

Minutes of an Emergency Meeting of the Verona Township Council held on Monday, May 30, 2023, beginning at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing platform.

Call to Order:

Municipal Clerk reads notice of Open Public Meetings law.

Roll Call:

Mayor Alex Roman, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland, Councilman Chris Tamburro are present. Township Manager Joseph D’Arco, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present. Councilman Jack McEvoy is not present.

Mayor Roman reads the resolution for this Emergency Meeting:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-116

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

EMERGENCY MEETING

WHEREAS, this emergency meeting has been called for the following purpose of settlement litigation;

WHEREAS, the normal requirements of the law regarding 48 hours’ notice have not been met due to lack of time and subject matter, however notices of this Emergency Meeting were sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger; and which notice provided that at 1:00 p.m. on May 30, 2023, Zoom meeting will be held of the Verona Township Council for an emergency meeting to discuss settlement litigation; and

WHEREAS, this emergency meeting is called in order to prevent substantial harm to public interest likely to result from a delay in holding meeting; and

WHEREAS, the need for such adequate notice could not reasonably have been foreseen at a time when adequate notice could have been provided.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there should be a vote on this Emergency Meeting of 3/4ths of the members of the Township Council.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: McEvoy

Public Comment:

None.

Mayor Roman states that Council may take official action upon returning to the meeting following Executive Session. Council enters into Executive Session at 1:17 pm.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-062

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilman McEvoy 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)*

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

Public Comment:

None.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-117

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McGrath; 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 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)*

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: McEvoy

Mayor Roman states that Council will be entering into Executive Session but will not take any official action when returning to Public Session. Council enters into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m.

Council returns into Public Session at 1:41 p.m.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-118

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

APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE PFAS LITIGATION

WHEREAS, the Township Council met on May 30, 2023, to discuss a potential settlement agreement and the potential action of being a participant of a portion of PFAS litigation regarding Docket Number MDL 2873.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council approves proceeding with settlement negotiations and hereby confirms that the Township of Verona is willing to and is willing to serve as a Class Representative, if appointed by the Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Manager is authorized to execute any and all documents and take any action in furtherance of the text within this resolution.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

ABSENT: McEvoy

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath at 1:52 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council June 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Alex Roman, Mayor

APPROVED: June 26, 2023