

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, June 26, 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:

The Municipal Clerk reads the notice of Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

Mayor Alex Roman, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland, Councilman Jack McEvoy 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 invites Essex County liaison Jay Coltre to the lectern. Mr. Coltre reports the Mobile Health Unit is available for appointments. He wishes everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and provides dates and locations for fireworks sponsored by Essex County.

Mayor Roman attended the VHS graduation. He wishes Steve Neale luck and states he is an integral part of the community. Mayor Roman reports this is his last meeting as Mayor and it has been the biggest honor of his life. He is thankful for the opportunity to serve. The following appointments are made:

			<b>Term Expires</b>
a.	Environmental Commission		
i.	Jessica Pearson	Chairperson	6/30/2024
ii.	Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	Member	6/30/2026
iii.	Kari Baureis	Member	6/30/2026
iv.	Walter Steinmann	Member	6/30/2026
v.	Erdal Turnacioglu	Alternate #1	6/30/2025

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joseph D'Arco makes the following appointments:

			<b>Term Expires</b>
a.	Historical Preservation Commission		
i.	Glenn Houthuysen	Member	6/30/2027
ii.	Sandra Smith	Member	6/30/2027
iii.	Kelly Ruffel	Member	6/30/2027
iv.	Martin Golan	Alternate #1	6/30/2025
b.	Municipal Alliance Commission		
i.	Ann Jocelyn	Coordinator	6/30/2024
c.	Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee		
i.	George Manousos	Member	6/30/2025
ii.	Steve Cruz	Member	6/30/2025

Mr. D'Arco states that Steve Neale is reviewing the field usage ordinance. He assures the governing body that going forward all background checks for volunteers or recreation teams will be done going forward. He also states that it is imperative to have a Deputy Manager and he hopes to have one in place in September. Due to Steve Neale's departure, the new Public Information Officer and Deputy Manager will divide Mr. Neale's assignments.

Director of Administration and Economic Development Steven Neale addresses the Council and thanks them for the opportunities he has had during his tenure in Verona.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McGrath congratulates the VHS graduates. She thanks Alex Roman for serving as Mayor. She congratulates Steve Neale.

Councilman Jack McEvoy attended the fireworks on June 30. He congratulates the VHS graduates. He reminds the public that the Chamber of Commerce meets every other Thursday at 8:30am in the annex building. He congratulates Steve Neale on his new position.

Councilman Tamburro reports it was a pleasure to attend his 15<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony at VHS. He is pleased the State legislature arrived at an agreement to continue the STAY tax credits for seniors.

Councilwoman Holland is grateful for the hard work of Eagle Scout Aidan Hanlon in constructing the footbridge behind FN Brown. She compliments the administration for cleaning the storm drains in anticipation of last week's storm. She wishes Steve Neale good luck.

Public Comment:

Larry Iannauzzi, Verona, New Jersey  
Ann Ball, Verona, New Jersey  
Rob Gottstein, Verona, New Jersey  
Alan Zaks, Verona, New Jersey  
Ted Giblin, Verona, New Jersey

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-26**

**AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA BY CREATING THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY MANAGER; ELIMINATING CHAPTER 5, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, ARTICLE VII, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, ARTICLE XI, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CREATE § 5-125 DIVISION OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: FUNCTIONS; RESPONSIBILITIES; DUTIES**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-26 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-26 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Tamburro.

Public Hearing:

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-26 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-27**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$60,000 FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-27 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-27 is moved by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilman Tamburro.

Public Hearing:

Carol Thomas - Verona, NJ

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-27 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-28**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING \$15,000 FROM THE  
GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE I-PLAN TABLE  
LOCATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION CODE DEPARTMENT**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-28 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-28 is moved by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath.

Public Hearing:

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-28 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

Minutes from the May 30, 2023 Emergency Meeting are unanimously approved.

Resolutions K-6 and K-3 are pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

Alan Zaks, Verona, New Jersey

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-138**

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT JOSEPH ANGELO, ESQUIRE AS  
VERONA MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE**

**WHEREAS**, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, *N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq.*, permits contracts by local and county units for shared service projects; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2B:12-1, et seq.*, a municipality must establish a municipal court and provide for its administration; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2B:12-1(c)*, two or more municipalities, by ordinance, may enter into an agreement establishing a single shared municipal court and provide for its administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of North Caldwell and the Borough of Essex Fells executed an agreement on August 16, 2022, pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, *N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq.* (the "prior Agreement") that the shared proceedings of Essex Fells and North Caldwell Municipal Courts shall be held in the facility of the North Caldwell Municipal Court; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 18 of the prior Agreement, no additional municipality shall be added to the shared court without unanimous consent of all participating municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of Essex Fells, Verona and North Caldwell have determined that it would serve the efficient administration of justice to enter into a new Shared Municipal Services Agreement.

**WHEREAS**, Essex Fells and North Caldwell consented to add Verona to the shared court; and the three municipalities desire to set forth the administrative and financial responsibilities of each member for the shared court services; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 1, 2023, the Township of Verona, the Borough of North Caldwell and the

Borough of Essex Fells consolidated the use of the Municipal Court accommodations and personnel, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of North Caldwell and the Borough of Essex Fells each appointed Joseph Angelo, Esq. as Judge of the Municipal Courts of their respective municipalities for a three (3) year term through December 31, 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the appointment of Joseph Angelo, Esq. as Judge of the Municipal Court of the Township of Verona for a term ending December 31, 2024 be and hereby is confirmed.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-139**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$2,280.92 from the State of New Jersey in the form of the National Opioid Settlement Grant and wishes to amend its CY2023 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2023 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$1,607.04 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services -  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
National Opioid Settlement Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2023 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$2,280.92 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
National Opioid Settlement Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-140**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 (2023-24)**

