

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, September 11, 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 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 invites Julius Coltre to the lectern. He outlines all future events for Essex County including a Golf Outing, Family Fall Festival, Arts and Crafts Festival, Turtle Back Zoo events and Essex County Senior Wellness. When finished, the Mayor thanks all appropriate parties who helped coordinate the 9/11 remembrance ceremony. He recognizes Verona's personal 9/11 loss and asks everyone to remember them and their legacies. On 9/9 the Mayor had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of new Verona business Stretch Plus. He encourages the public to support and also thanks the entire Verona pool staff for a great season. He comments that per Governor Murphy, September is emergency preparedness month in the state of New Jersey. He concludes by recognizing our own emergency management office on doing a phenomenal job of keeping the Township prepared.

Manager's Report:

Mr. D'Arco invites Peter Ten Kate from Boswell Engineering to the lectern to present the concept for the Community Center Playground and Senior Annex Building for the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Reprogramming Application. Rob Gross of Boswell Engineering then resumes the presentation

Public Comment:

None.

Mayor Tamburro presents a proclamation to Sue Dewitt for her many years of service to the Township of Verona.

Township Manager Joseph D'Arco reports on the status of iBank and invites CFO, Jennifer Muscara to the lectern. Ms. Muscara discusses the Linn Drive and Fairview Avenue wells and explains the iBank funding.

Everett Field, solid waste recycling contract, CDBG is also discussed. Mr. D'Arco mentions the retirement of Jim Cunningham from the Community Services Department and that the Deputy Township Manager position has been accepted by Kevin O'Sullivan.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy congratulates Stretch Plus and wishes them well as a Verona owned business. He attended the Collective Bookstore's ribbon cutting. Sustainable Verona will hold a Solar Open House is October 6th – 8th. He commends the Mayor on his impressive 9/11 ceremony. He also thanks everyone involved in the ceremony and concludes by congratulating UNICO for their Labor Day run fundraiser.

Councilman Roman congratulates Jim Cunningham on his retirement and wishes him well. The Planning Board has completed its hearings on the 1 Sunset redevelopment and he concludes by recognizing that it was a complex case, and there was outstanding resident participation.

Councilwoman McGrath recognizes all of the survivors and family members of the victims of 9/11. She thanks the rec department for another safe pool season and mentions her two committee meetings this month. The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory

Committee are working on an event for Hispanic Heritage Month and the Shade Tree Committee is currently looking for members to join for two positions. She comments on the Stretch Plus opening's success and concludes thanking the Board of Ed and Superintendent for providing every family in the district with gun safety and gun storage safety information.

Councilwoman Holland acknowledges and honors all those who lost their lives on 9/11, as well as the passing of a member of Governor Murphy's cabinet. She extends her condolences to his family and thanks Manager D'Arco and Boswell Engineering for their recreation playground presentation. She thanks Jim Cunningham for all of his work he has done and wishes him well on his future endeavors. She concludes by welcoming future Deputy Manager O'Sullivan to the team.

Public Comment:

Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

ORDINANCE No. 2023-38

CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$11,000 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE REPAIR OF THE ELEVATOR LOCATED IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-38 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-38 is moved by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Public Hearing:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2023-38 passes 5-0.

ORDINANCE No. 2023-39

CAPITAL ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING \$50,000 FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE WATER AND SEWER RATE STUDY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-39 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-39 is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance H1 will be numbered 2023-39, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on September 26th.

ORDINANCE # 2023-40

FIXING THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF THE DEPUTY MANAGER FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-40 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-40 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance H2 will be numbered 2023-40, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on September 26th.

Consent Agenda

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

None.

K1 is pulled from the consent agenda by a motion made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Mayor Tamburro. Deputy Mayor Jack McEvoy recuses himself.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-159

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

REFUND TAX COURT JUDGMENT

WHEREAS, notification has been received from the Tax Court reducing the assessment on property located at 176 Bloomfield Avenue owned by DMH2, LLC Block 202 lot 23 as follows:

Year	Assessment Reduced	Tax Rate	Refund
2019	\$ 356,700	2.770	\$ 9,880.59
2020	\$ 356,700	2.864	\$ 10,215.89
2021	\$ 356,700	2.957	\$ 10,547.62

Total Refund \$30,644.10

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund \$ **30,644.10** to:

Spiotti & Associates
612 Godwin Avenue
Midland Park, NJ 07432

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, Tamburro

NAYS:

ABSTAIN (Recusal): McEvoy

RESOLUTION No. 2023-160

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.

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)*
3. Personnel Matters pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (8)*

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-161

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

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
2024 REPROGRAMMING APPLICATION CYCLE**

WHEREAS, The Township of Verona will participate in the Community Development Block Grant Program for the 2024 Reprogramming cycle, and;

WHEREAS, The Township must designate and prioritize its project application for the 2024 Programming year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk and any other officer deemed appropriate are hereby authorized and directed to submit an application for the Community Development Block Grant in accordance with the priorities indicated below:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Township ADA Playground	\$ 1,020,580.00
2	Township Improvements at the Senior Annex Building	\$ 60,000.00

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

New / Unfinished Business:

Council discusses Redevelopment Proposal Presentation for 320 Bloomfield Avenue & 9-11 Church Street. Attorney Brian Aloia comments that the property owners are present this evening and can provide details to the governing body. John MacEvoy and Greg Pagliante approach the lectern to present photos and a survey and give building history. Council will wait until they appoint a Township Planner and have the request reviewed before a decision is made.

Council make the following appointments to the Municipal Alliance Committee:

			Unexpired Term Ending
i.	Rosanna Gionni	Member	6/30/2024
ii.	Elizabeth Hynes	Member	6/30/2025
iii.	Carol Lyn Moy	Member	6/30/2025
iv.	Staci Puleo	Member	6/30/2024

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Appointments are confirmed 5-0.

Public Comment:

Sandra Dubowsky, Verona, New Jersey
Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey
Al DeOld, Verona, New Jersey

Motion to enter into Executive Session is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

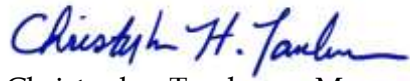
Council moves into Executive Session at 8:44 pm.

Adjournment:

A motion is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2023. Vote: 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: October 16, 2023