

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, July 24, 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 Trish Melia, Township Manager Joseph D'Arco and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro invites Eagle Scout Chris Caldera to the lectern. Chris explains and speaks about his Verona community gardens project and ideas. Mayor Tamburro then presents his Proclamation to Chris. Afterward, the meeting moves outside to recognize and honor all of the appropriate parties present and active in the July 3rd Claridge House 2 Condominium fires. All appropriate parties receive their certificates thanking them for their professional response and for controlling and aiding the situation.

Mayor Tamburro moves the meeting back inside for the rest of his report. He enjoyed his time at the OLL Food Truck Festival and apologizes for his error in the last meeting stating an incorrect name regarding the president of the library board. He reminds the public about the August 1st National Night Out event, and ends his report wishing Councilwoman McGrath a happy belated birthday.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joe D'Arco reviews his Work Session Agenda in detail, with specific topics and details highlighted and discussed. There will be a future meeting for all major projects as some projects are prepared for the Council to review but not yet for the public to review. PFAS is moving along very well as well as various other projects including Linn Drive and Fairview. There are topics to be discussed in closed session, and there is still a meeting date pending on planners.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy compliments the OLL Food Truck event and enjoyed seeing everyone there. He comments and reminds residents about the Wednesday summer concerts in the town center and congratulates Chris Caldera on a very nice presentation.

Councilman Roman recognized the list of topics to cover in tonight's meeting agenda and declined to make any further comments or reports.

Councilwoman McGrath expressed her excitement to attend the soft opening of the Collective Book Store in Verona. She congratulates the owners and looks forward to the formal grand opening in September.

Councilwoman Holland attended two meetings this past week. New members were welcomed into the Rec Committee as well as continued discussion about programming for individuals with disabilities. There was continued discussion about facilities and capital planning. The quarterly meeting of VMAC discussed the upcoming school year as well as the early October Family Night. She concludes noting the extreme weather conditions in July and reminds residents to be prepared and alert.

Public Comment on Council Member Reports:

None.

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 move Ordinance No. 2023-30 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Public Comment:

Liam Holland, Verona, New Jersey
Chris Reilly, Verona, New Jersey

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

ABSTAIN (Recusal): Holland

Ordinance No. 2023-30 passes 4-0 and will be published according to law.

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 move Ordinance No. 2023-31 is moved by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Comment:

None.

Council Discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-31 passes 5-0 and will be published according to law.

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 move Ordinance No. 2023-32 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Comment:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-32 passes 5-0 and will be published according to law.

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

Public Comment:

None.

Council Discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-33 passes 5-0 and will be published according to law.

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 move Ordinance No. 2023-34 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

Public Comment:

None.

Council Discussion.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-34 passes 5-0 and will be published according to law.

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

Public Comment:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-35 passes 5-0 and will be published according to law.

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 move Ordinance No. 2023-36 is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Comment:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-36 passes 5-0 and will be published according to law.

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 move Ordinance No. 2023-29 is moved by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Comment:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-29 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 7th.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-148

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

**AUTHORIZING INCLUSION IN THE ESSEX COUNTY
URBAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2024-2026
(OCTOBER 1, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026)**

WHEREAS, certain Federal funds are potentially available to the County of Essex under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, commonly known as the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG); and

WHEREAS, certain Federal funds are potentially available to the County of Essex under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; commonly known as the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME); and

WHEREAS, substantial Federal funds are provided to the County of Essex through Subtitle B of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act are allocated to prevent homelessness and to enable homeless individuals and families to move toward independent living, commonly known as the Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG); and

WHEREAS, the current Uniform Shared Services and Consolidated Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.) provides a mechanism through which counties and municipalities may enter into agreements for the provision of joint services; and

WHEREAS, by July 7, 2023 each municipality must notify the Essex County Division of Housing & Community Development of its intent to continue as a participant in the Urban County entitlement programs noted above as part of the Urban County Requalification Process; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township of Verona and its residents to participate in said entitlement programs; and.