**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 recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Essex.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Verona Municipal Alliance grant for Fiscal Year 2023 (2023-24) in the amount of:

DEDR	\$16,921.26
Cash Match	\$ 4,230.32
In-Kind	\$12,690.95
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<u><b>\$33,842.53</b></u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-141**

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

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LIEN**

**WHEREAS**, the Construction Code Official determined that the owner of the Block 2103, Lot 2 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Verona, commonly known as 97 Pease Avenue, to comply with the Township property maintenance code, specifically lawn maintenance of the property; and

**WHEREAS**, clean up was performed by Green Valley Landscape Design on behalf of the Township on June 14, 2023 totaling the amount of \$1,200.00; and

**WHEREAS**, these charges shall be imposed on the property in the form of a municipal lien for above services pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 54:5-8* and to any other applicable State of Federal regulation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized and directed to take all appropriate actions to impose on the property commonly known as 97 Pease Avenue, Verona, New Jersey (Block 2103, Lot 2) a municipal lien in the amount of the tax lien certificate (\$1,200.00), where upon the Tax Collector shall, within ten (10) days of encumbering of the property, send official notice of said encumbrance via certified mail, return receipt requested and regular mail to any and all other lien holders or creditors with a secured interest in the property.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-142**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Holland; 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.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-143**

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

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LINDEN AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey does hereby approve the submission of a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Linden Avenue Improvements Project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2024-Linden Avenue Improvements Project-00225 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Verona.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Verona and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, Roman**

**NAYS: McGrath**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-144**

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

**DESIGNATING THE REGULAR, CONFERENCE AND LEGAL MEETING DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR 2023-2024**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975, requires all public bodies covered by said Act, at least once each year, and within seven (7) days following the annual reorganization meeting of such body, to post and maintain posted throughout the year a schedule of the regular meetings of the public body to be held during the succeeding year.

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

- 1. The schedule of regular meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Verona will be held in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey and via Zoom conferencing platform as deemed necessary, as set forth in the schedule annexed hereto be and the same is hereby adopted

SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Monday, July 10, 2023	Monday, January 8, 2024
Monday, July 24, 2023	Monday, January 22, 2024
Monday, August 7, 2023	Monday, February 5, 2024
Monday, August 21, 2023	Monday, February 26, 2024
Monday, September 11, 2023	Monday, March 11, 2024
Tuesday, September 26, 2023	Monday, Mach 25, 2024
Monday, October 16, 2023	Monday, April 8, 2024
Monday, October 30, 2023	Monday, May 6, 2024
Monday, November 13, 2023	Monday, May 20, 2024
Monday, December 4, 2023	Monday, June 3, 2024
Monday, December 18, 2023	Monday, June 17, 2024
	Monday, July 1, 2024

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

New Business:

Council discusses a bond ordinance for the reconstruction of Balston, Windemere and Whitney, a bond ordinance for the reconstruction of Douglas Place, a bond ordinance for Supplemental Appropriation for Preliminary Planning Expenses for Improvements at the Fairview Avenue and Linn Drive Wells, an ordinance Appropriating \$26,000 from Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund for the Assessment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, an ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Administration of Government, Article II, Section 15, Paragraph "A" of the Code of the Township, an ordinance to amend Ch. 140- Vehicles & Traffic, Article II-Parking, Stopping & Standing, By Creating § 140-12.2 "Parking Prohibited Within Four Feet of Driveway and an ordinance to create a Ch. 222 of the Code Entitled "Display of Flags and Building Municipal Building Color Lighting" and Eliminating Article II of Chapter 370 "Entitled Display of Flags".

The following appointments are made:

a. Board of Adjustment		<b>Term Expires</b>
i. Daniel McGinley	Member	6/30/2027
ii. Christy DiBartolo	Member	6/30/2027
b. Green Team		
i. Kerry Bass	Member	6/30/2024
ii. Kelly Drury	Member	6/30/2024
iii. Stephen Pope	Member	6/30/2024

iv.	Jami Bjornstad-Bal	Member	6/30/2024
v.	Sandra Williams	Member	6/30/2024
vi.	Matthew Stallone	Member	6/30/2024
vii.	Christine Liaukus	Member	6/30/2024
c.	Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee		
i.	Robin Wallace	Member	6/30/2026
d.	Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee		
i.	Andrea Lacotte	Member	6/30/2026
ii.	Corey Schor	Member	6/30/2026
e.	Planning Board		
i.	Jesse Lilley	Class IV	6/30/2027
ii.	Jeremy Katzeff	Alternate #1	6/30/2025
f.	Rent Control Board		
i.	Patrick Hanley	Member	6/30/2027
ii.	Willola Ashley	Member	6/30/2027
g.	Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee		
i.	Carla Buglione	Member	6/30/2024
ii.	Michele Gruet	Member	6/30/2026
iii.	Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez	Member	6/30/2025
iv.	John Vajda	Member	6/30/2025
v.	Kristen Dunleavy	Member	6/30/2026
vi.	Michelle O'Neill	Member	6/30/2024
vii.	Kathleen Francis	Member	6/30/2024
viii.	Rita Chevalier	Member	6/30/2025
ix.	Roxanna Tirado	Member	6/30/2026

Public Comment:

Liz Giblin, Verona, New Jersey  
 Katy McClure, Verona, New Jersey  
 Jessica Pearson, Verona, New Jersey.

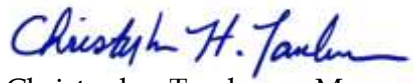
Council goes into Executive Session at 9:27 pm.

Adjournment:

Council returns from Executive Session at 9:54 pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm is made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath. Vote: 5 ayes. The next meeting is the Reorganizational Meeting on Saturday, July 1 at Noon on the steps of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
 Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: August 7, 2023