

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, March 13, 2023, 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 Act.

Roll Call:

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Roman explains the bifurcation of the original 2023 pool membership fee ordinance whereby the fees for volunteer rescue squad and fire department members was pulled and placed into a separate ordinance, both on the agenda for adoption this evening.

Motion by Mayor Roman to pull Ordinance No. 2023-13, 2023 Pool Membership Fees (*Volunteer Emergency Responders*) from the agenda (with no further action to be taken); seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

ABSTAIN (Recusal): Tamburro

Motion passes 4-0. Ordinance No. 2023-13 is tabled

Mayor Roman entertains a motion to pull Resolution K-8 from the agenda.

Councilwoman Holland motions to move item K-8 from the Consent Agenda to be heard prior to the vote of the pool fee ordinance; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath. Vote: 5 ayes.

Mayor Roman states that Essex County liaison Jay Coltre is not present this evening. Mayor Roman reads two (2) proclamations: Proclaiming April 2023 as Child Abuse Awareness Month and a proclamation acknowledging March 29, 2023 as National Vietnam Veterans Day.

Mayor Roman invites Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) Chairperson, Glenn Houthuysen to the lectern. Mr. Houthuysen reports to the Council that the owners of the John Foster House located at 11 Cole Road has been identified as a historic landmark of the Township and is worthy of protection under the Historic Preservation ordinance and furthermore, the owners of 11 Cole Road have consented to designate 11 Cole Road pursuant to Chapter 150, Article XII, Section 13 of the Code of the Township.

Mayor Roman congratulates the 8th grade boys' basketball team for the win over Millburn to win the championship. He also commends the girls' basketball team for their achievements this season.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joe D'Arco invites Interim CFO Jennifer Muscara to the lectern to discuss the 2023 Municipal Budget process prior to tonight's vote for introduction.

Motion to move items G-1, N-1 and N-2 up in order to properly introduce the 2023 Municipal Budget is made by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Tamburro: Vote: 5 ayes.

ORDINANCE No. 2023-10

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-10 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-10 is moved by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

Public Hearing:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-10 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

Public Comment on Resolutions N-1 and N-2:

None.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-048

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

**CERTIFYING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA'S
COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5**

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5* as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000 *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, by affirmatively voting for the passage of this Resolution, the members of the Township Council are certifying that they have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidelines and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, hereby states that it has complied with *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5*, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution evidencing said compliance shall be on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and available for inspection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council's certification shall be transmitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs within three days after approval, together with the approved budget.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-049

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget of the Township of Verona for the 2023 calendar year.

| General Appropriations: | <u>Year 2022</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Appropriations within "CAPS" (H-1 Sheet 19) | \$ 19,613,021.00 |
| 2. Appropriations excluded from "CAPS" (H-2 Sheet 28) | \$ 5,725,230.95 |
| 3. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (M-Sheet 29) | <u>\$ 1,800,000.00</u> |
| 4. Total General Appropriations (Item 9, Sheet 29) | \$ 27,138,251.95 |
| 5. Less: Anticipated Revenues Other than Current Property Tax (Item 5, Sheet 11) | \$ (8,640,101.35) |
| 6. Less: Minimum Library Tax (Item 6(c), Sheet 11) | <u>\$ (998,504.29)</u> |
| 7. Difference: Amount to be raised by Taxes for support of the Municipal Budget (as follows) (a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (Item 6(a), Sheet 11) | \$ 17,499,646.31 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget will be published in the Saturday, March 18, 2023 edition of the Star Ledger.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby approve the preceding as the Budget for the 2023 year:

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held both in-person and via a Zoom video conference on April 17, 2023 at 7 o'clock p.m. at which time and place discussions to said Budget and Tax Resolution for 2023 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

