

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, July 10, 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 Christopher Tamburro, Deputy Mayor Jack McEvoy, Councilwoman Christine McGrath, Councilman Alex Roman and Councilwoman Cynthia Holland are present. Township Attorney Brian Aloia, Township Manager Joseph D'Arco and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro reports that the Verona PBA Verona Rescue Squad and the Essex County Sheriff's Department are sponsoring a GoFundMe for officer and Verona Rescue Squad member Mark Steinberg.

The Mayor states reports on the July 3<sup>rd</sup> fire in the West side of the Claridge House 2 Condominium. All township and mutual aid will be recognized at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Tamburro makes the following appointments

- |    |                           |                   |           |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Library Board of Trustees |                   |           |
|    | a. Michele Gruet          | Mayor's Alternate | 6/30/2025 |
| 2. | Planning Board            |                   |           |
|    | a. Deputy Mayor McEvoy    | Mayor's Designee  | 6/30/2025 |

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joe D'Arco reports that animal control and fire prevention are two items on his agenda for the evening. A special meeting requested by the council will be put in motion regarding the projects and planner, however council still needs to set an internship planning meeting. He also discusses the Work Session Agenda in detail and explains the process in hiring the Deputy Manager. There are currently 20 applicants for the available position of Deputy Manager and the interview process will begin when all details are discussed and agreed upon.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy thanks staff for the recent fireworks display and their work for the event. He would also like to thank everyone responsible for their work at the Claridge House in response to the fire. He mentions the start of the Verona Summer Concert Series on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and invites the public to come out and enjoy the bands and music.

Councilman Roman was unfortunately out of the country on the day of the Claridge House fires, but recognizes that Chief Kiernan did an excellent job in sending very detailed and routine updates on the situation. He also recognizes all of the officials who played an important role in working and controlling the situation both before and after event. He concludes expressing his contentment being able to continue to be a part of this forthcoming council term and looks forward to being able to continue to deliver for our residents.

Councilwoman McGrath thanks Mrs. Kiernan and the rest of the staff for the Reorganization Meeting that happened on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She acknowledges and thanks the first responders at Claridge for their tremendous work, and Councilwoman Holland's entire family for being present, supporting the efforts, and keeping the residents entertained and occupied. She mentions the loss of two firefighters in a devastating fire in Newark and reminds residents that swimming at Devil's Hole in Cedar Grove is off limits and dangerous.

Councilwoman Holland echoes the acknowledgement and gives thanks to all of the first responders for their efforts that went into mitigating the situation at Claridge 2. In addition, she acknowledges the ongoing issue of the extreme weather events that have been recently occurring

due to the wildfires in Canada. She wants to make sure that residents are always prepared, and recognizes and gives thanks to township administration and DPW superintendent Molinaro for ensuring that the weather is monitored appropriately. In addition, on the July 1<sup>st</sup> Reorganization Meeting, the new liaison positions were announced. She is looking forward to moving forward on some Recreation endeavors in the township, and remaining the liaison to the Recreation Advisory Committee and VMAC, while also saying goodbye to the Verona Environmental Commission.

Public Comment on Council Member Reports:

None.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-29**

**AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA TO REPEAL CHAPTER 270 "FLOOD CONTROL AND DAMAGE PREVENTION" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 270 "FLOOD CONTROL AND DAMAGE PREVENTION"; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-29 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-29 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Roman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-29 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-30**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BALSTON DRIVE, WINDEMERE ROAD AND WHITNEY TERRACE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,400,000 THEREFOR, INCLUDING A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,333,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No 2023-30 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-30 is moved by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN (Recusal): Holland**

Ordinance No. 2023-30 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-31**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF DOUGLAS PLACE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$650,000 THEREFOR, INCLUDING A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$422,450, AND**

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$619,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-31 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-31 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Roman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-31 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-32**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR PRELIMINARY PLANNING EXPENSES FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FAIRVIEW AVENUE AND LINN DRIVE WELLS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$476,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-32 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-32 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-32 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-33**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING \$26,000 FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-33 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-33 is moved by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-33 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-34**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$20,000 FROM THE POOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE POOL SPLASH PAD PROJECT IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-34 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-34 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-34 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-35**

**AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, CHAPTER 5, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, ARTICLE II, TOWNSHIP COUNCIL, § 5-14 MAYOR; DEPUTY MAYOR, PARAGRAPH A, TO ALLOW FOR FLEXIBILITY IN THE LOCATION OF THE ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-35 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-35 is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy.

Council Discussion.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

With the Amendment, Ordinance No. 2023-35 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

**ORDINANCE H-8**

Mayor Tamburro reports that the Township Administration has requested this ordinance be pulled from the agenda until further notice.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-36**

**AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA BY THE CREATION OF CHAPTER 222, ENTITLED "DISPLAY OF FLAGS AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING COLOR LIGHTING" AND ELIMINATING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 370 ENTITLED DISPLAY OF FLAGS**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-36 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2026-36 is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-36 will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 24, 2023.

Minutes from the May 15, 2023 Meeting are unanimously approved.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-145**

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman that

the following resolution be adopted:

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A TREATMENT WORKS  
PERMIT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, in conjunction with the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (NJIB) based upon the proposed Linn Drive Well Facility PFAS and Arsenic Treatment Project, the Township of Verona is required to submit a Treatment Works Approval Permit Application (TWA); and

**WHEREAS**, said TWA will be completed by Jacobs Engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires a Resolution from the Township of Verona authorizing the execution and submission of the TWA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Verona at follows:

1. The attached TWA for the NJIB Linn Drive Well Facility PFAS and Arsenic Treatment Project and the submission of the completed TWA for said project is adopted, authorized, approved and ratified by the Township Council.
2. The Township Manager is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and to take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-146**

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman 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. Purchase, Lease or Acquisition of Real Property pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (5)*
3. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation and Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-147**

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

**REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE COUNTY OF ESSEX FOR THE  
INSTALLATION OF A PAINTED PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK ON  
GROVE AVENUE**

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Township Council to install a pedestrian crosswalk on Grove Avenue at the south corner of Hemlock Drive located within the Essex County right-of-way of Grove Avenue based upon the recommendations of the Township Police Department.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey hereby requests permission from the County of Essex to install a painted pedestrian crosswalk at the above location.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

New Business:

Council discusses holding a special meeting to interview candidates for Township Planner and a special meeting to discuss 2023-2024 goal setting.

Public Comment:

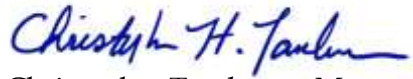
None.

Motion to move into Executive Session at 8:10 pm is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Council returns from Executive Session at 8:47 pm. A motion to adjourn at 8:48 pm is made by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath. Vote: 5 ayes. The next meeting is July 24, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: August 7, 2023