffering through this tragic time. Mayor Roman reports that last Sunday the Council visited 4 local businesses: Jack's Café, for their 25th anniversary, and three (3) new businesses holding grand openings: Anderson Flowers, Pretty Moon Salon and Umai Sushi and Steakhouse. He compliments the impressive level of investment towards the buildings they hold their business in.

Essex County Liaison, Julius Coltre states that the County is still testing for Covid and administering vaccines at Kmart in West Orange and Essex County College in Newark. The hours are now Tuesday through Friday, 2pm - 7pm, Saturday from 8am - 2pm. There are summer job openings in the County's Parks Department at the Turtle Back Zoo and mini golf.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joseph D'Arco reports that he met with the staff of the Montclair Health Department and confirmed that he will be receiving reports on a monthly basis going forward. Both the PBA and OPEIU contracts are continuing to be negotiated. Mr. D'Arco met with the Township Engineer and Township employees to begin work on the Peckman River erosion and clean-up. The DEP Emergency Permit was applied for and currently Mr. D'Arco has asked the Tax Assessor to determine the responsibility of the Right of Way and Mr. D'Arco and the Township Attorney will prepare a letter to send to the owner of Ferrante Press. Mr. D'Arco also met with Bright View Engineering to discuss PFAS water treatment, Claremont Avenue traffic patterns, the waste water treatment facility and the water system for Claridge II.

Mr. D'Arco invites Director of Administration & Economic Development, Steven Neale to the lectern. Mr. Neale gives a presentation on the Community Garden and invites Carol Thomas, Community Garden Manager to the lectern to update the Council on this year's plans.

Councilmembers' Reports:

Deputy Mayor McGrath thanks the Mayor for his words on the Ukraine crisis. She applauds Verona's efforts in supporting the Gebbia and Cappello families. She wishes Daria and Dominic well and a speedy recovery. She states that tonight the governing body will be voting on a resolution to urge the legislature to swiftly pass Senate Bill 330 which is to restore energy tax receipts to municipalities. Since 2002 the NJ State Legislature, with the consent of multiple governors of both political parties have diverted funds from local municipalities that should have been provided to the Township. She states this diversion has totaled \$14 billion dollars. Verona's estimate of money that's been diverted by not giving us our full energy tax receipts has approached \$13.6 million dollars, \$1.2 million of that for last year alone. She is excited to vote on tonight's resolution in support of asking the Senate to quickly pass this legislation. She welcomes and congratulates all the new businesses in town and congratulates Jack's Café on their 25 year anniversary. She reports that the Shade Tree Commission is looking into a digitalized map of the shade trees in Verona. Family Night will be March 10th. The Green Team will be Wednesday at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Councilman McEvoy states that he and Councilman Tamburro met with H2M, the consultants for the Master Plan. He looks forward to meeting with businesses and residents at the end of March and reminds the public the Master Plan survey is still online. He congratulates the police department on their new sign.

Councilman Tamburro attended the fundraiser for Dania and Dominic Friday at Avenue Bistro. He commends Verona Strong for their efforts. The group started during Covid to support the first responders. The Councilman also reports that he had a conversation with the Township Manager regarding his concerns with the Health Services agreement. He was satisfied after speaking with Mr. D'Arco and appreciates his expertise. He states that the Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee met and Mr. D'Arco attended the meeting as well. The Committee looks forward to make recommendations for grant funding. Councilman Tamburro also thanks the Police Chief for his presentation to the Committee on auto theft in Verona. Mr. Tamburro accepted an invitation from Forest Avenue School to join them for Read Across America this coming Wednesday. He mentions that tomorrow begins Women's History Month. He wishes to recognize Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath and Councilwoman Cynthia Holland for making history in serving the Township and is proud that the Girl Scouts have two shining examples in this room tonight.