<https://zoom.us/j/95262662770>

Via telephone, please dial 1(312)626-6799 or 1(646)558-8656

Use Zoom Meeting ID: 952-6266-2770, when prompted for a Participant ID, press #

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that A copy of the 2023 Municipal Budget and tax resolution will be available at no cost during regular business hours by contacting the Municipal Clerk's Office at 973-857-4770 or visiting the Township's website at www.veronanj.org/budgetinfo for the members of the general public who shall request the same up to and including the time when the Township Council shall further consider this for final passage. All persons interested in the proposed budget will have an opportunity to address the Township Council during the aforementioned public hearing.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Mr. D'Arco reports that he is working on the employee stipend ordinance. More towns are joining to discuss flood control. The Friends of the Library becoming a 501 (c) 3 is in motion. Boswell Engineering is discussing the site location for the Claridge II pump station and will go out to bid soon. Mr. Boswell is continuing to work on the Green Acres/Fairview pump house. Linn Drive well is scheduled to go to bid. He reports on the status of the reconstruction of Everett Field. He is still working on the water rate study RFP. Chief Kiernan has prepared responses to all the recommendations in the Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee's pedestrian safety report that will be presented to the Council at the April 3rd meeting. Appointments for the two (2) Foresters will be on the April 3rd meeting agenda.

Mr. D'Arco reports for Steve Neale, who is not present this evening. Peckman River bank stabilization permits have been applied for. A meeting will be held on site. Council will be

notified should Congressman Payne be able to attend. The ADA playground will be going out to bid. In response to last meeting's discussion on banners and signs placed in the Civic Center, the administration has created a guideline on size and material of the signs requested to be installed.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McGrath met with VRS members for a discussion about pool membership fee. VMAC's Family Night was March 9. She attended the Sustainable Verona Green Team meeting and Shade Tree Commission meeting as they are planning their 2023 Capital projects and will submit their report to the Administration in the next 2-3 weeks.

Councilman McEvoy congratulates both 8th grade boys and girls basketball teams on their great year. He also congratulates the junior's wrestling league in Verona, who placed first this year.

Councilman Tamburro congratulates the high school dramatics club for their production of Hello Dolly! March 18th the Boy Scout will hold their Pancake Breakfast at the Presbyterian Church. The Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee meets tomorrow to hear Chief Kiernan's feedback from their submitted report.

Councilwoman Holland congratulates VMAC on a successful Family Night. She commends the Girl Scouts on their 111 year anniversary. She attended the Environmental Commission meeting. She acknowledges the hard work and recommendations made from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. She reminds the public that the Winter Moratorium Program ends March 15.

Public Comment on Council Member Reports:

Christian Strumolo

RESOLUTION No. 2023-050

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

**APPROVING VERONA COMMUNITY POOL RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE 2023 POOL SEASON**

WHEREAS, the Verona Community Pool 2023 Season runs from Memorial Day Weekend and all weekends thereafter until Friday, June 23, 2023 when the pool will then be open to members full time through Labor Day, September 4, 2023 and;

WHEREAS, pool membership is available to Verona residents only who may purchase guest passes as needed;

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 8:26-1 et seq.*, all pool facilities must comply with existing sanitation and safety regulatory requirements for recreational bathing facilities to preserve public health set forth in the New Jersey State Sanitary Code regulations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey approve the following rules for the 2023 Verona Community Pool season:

- A. The following rules and regulations are for the benefit of all members. They have been established to ensure safe and sanitary operation of the pool facilities. All members are to obey all rules and regulations as well as instructions of the Manager and staff employees at all times. Parents must read and explain these rules to their children. Any failure to comply with these rules shall be considered sufficient cause for immediate suspension of pool privileges of the offending person by management. The Verona Pool management shall establish additional rules as required.