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona desires to renew its' participation in the Essex Urban County for conducting certain community development activities for Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026 (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026); and

WHEREAS, a letter has been drafted by the Mayor to the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development notifying the County of the Township/Village/City's desire to renew its inclusion as a participant municipality in the Essex Urban County entitlement program for Federal Fiscal Years 2024 to 2026 (October 1, 2023- September 30, 2026) and for successive three (3) year periods, as provided in the Housing and Community Development Act, until terminated; and

WHEREAS, the Township of and the Essex Urban County desire to enter into a Cooperation Agreement for Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026 (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026) which authorizes the automatic renewal of the agreement for successive qualification periods of three years, and shall remain in effect at least until the CDBG, ESG and HOME funds from each of the federal fiscal years of the agreement's specified qualification period, and each successive qualification period for which the agreement is renewed, are expended and the funded activities completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the attached Cooperation Agreement in accordance with the provisions of law; for the Federal Fiscal Years 2024 to 2026 (October 1, 2023- September 30, 2026), and for successive three (3) year periods, as provided in the Housing and Community Development Act, until terminated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, and a copy to this resolution be forwarded to the Essex County Division of Housing & Community Development no later than July 31, 2023.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-149

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

**APPROVING CLOSE-OUT FOR CONTRACT #2023-02
2021 CDBG VARIOUS ADA RAMP IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, AA Berms, LLC and the Township of Verona have heretofore entered into an Agreement, more particularly known as Contract #2023-02 - 2021 CDBG Various ADA Ramp Improvements in the amount of \$131,698.00, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Contract #2023-02 be closed out with a final cost of \$122,557.42.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk and any other officer as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute a Contract Close-Out for Contract #2023-02 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-150

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MIRACLE CHEMICAL COMPANY

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the purchase of various chemicals used in the operation of Water/Sewer Utility specifically soda ash to adjust the PH level in the waste water treatment process; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has a need to acquire such services pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19-44A-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. 3-05-55-502-342 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or her designee, and the availability of funds have been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has recommended that All American Sewer Service, Inc., PO Box 605, Lodi, New Jersey 07664 be awarded a contract to provide drainage and sewer services on the sewer lines within the Township of Verona.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Determination of Value are to be placed on file with this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that W.R. Neumann Company, Inc. d/b/a Miracle Chemical Company, 1151 B Highway #33, Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727 is hereby awarded a contract for the purchase of various chemicals used in the operation of Water/Sewer Utility not to exceed \$44,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and the Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement for the aforementioned services a copy of which

shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-151

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

REMOVING THE CHANGE FUND OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT

WHEREAS, Township Council of the Township of Verona adopted Resolution No. 2023-080, approving that the Township enter into a Shared Municipal Services Agreement with North Caldwell and Essex Fells for Municipal Court services; and

WHEREAS, an agreement was executed between the Township of Verona, the Borough of North Caldwell and the Borough of Essex Fells dated June 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the shared proceedings of Essex Fells, Verona and North Caldwell Municipal Courts are now held in a single venue of the facility of the North Caldwell Municipal Court located at 141 Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey 07006-4213; and

WHEREAS, the Verona Municipal Court had a change fund in the amount of \$100.00; and

WHEREAS, this change fund is no longer necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Verona Municipal Court has paid over to the Township of Verona the \$100.00 change fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey decrease their change fund for the Municipal Court to zero dollars.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-152

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

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA TO CANCEL OLD
OUTSTANDING CHECKS AND RECONCILING ITEMS**

WHEREAS, certain checks have been identified in the Current Fund, Water/Sewer Utility, and Trust fund bank accounts by the Chief Financial Officer as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, it is a normal financial practice to review the bank accounts for old outstanding items for cancellation with the balances to be returned to the Fund Balance; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said checks so that the unnecessary balances may be returned to the fund balance of the respective funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the following old outstanding checks, be cancelled.

<u>Date of Check Issue</u>	<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
03/22/2022	1464	\$ 150.00
08/22/2022	2348	\$ 30.60
12/05/2022	3036	\$7,560.00
	Total Claims Fund	\$7,740.60
08/02/2021	9951	\$ 249.00
	Total Current Fund	\$ 249.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That two (2) certified copies of the resolution are to be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services and that a certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Township Clerk to the Chief Financial Officer and Township Auditor.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-153

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

CANCELLING UNFUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES UNDER CERTAIN BOND ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$500.00

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Council of the Township of Verona now desires to cancel such appropriations and transfer the funded balances to their respective fund surplus;

ORDINANCE	AMOUNT TO BE CANCELLED
Water/Sewer Capital	
08-11 - Imp. Of Water System	<u>\$500.00</u>
	\$500.00

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-154

A motion was made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy that 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. Purchase, Lease or Acquisition of Real Property pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (5)*
2. 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:

New Business:

Chief Kiernan discusses proposed an ordinance on regulating parking on Everett Field.

Council Discussion.

Public Comment on New Business:

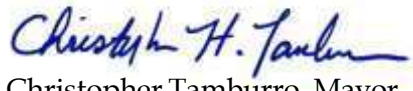
None.

Adjournment:

Council enters into Executive Session at 8:32 pm and returns to public session at 9:16 pm. A motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman Holland at 9:16 pm. Vote: 5 ayes. The next scheduled council meeting is Monday, August 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: August 21, 2023