Councilwoman Holland thanks the Mayor for recognizing that moment of silence for the people of Ukraine as well as recognition of the Russian people on both sides of this that strongly oppose it. She also thanks the Deputy Mayor for mentioning the energy tax receipts resolution. Although she will abstain from this evening's resolution she states it is important and she has advocated on many occasions for Verona to benefit from available funds. She attended the Verona environmental commission meeting as well as the Verona Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. She is looking forward to the spring sports as well as the Township Summer Program announcements which is the Recreation Department's Summer Camp Playground Program. She met with Mr. D'Arco and a resident who's very concerned about disability accessibility to these programs. Councilwoman Holland looks forward to Verona having more accessibility of these programs and welcoming and including the disabled population in our recreation programs more fully. Councilwoman Holland will also be attending the Forest Avenue School's Read Across America Week and will be reading to the second graders. She thanks Forest Avenue School for inviting her to read to the students and explains that more than anything, it was exciting to be invited because it means she would be allowed in the school and parents have not been allowed in the schools since the beginning of Covid, so the idea of reading to her daughter's class and all of her co-students in the classroom is particularly meaningful to her.

Hearing Adoption or Amendment Ordinances:

ORDINANCE No. 2022-06

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,250,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND OTHER COSTS TO PROVIDE FOR AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,250,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF AND AMENDING THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SET

**FORTH IN BOND ORDINANCE #2020-12 OF THE TOWNSHIP FINALLY
ADOPTED JUNE 8, 2020**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-06 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-06 is moved by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Mayor Roman.

Public Hearing:

None.

Council discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2022-06 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-07

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, COUNTY OF ESSEX,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-10, RE-
AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP'S ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM**

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2022-07 is moved by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

Ordinance No. 2022-07 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held at the March 21, Council Meeting.

Minutes from the February 7, 2022 Meeting is approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

George Kozachuck, 100 Morningside Road, Verona, New Jersey

RESOLUTION No. 2022-047

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

TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20* provides that, in addition to temporary appropriations necessary for the period prior to the adoption of the budget and regular appropriations, the governing body may make emergency temporary appropriations for any purposes for which appropriations may lawfully be made for the period between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the budget for the current fiscal year and the date of the adoption of the budget for the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the amount of such emergency temporary appropriations shall be included under corresponding headings in the budget as adopted or, if such appropriations are adopted after the introduction and approval of the budget and were not included in the budget as approved such appropriations shall be included by amendment in the budget as adopted without public advertisement or public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Township has deemed certain emergency temporary appropriations to be necessary and such appropriations are conforming to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20* an emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for:

Current Fund:	\$ 2,750,000
Water and Sewer Utility:	\$ 650,000
Swimming Pool Utility:	\$ 150,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2021 Budget under the title of same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby directed to file a certified copy of the resolution with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-048

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

**AUTHORIZING A RENEWED SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTCLAIR FOR HEALTH SERVICES
FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2022-2025**

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 has previously entered into a Shared Services Agreement for Local Public Health Services with the Township of Montclair which expired on December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montclair has provided a proposal to continue to provide Local Public Health Services to the Township of Verona as follows:

- \$21,526 per calendar quarter (\$86,104 per calendar year) in 2022;
- \$22,602 per calendar quarter (\$90,408 per calendar year) in 2023;
- \$23,732 per calendar quarter (\$94,928 per calendar year) in 2024;
- \$24,919 per calendar quarter (\$99,676 per calendar year) in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona and the Township of Montclair are desirous to enter into a renewed Shared Services agreement for the furnishing of Local Public Health Services by the Township of Montclair for a period of four (4) years beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, either party may withdraw from this Agreement by complying with the procedure set forth in *N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-12*; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of both municipalities to renew this Shared Services Agreement.

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

1. The preamble to this Resolution is hereby incorporated as if more fully set forth herein.

2. The Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Montclair for the furnishing of Local Public Health Services by the Township of Montclair for a period of four (4) years beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2025.
3. The Township Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Township Manager and Acting Health Officer of the Township of Montclair.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-049

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

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH
WINDWARD CONSULTING**

WHEREAS, the Township owns certain real property located at 11 Ozone Avenue known as Block 1201, Lot 4 in the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Property is utilized for waste water treatment, storage, and municipal offices; and

WHEREAS, the Owner of the property located at 271 Grove Avenue, known as Block 1201, Lot 11, Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey (hereinafter "Property"), which is known as the former Radiac Abrasives Inc. Site, is obligated to remediate certain contamination on the Property which is adjacent to the northeast of the Township Property; and