1. No one is allowed in any pool unless a lifeguard is on duty.

2. Deep water test may be required for use of any diving board or slide. Goggles cannot be worn on the slide or diving boards.
3. All members will be issued identification tags which must be shown at the front gate for admission to the pool.
4. Illegal transfer of badges, giving of false information or defacing of identification badges will result in revocation or suspension of membership. False or misleading representation on the pool membership application will result in an automatic revocation of the pool membership.
5. Lost membership tags must be reported to the Front Office or Office of Community Services immediately.
6. Membership in the Verona Community Pool is limited to Verona residents only. Members are allowed in the pool facility only during regular operating hours.
7. The babysitter badge, can only be used when the babysitter is with the children listed on the same membership.
8. Only adult memberships can purchase a guest pass.
9. Members and guests must comply with the rules. Members are responsible for their guests.
10. Day Passes are available for purchase by Verona Residents only. Purchasing Day Passes are limited to three times. They can only be purchased Monday to Friday. They are not available Memorial Day, July 4th or Labor Day. In the instances that the pool is closed due to poor weather conditions, a Rain Date Day Pass will be issued if the pool closes before 4pm. Rain Date passes can be used on another day Monday to Friday.
11. All coolers will be inspected before entering the pool grounds. No glass, glass containers or alcohol is permitted in the pool and will be confiscated.
12. Persons suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be removed from the pool facilities.
13. Please remember that we have a gender neutral/family restroom that is available to use at the pool. Parents & caregivers should not bring children over the age of 6 into the rest room of their opposite gender parent or caregiver and instead use the family restroom.
14. Report any sign of a fecal accident to the manager immediately. Following a fecal accident in any pool, the pool will be cleared of swimmers for a minimum of one hour. The chlorine residual will be immediately checked and adjusted appropriately. This is by recommendation of the Board of Health.
15. Portable radios, television sets and/or music players of all types must be used with earphones.
16. Smoking of any kind is not allowed on the pool grounds or in the pool parking lot.
17. No horseplay of any kind in the pool or pool areas. No balls, toys, etc. permitted in the pool or on the deck/grass areas around the pools. Balls may be used only in the recreation area.
18. Any conduct that endangers the safety of others or other patrons' use of the facilities shall be prohibited. No profanity, harassment, intimidation, or bullying of patrons or staff will be tolerated.
19. Following items are strictly enforced in the pool perimeter;
 - a. Walking of bicycles within the pool gates.

- b. Skate Boards will be turned into the office.
 - c. Water pistols of any kind are prohibited.
20. Only children up to the age of 7 will be permitted in the baby pool.
 21. All children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or over) to be admitted to the pool complex.
 22. No diving into the pool except from the diving boards. Jump feet first only off the 5 ft. wall.
 23. Only the Verona Pool provided Life Vests are permitted in the pool. No other floatation devices are allowed at any time.
 24. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited on pool property.
 25. There shall be no animals, littering, glass or breakable containers allowed.
 26. Swimmers are required to clear the water 20 minutes prior to closing.
 27. Parents are responsible for their children. An adult must accompany children 5 and under at all times.
 28. Diapers must be changed in the rest room area and disposed of in the container provided. Absolutely no changing of diapers on picnic tables.
 29. According to N.J.A.C. 8:26-5.4, all children in diapers must wear plastic pants with snug fitting elastic waist and leg bands when entering pool.
 30. All persons shall shower before entering the water.
 31. Dressing and undressing is permitted only in the locker room; discretion must be used in the locker rooms when showering/dressing.
 32. Board of Health Rules and Commission Rules prohibit urination on the pool grounds or in the pool water.
 33. Destruction of or defacing of pool property will result in suspension or revocation of membership and expulsion from the pool grounds.
 34. The pool staff are not responsible for valuables brought into the pool.
 35. Any person having a communicable disease, open blisters, cuts, sore or inflamed eyes, ears, nose or mouth infections, excessive sunburn or any type of skin disease will be excluded from the pool area.
 36. There shall be no running or throwing of objects.
 37. Unnecessary spouting of water, snapping of towels, roughness, or other conduct affecting the safety and comfort of others, shall not be permitted.
 38. No loitering in the vicinity of Lifeguard stands, entrance ladders, stairs or ramp.
 39. Pool patrons are not permitted to put up personal tents or umbrellas on pool property.
 40. Patrons who occupy tables must be present on the pool premises.
 41. Tables designated for the disabled are to be only used by pool members with a person with disability present.
 42. Tables for disabled persons are marked and are reserved for individuals with disabilities and their families or guests.

