

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, July 25, 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 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 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.

Roll Call:

Mayor Alex Roman, Councilman Jack McEvoy and Councilwoman Cynthia Holland are present. Township Manager Joe D'Arco, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present. Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath and Councilman Christopher Tamburro are absent.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Roman reports that he has seen the draft of the Master Plan and that the Planning Board will hold special meetings on August 9 and August 16 in regards to the Master Plan. The last of the Verona Summer Concert Series will be held Wednesday in the Civic Center. Epic Soul will play and he thanks Investor's Bank and PKF O'ConnorDavies for their sponsorship. The Mayor also reports that Police Dispatcher Nancy Nugent and Officer Justin Nielsen have resigned their positions in Verona. He wishes them well in each of their new positions. He also congratulates newly appointed Planning Board Chairperson, Jessica Pearson.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joe D'Arco states that Jaime Placek from the DeCotiis Law Firm and Fran Reiner from DMR Architects are present this evening to discuss the Town Center Mixed Use Zoning Ordinance which is part of the Township's obligation to satisfy the settlement with Fair Share Housing Center. Councilman McEvoy recuses himself from the discussion but remains in the public session. Councilwoman Holland expresses her concerns on certain provisions of the ordinance, particularly the parking deck and access from the side street, which are flagged in the current Master Plan. Mr. Placek advises the Council that there are some council members who were not elected officials when the Council, at that time, agreed to the terms of the settlement agreement and therefore their future has been dictated for them.

Mr. D'Arco invites Temporary CFO Jennifer Muscara to the lectern to present an overview of the Community Pool, it's debt as a self-liquidating utility, the 2023 and 2024 budget for the pool utility and the splash pad. There is discussion about the pool membership rates going forward.

Mr. D'Arco invites Zoning Officer Michael DeCarlo to the lectern to give the governing body an update on tree removal permits to date.

Mr. D'Arco appoints Roseann Bornstein as Manager's Designee to the Verona Municipal Alliance Committee. The Designee's term runs for the tenure of the Township Manager.

Councilmember's Reports:

Councilman McEvoy reports that the last summer concert is this Wednesday. The Chamber of Commerce's Community Market will reopen in September. The Historical Preservation Commission sent letters to properties on their survey for historic designations. He congratulates the new chairperson of the Planning Board as she is the first woman to serve as Chair on that Board.

Councilwoman Holland reports she attended the Environmental Commission's meeting and announces that they will not meet in August. She compliments the Recreation staff for keeping the summer programs going through the heat wave. This week she attended the MIAAC meeting in place of the Deputy Mayor and reminds those residents facing challenges with their utility bills that a utility company cannot shut off their utilities for non-payment and urges those who need assistance to work out a payment plan with their

utility company.

Hearing Adoption or Amendment Ordinances:

ORDINANCE No. 2022-21

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA TO ADD CHAPTER 525 "SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY" TO REGULATE SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITIES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-21 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-21 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

Ordinance No. 2022-21 is adopted 3-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 8, 2022.

ORDINANCE 2022-22

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA WITH THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION TITLED CHAPTER 150 ZONING ARTICLE XXIV WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-22 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-22 is moved by Mayor Roman; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

Ordinance No. 2022-22 is adopted 3-0 and will be sent to the Planning Board to determine consistency with the Master Plan.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-23

AMENDING CHAPTER 519 WATER AND SEWERS, ARTICLE IV SEWERS, TO PROHIBIT SUMP PUMP DISCHARGE INTO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-23 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-23 is moved by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

Ordinance No. 2022-23 is adopted 3-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 8, 2022.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-24

CREATION OF CHAPTER 470 SUMP PUMP REGULATIONS

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-24 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-24 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

Ordinance No. 2022-24 is adopted 3-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 8, 2022.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-25

AMENDING CHAPTER 140-38, SCHEDULE IV "TIME LIMIT PARKING" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA TO REPEAL CERTAIN SECTIONS

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-25 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-25 is moved by Mayor Roman; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

Ordinance No. 2022-25 is adopted 3-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 8, 2022.

ORDINANCE No. 2022-26

OPTING INTO THE EXAMINATION EXEMPTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE HIRING PROCEDURES

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2022-26 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2022-26 is moved by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

Ordinance No. 2022-26 is adopted 3-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 8, 2022.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

The meeting minutes from June 27, 2022 and July 11, 2022 are approved 3-0.

RESOLUTION No. 2022-143

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

APPROVAL OF THE VERONA POLICE DEPARTMENT ANTI-NEPOTISM POLICY WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA

WHEREAS, the Verona Police Department has promulgated a general order addressing its Anti-Nepotism Policy to mitigate the potential for preferential treatment or unfair advantage for relatives of employees who may be in a position of authority; and

WHEREAS, the hiring, promoting, transferring, disciplining, demoting, or reassigning of relatives is prohibited if the employment of such an individual would result in the creation of a prohibited

employment relationship.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey hereby approves the Verona Police Department Anti-Nepotism Policy effective June 26, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

RESOLUTION No. 2022-144

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

CANCELLING FUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES UNDER CERTAIN BOND ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$9,599.70

WHEREAS, the Township previously adopted Bond Ordinances for the purpose of funding various capital projects and improvements of the Township as more fully specified in the Bond Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, as of the date hereof, the projects have been completed and/or funded balances remain open and unexpended; and

WHEREAS, the Township now desires to cancel such appropriations and transfer the funded balances to their respective fund surplus:

ORDINANCE	AMOUNT TO BE CANCELLED
General Capital	
2019-03	\$2,400.00
2019-11	<u>\$6,405.30</u>
	\$8,805.30
Water and Sewer Utility Capital	
2017-28	\$794.40

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

SECTION 1. The appropriation amounts associated with the Capital Projects under each of the following Bond Ordinances are canceled; and

SECTION 2. All resolutions or proceedings, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

RESOLUTION No. 2022-145

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST SWEEPERS & RENTALS

WHEREAS the Township of Verona owns and operates a Ravo Street Sweeper as a part of its regular street sweeping maintenance program; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Sweepers and Rentals, Inc. is the only distributor of Ravo street sweeper parts, supplies and service maintenance in the State of New Jersey.; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services has exceeded \$17,500.00 which is annexed this Resolution as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to award contracts for the services listed shall be charged to the budget accounts or capital ordinances listed on the availability of funds, a copy of said Certification is annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit B; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to Northeast Sweepers & Rentals 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 SSG have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit C; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Northeast Sweepers & Rentals, 20 Montesano Road, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004 is hereby awarded a contract for street sweeper parts, supplies and maintenance not to exceed \$18,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

RESOLUTION No. 2022-146

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

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from Mark Parra, for property located at 21 Brookdale 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
\$500.00	\$364.00	\$136.00

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, \$136.00 to Mark Parra, 191 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: Tamburro, McGrath

RESOLUTION No. 2022-147

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

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