WHEREAS, the Owner has undertaken environmental remediation activities on the Property through the direction of a retained Licensed Site Remediation Professional ("LSRP") and review by the New Department of Environmental Protection designed to address contamination on the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Owner is required under applicable NJDEP regulations to investigate the extent of potential migration of contaminants beyond the Property boundaries which specifically require the Owner to undertake remediation activities consisting of groundwater investigation and monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the Owner has requested to install groundwater monitoring wells on the Township's property and has requested that the Township provide temporary access to portions of the Township Property for the limited purposes set forth in the attached Agreement and for no other purposes whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, the Owner desires to enter onto the Township Property consistent with the terms of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey hereby authorizes the Township Manager to execute and the Municipal Clerk to attest to the execution of the attached Access Agreement.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-050

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

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH MILLENNIUM STRATEGIES

FOR GRANT CONSULTANT SERVICES

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary for the Township of Verona to engage the professional services of a Grants Consultant for the year 2022, to provide services for the proper operation of the Township; 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, funds to pay said professional persons are available by way of budget to compensate said Grants Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the compensation for said professional services shall be \$130/hour for grant writing services and a \$650 monthly retainer fee/portal access and this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. 2-0120-100-126, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee, and the availability of funds have been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township pending approval of the 2022 Budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Grants Consultant for the year 2022 is hereby designated as Millennium Strategies, 60 Columbia Road, Building B, Suite 230, Morristown, New Jersey 07960.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of the contract to Millennium Strategies 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 Millennium Strategies are annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit B; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that Township Manager and Township Clerk are authorized to enter into a professional services contract for this appointment; and

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-051

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

**AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL TO PROVIDE PLANT WATERING**

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 Caldwell are desirous to enter an Interlocal Services agreement to provide flower basket watering; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona and the Borough of Caldwell 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 on or around May 27, 2022 and terminating on September 5, 2022.

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-052

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

APPOINTING A PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

WHEREAS, *N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5* requires a municipality to designate an officer or employee to serve as its Public Agency Compliance Officer; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Township Manager, Joseph O. D'Arco, shall serve as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that in pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5* the Township Manager, Joseph O. D'Arco, is hereby designated as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Township of Verona.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Public Contract Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance Monitoring Program.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-053

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

**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE'S TO THE ESSEX COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that Joseph O. D'Arco Township Manager and Steven Neale, Director of Administration & Economic Development are hereby appointed to serve as the Township's representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for the year 2022.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-054

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

REFUND TAX COURT JUDGMENT

WHEREAS, notification has been received from the Tax Court reducing the assessment

on property located at 799 Bloomfield Avenue owned by GAHC3 Verona NJ MOB, LLC Block 1602 lot 8 as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessment Reduced</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Refund</u>
2020	376,400.00	2.864	10,780.10
2021	376,400.00	2.957	11,130.15
Total Refund		\$21,910.25	

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund \$21,910.25 to:

Sitar Law Offices, LLC
 1481 Oak Tree Road
 Iselin, NJ 08830

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-055

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

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from Kensington Senior Development, LLC, for property located at 420 Bloomfield Avenue 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:

ESCROW AMOUNT	EXPENSES	AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED
\$8,000.00	\$5,846.75	\$2,153.25

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, \$2,153.25 to Kensington Senior Development, LLC, 11921 Freedom Drive, Suite 950, Reston, VA 20190

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-056

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

REFUNDING TAX LIEN REDEMPTION

WHEREAS, property located at 105 Elmwood Road, Block 907, Lot 23 owned by 105 Elmwood Road, LLC, has been held in tax lien since December 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, payment was received, in the amount of \$18,978.19 from the RealSafe Title, LLC, clearing the lien as follows:

Certificate #21-00002	
Certificate	\$ 6,969.89
4% Redemption Penalty	\$ 278.80
2021 Taxes plus Interest	\$ 9,618.25
6% Year End Penalty	\$ 600.13
2020-2021 Utilities plus Interest	\$ 1,444.12
Recording Fee	\$ 55.00
Search Fee	\$ 12.00
	\$18,978.19
Premium	\$83,000.00
Total	\$101,978.19