- 43. Weather Closures- The Pool facility is equipped with a THOR GUARD Lightning detection system. It will sound a long horn when lightning is close. The pool facility will be closed then. ALL members must leave the facility at that time. The closing will be sent out through CommunityPass. The Thor Guard will sound three short horns when the lightning has passed. If the poor weather passes before 4pm, the pool will reopen. That information will be sent out through CommunityPass.
- 44. The Pool Manager or Assistant Manager may close or limit the swimming pool facilities whenever, in their judgment, such action is deemed necessary or desirable for safe operation of the pool.

Baby Pool & Splash Pad is open 10am every day for children 7 years & younger when accompanied by one or both Parents/Guardians.

Access is ONLY for the Baby Pool & Splash Pad.
 There is no access to the main pool, slides or any activities on the main pool grounds.
 Access to the Baby Pool/Splash Pad is through the main gate check in.

**NO CHILDREN UNDER 18 ALLOWED IN THE MAIN POOL OR MAIN POOL DECK
 DURING THE WEEKEND "ADULTS ONLY" HOUR.
POOL OPENS FULL TIME FRIDAY, JUNE 23th, 2023 AT 12 NOON
HOURS of OPERATION for 2023 POOL SEASON**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday..... 12:00pm (Noon) to 8:00pm
Friday 12:00pm (Noon) to 9:00pm
Saturday (ADULTS ONLY - 18+)10:00am to 11:00am
Saturday.....11:00am to 8:00pm
Sunday (ADULTS ONLY - 18+).....10:00am to 11:00am
Sunday 11:00am to 8:00pm

Family Nights: Tuesdays June 27th, July 11th, July 18th, August 4th & August 15th -4:00 to 8:00pm

(Must have a valid ID showing your Verona address)

- B. First violation of any rule may result in suspension of membership for up to 2 weeks. Second or subsequent violation of any rule may result in 2-week suspension or revocation of membership. A bounced check will result in membership suspension or revocation. Suspended members will not be permitted on pool grounds and may not enter the pool as a guest or on other type of pass. By entering the pool, you agree to the following statement:

**I HAVE READ THE VERONA COMMUNITY POOL RULES AND
 AGREE THAT I, MY FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY GUESTS
 WILL ABIDE BY ALL POOL RULES.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Council of the Township of Verona hereby approves the 2023 Community Pool Season rules and authorize the Director of Community Services to establish and enforce these rules as deemed necessary.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman
NAYS:

ORDINANCE # 2023-11

**FIXING THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF THE
 SEASONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-11 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-11 is moved by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

Public Hearing:
None.

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman
NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-11 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2023-12

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER A565-7 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA - "POOL FEES"

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-12 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-12 is moved by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Hearing:
Christian Strumolo
Kevin Ryan

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Holland, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman
NAYS: Tamburro

Ordinance No. 2023-12 is adopted 4-1 and will be published according to law.

Minutes from the February 27, 2023 regular meeting, February 28, 2023 special meeting and March 2, 2023 special meeting are unanimously approved.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-051

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

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION - N.J.S.A.40A:4-20 TO EXTEND TEMPORARY BUDGET (TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS)

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40a:4-19*, the Township Council adopted resolutions to provide temporary funds for the period from January 1, 2023 until the adoption of the Operating Budget for the Township of Verona, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, additional appropriations will be required from April 1 until the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20* provides that the governing body by two-thirds vote may make temporary emergency appropriations for any purpose 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 said year;