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, \$101,978.19 to:

FNA DZ, LLC FBO WSFS
120 N. LaSalle Street
Suite 1220
Chicago, IL 60602

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-057

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

OBSERVING IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

WHEREAS, Irish men and women began migrating to the United States since the founding of our nation, and today there more than 30.4 million Americans of Irish descent in the country; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans make up the second largest ethnic groups in the country and the United States has been benefited greatly by residents of Irish descent; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is home to a proud and vibrant Irish American community that has undoubtedly impacted business and government, our public safety, education, culture and industry, and social service; and

WHEREAS, March has been designated Irish American Heritage Month to celebrate the cultural heritage, achievements, and contributions Irish-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 March 2022 be recognized as Irish American Heritage Month in the Township of Verona and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the many contributions of Irish-Americans. Furthermore, the Township of Verona recognizes Irish American Heritage Month by flying the Flag of Ireland in the Verona Civic Center for the month of March.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-058

A motion was made by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Deputy Mayor 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.
 - a. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation and Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*
 - i. Claridge House Water
 - ii. PBA Negotiations
 - iii. Outfront Media
 - iv. Land Acquisition
 - v. Shared Services
 - b. Personnel Matters pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*
 - i. MIAAC
 - ii. Andrew Kinsey, Esq., Presentation

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-059

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

URGING THE SWIFT PASSAGE OF S-330 WHICH RESTORES ENERGY TAX RECEIPTS

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

WHEREAS, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties, and other entities, the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, for years, though, State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of dedicated energy tax receipts to the State's General Fund further jeopardizes this critical property tax relief funding in future years; and

WHEREAS, by reducing Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA), which is also comprised of revenues that should be returned to municipalities, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Senator Singleton and Senate President Scutari have introduced legislation (S-330) that will restore, over a five-year period, Energy Tax Receipts to municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex New Jersey urges the Legislature to swiftly pass this legislation and Governor Murphy sign the legislation prior to passage of the FY2023 State budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Senator Joseph Pennacchio, Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce, Assemblyman Jay Webber, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, and the League of Municipalities.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Holland

RESOLUTION No. 2022-060

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

**APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3a AND N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 ET SEQ.**

WHEREAS, *N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et. seq.* establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Steven Neale, Director of Administration & Economic Development possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et. seq.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey hereby appoints Steven Neale as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Township of Verona to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(30)*, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the contracting unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council hereby also authorizes the bid threshold up \$25,000 or the threshold set by the Governor of the State of New Jersey pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(c)*, which is \$44,000 for the current year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in pursuant with *N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2* the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Steven Neale's certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2022-061

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

**APPOINTING COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER
TO THE NJ INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSURANCE FUND**

FOR THE 2022 YEAR

WHEREAS, each municipality that is a participant in the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund is required to appoint a commissioner to the Fund as well as an Alternate Commissioner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey hereby appoints Township Manager Joseph O. D'Arco as the Fund Commissioner and Steven Neale, Director of Administration & Economic Development as Alternate Commissioner to the NJ Intergovernmental Insurance Fund for terms ending December 31, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

New Business:

Council discusses stormwater management and sub committees.

Public Comment:

George Kozachuk, 100 Morningside Road, Verona, New Jersey
Howard Conklin, 247 Grove Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Mayor Roman states that Council will be entering into Executive Session and will official action when returning to Public Session. Council enters into Executive Session at 10:26 p.m.

Council returns into Public Session at 11:24 p.m.

Council Appointments

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee (MIAAC) | |
| a. Maura Barrett | Term Ending 12/31/2022 |
| b. Carla Buglione | Term Ending 12/31/2022 |
| c. Kathleen Francis | Term Ending 12/31/2022 |
| d. Michele Gruet | Term Ending 12/31/2022 |
| e. Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez | Term Ending 12/31/2022 |
| f. John Vajda | Term Ending 12/31/2022 |
| g. Verena Mikhael – Student Member | Term Ending 12/31/2022 |

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilman Tamburro at 11:51 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council is March 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Alex Roman, Mayor

APPROVED: March 21, 2022