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

1. The governing body by a two-thirds vote of its full membership hereby amends its temporary budget by making the following temporary appropriations:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| CURRENT FUND | \$1,000,000 |
| WATER/SEWER UTILITY FUND | \$ 250,000 |
| POOL UTILITY FUND | \$ 50,000 |

2. This action shall take effect April 1, 2023
3. A copy of this resolution shall be immediately filed with the Director of Local Government Services by the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Verona.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-052

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

APPROPRIATING DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19* provides authority for appropriating in a temporary resolution the permanent debt service requirement for the coming fiscal year providing that such resolution is not made earlier than the last ten days of the preceding fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is subsequent to that date; and

WHEREAS, the debt payments are due prior to our budget being adopted; and

WHEREAS, principal and interest will be due on various dates from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 inclusive, in sundry bonds issued and outstanding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the following appropriations be made to cover the period from January 1, 2023 to May 1, 2023 inclusive:

| DEBT SERVICE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT | |
|---|-----------------|
| Bond Principal | \$ 1,495,000.00 |
| Interest on Bonds | \$ 214,395.00 |
| | |
| | |
| DEBT SERVICE - WATER UTILITY | |
| Bond Principal | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Interest on Bonds | \$ 32,095.00 |
| Legal Installment | \$ 1,000.00 |
| | |
| | |
| DEBT SERVICE - POOL UTILITY | |
| Bond Principal | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Interest on Bonds | \$ 9,510.00 |
| Legal Installments | \$ 30,000.00 |

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-053

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

REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OF OFF-DUTY MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39* provides that a municipality may dedicate certain revenues in any budget when the character of the revenue is not subject to reasonable accurate estimate in advance by including in said budget a statement dedicating such revenues to the purpose or

purposes for which they are received; and

WHEREAS, Off-duty municipal police officers provide police services to businesses and residents within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township, as per contract with the businesses, anticipates receiving funds for the use of police vehicles provided on said jobs for traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve expenditures of monies by dedication by Rider.

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

1. In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39*, the Township hereby requests permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for police equipment and replacement of police vehicles for the municipal police department.
2. In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39*, the Township hereby requests permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay for the use of police vehicles on said jobs for traffic safety.
3. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-054

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

**APPROVING APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR A DCA LEAP
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT FOR SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH NORTH CALDWELL-ESSEX FELS MUNICIPAL COURT**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$10 million for Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development, and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP); and

WHEREAS, LEAP Implementation Grants exist to support costs associated with shared service implementation to ensure that meaningful, efficiency generating initiatives are not hindered by short term transitional expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Caldwell, Borough of Essex Fells and the Township of Verona propose to enter into a shared services agreement, but face certain expenses associated with implementation that present a burden to the local units; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this shared services agreement is to enhance shared services with the North Caldwell-Essex Fells Court, which will benefit the residents of all participating local units; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Caldwell has agreed to be the lead agency in this program and will submit the application to DLGS on behalf of all participating units.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, that the Borough of North Caldwell will apply for a LEAP Implementation Grant in an amount not to exceed the maximum award amount of \$400,000.00 to support implementation of this shared service.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-055

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

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH
NEGLIA ENGINEERING**

WHEREAS, the Township requires a qualified firm to serve as project engineer for the reconstruction of Everett Field; and,

WHEREAS, Township advertised an RFP and reviewed the proposals received; and;

WHEREAS, the proposals were evaluated by the Township Manager and it was determined that Neglia Engineering, located at 34 Park Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071 (hereinafter "Contractor") is qualified to perform the desired services; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends executing the attached contract retaining the Contractor to perform the services in the amount not to exceed \$31,000 from the Open Space Trust Fund for calendar year 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Township Manager, or his designee, is authorized to execute the attached contract with Neglia Engineering, subject to the following:

1. The award of this contract is subject to finalization and approval of the contract terms by the Township Attorney.
2. Any contract amendments or change orders which may become necessary shall be subject to the Township's ability to appropriate sufficient funds, which appropriation shall be at the sole discretion of the Township Council.
3. The contract can be terminated at any time and the Contractor shall only be paid for the work performed up to the date of termination. Flat fee contract shall be prorated by time left on the contract or the cost to the Township of completing the work that Contractor has yet to perform as of the termination date.
4. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
5. The Township is in receipt of the vendor's Contribution Disclosure and Stockholder Disclosure Certification.
6. Contractor may be paid upon passage and certification of this resolution, and for a period of ninety (90) days thereafter, before the final execution of a contractual agreement. Said payments shall be in accordance with this resolution and the RFP as is fully delineated herein. If a finalized contract is not entered within ninety (90) days following the date of the herein resolution, all work and payments will be put on hold until the contract is finalized. The vendor shall be entitled to payment upon submission of an appropriate invoice for all work authorized and performed during the ninety (90) day period but not for any work performed thereafter until and unless the contract is finalized and fully executed by both parties.
7. The Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement as outlined herein with:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-056

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

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED EQUIPMENT FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE FOR SPORTS FIELD MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is required to perform maintenance on its turf fields and donations for public purposes may be deductible under relevant provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove adopted Resolution #7k at a regular meeting held on February 27, 2023 approving the donation of three (3) LandTek Field Turf Rakes and two (2) pallets of rubber pellets ; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is desirous of and will benefit from the usage of said equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizes the Township Manager and Municipal Clerk to execute the donation agreement.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-057

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

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED EQUIPMENT FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE FOR THE VERONA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has a volunteer fire department that requires certain tools and equipment on hand and may receive donations for public purposes that may be deductible under relevant provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove has offered to donate a gas powered portable hydraulic unit with multiple extrication tips, a Hurst spreader, a Hurst cutter, a Combi tool (spreader/cutter) and other miscellaneous extrication tools; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is desirous of and will benefit from the donation of said equipment for use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizes the Township Manager and Municipal Clerk to execute the donation agreement.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-058

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

AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2022-187, 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 Director of Administration & Economic Development Steven Neale and Supervisor of Public Works Chuck Molinaro are hereby appointed to serve as the Township's representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for the year 2023.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-059

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

REFUNDING TAX LIEN REDEMPTION

WHEREAS, property located at 1 Claridge Drive unit 117, Block 101 Lot 1 Qualifier C0117, owned by 1 Claridge 117 LLC, has been held in tax lien since December 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, payment was received, in the amount of \$2,877.56 from Nu World Title, LLC, clearing the lien as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Certificate #22-00001 | |
| Certificate | \$2,809.37 |
| 2% Redemption Penalty | \$ 56.19 |
| Search Fee | <u>\$ 12.00</u> |
| | \$2,877.56 |
| | |
| Premium | \$41,100.00 |
| | |
| Total | \$43,977.56 |

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, \$43,977.56 to:

EVOLVE BANK & TRUST
6000 POPLAR AVENUE, SUITE 300
MEMPHIS, TN 38119

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-060

A motion was made by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Tamburro 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 2023 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. 2023-061

A motion was made by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Tamburro 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 Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

1. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation and Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*
2. Personnel Matters pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (8)*

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Addendum:

RESOLUTION M-1

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland to move the resolution.

AUTHORIZING A NONFAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT WITH NATURE'S CHOICE CORPORATION FOR DISPOSAL OF ORGANIC YARD WASTE

Council Discussion

Motion to table Resolution M-1 is made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Tamburro, McEvoy, Roman

NAYS: Holland, McGrath

Resolution M-1 is tabled by a vote of 3-2.

New Business:

Council discusses the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Public Comment:

Christian Strumolo
Kevin Ryan

Council enters into Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. and returns into Public Session at 10:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m. is made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Mayor Roman. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council is April 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Alex Roman, Mayor

APPROVED: April 3, 2023