

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, October 30, 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 welcomes back Essex County Liaison, J. Coltre. Mayor Tamburro then thanks the Verona Clergy Council for putting together a wonderful ceremony for the people of Israel, Gaza and the Region. The Fall-o-Ween event which was very well received by all. He congratulates the Verona High School Marching Maroon and White on their successful season. He announces a new initiative to highlight a different nonprofit or volunteer group serving Verona going forward.

Manager's Report:

Mr. D'Arco discusses various topics including animal control agreements, friends of Verona parks, the rate study, fire prevention, recreation field usage, PFAS, solid waste and recycling bids, Everett field, lead based paint hazard inspection, tree ordinance fees, and parking fee ordinances.

Deputy Manager Kevin O'Sullivan provides the Council with an update on the status of current and upcoming projects.

Mr. D'Arco invites VMAC Coordinator to the lectern to inform the Council on VMAC's upcoming initiatives.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-177**

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

**RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS SAFE HOMES MONTH**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Municipal Alliance Committee is a sponsor of Safe Homes, a program that empowers parents and guardians to create a community of people who have pledged to not allow underage alcohol and drug use in their homes and on their property and to provide secure storage places for firearms, matches, toxic chemicals and to monitor computer use; and

**WHEREAS**, parents could be held civilly liable for any incident arising as a result of serving or allowing alcohol to be consumed on their property; and

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

community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey recognize November to be Safe Homes Month.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy congratulates the Verona Juniors on a very successful Verona Fights Hunger week. He also was present with the Lions Club for mentions their \$20,000 medical equipment donation. He thanks the organizers and participants of the Opioid Walk for bringing awareness to the opioid epidemic and comments on the great success of Fall-o-Ween. "Verona Rocks" raised money to purchase a tree for Michael Coppola Junior and lastly, he mentions the Verona Clergy Council's day of prayer. It was a very nice evening and he commends the mayor for the idea and for getting everyone together.

Councilman Roman echoes the Deputy Mayor's comments on Fall-o-Ween and its success.

Councilwoman McGrath also congratulates the Verona Juniors for their very successful Verona Fights Hunger week. The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee have partnered with the Verona Public Library for their plans for Diwali. The Committee also drafted a report on accessibility of Township buildings to which the administration responded in a fashion in which Councilwoman McGrath was pleasantly surprised.

Councilwoman Holland participated in early voting at the Community Center. She thanks the Municipal Clerk, Jennifer Kiernan for helping to arrange all voting activities and for aiding the poll workers with their duties. There was a Recreation Advisory Committee where there was a robust discussion about the basketball program, a review of the pool survey results, and the status of our fields. There was also a VMAC committee meeting which they discussed safe home month, October Family Night and plans for the future.

Public Comment:

Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

**ORDINANCE # 2023-43**

**FIXING THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF THE ACTING  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-43 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance No. 2023-43 is moved by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Public Hearing:

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-43 passes 5-0 and it will be published according to law.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-44**

**AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, CHAPTER  
390, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, BY THE CREATION OF ARTICLE II,  
ENTITLED LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD INSPECTION  
REQUIREMENTS FOR RENTAL DWELLINGS**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2023-44 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance 2023-44 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Public Hearing:

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance 2023-44 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on November 13, 2023

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-45**

**AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, CHAPTER 5, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, ARTICLE IX, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, TO ALLOW FOR FLEXIBILITY IN THE APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AND DIRECTOR OF RECREATION**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-45 by title into record.

Motion to move Ordinance 2023-45 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance 2023-45 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on November 13, 2023.

Consent Agenda

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

None.

September 26, 2023 meeting minutes are unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-178**

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, 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 \$1,068.00**

**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** that the Township now desires to cancel such appropriations and transfer the funded balances to their respective fund surplus;

ORDINANCE	ORDINANCE	AMOUNT TO BE
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	DESCRIPTION	CANCELLED
<b>General Capital</b>		
2021-04	ADA Improvement VCC	\$ 568.00
Total General Capital		<b>\$ 568.00</b>
<b>Water/Sewer Capital</b>		
2022-11	Imp. Water/Sewer Distribution System; Ann, Cypress and Willow	\$365,024.01
Total W/S Capital		<b>\$365,024.01</b>

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-179**

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

**AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT 2023-2026 BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AND THE BOROUGH OF ROSELAND FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION CODE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Verona and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roseland share a commitment to cost effective municipal service delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with that commitment, the Borough and the Township have identified a municipal service sharing opportunity that has the potential to benefit both municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, *N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.* (the "Act"), authorizes local units of this State to enter into agreements with any other local unit to provide or receive any service that each local unit participating in the agreement is empowered to provide or receive in its own jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough and the Township desire to enter into a Shared Services Agreement for a temporary period beginning October 18, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023 for the purposes of providing technical assistant services to the Construction Code Department within the Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that the Township Manager is authorized to execute the attached agreement and take any other necessary measures to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-180**

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

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND REAFFIRMING RESOLUTION No. 2023-176 AWARDING CONTRACT NO. 2023-03 ENTITLED "RECONSTRUCTION OF BALSTON DRIVE, WINDMERE ROAD AND WHITNEY TERRACE"**

**WHEREAS**, on October 12, 2023 the Township of Verona received bids for Contract 2023-03 - Reconstruction of Balston Drive, Windemere Road and Whitney Terrace; and

**WHEREAS**, eight (8) bids were received for Contract 2023-03; and

**WHEREAS**, the lowest responsive and responsible bid was submitted by Crossroads Paving, 296 South Street, Suite 169, Newark, NJ 07105 in the base bid amount of \$721,803.75; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer reviewed the bids and recommended that the Contract award be made to Crossroads Paving, as the lowest responsive and responsible bid; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 20, 2023, least three quarters of the Council determined that it was necessary and appropriate to call an emergency meeting of the Council because the Township wanted to award Contract #2023-03, entitled "Reconstruction of Balston Drive, Windemere Road and Whitney Terrace" to secure \$300,000 in funding in the form of a grant from the NJDOT towards the project; and

**WHEREAS**, if the Township failed to award the contract on or before Saturday, October 21, 2023, the Township would have potentially lost \$300,000 in funding which would have created a substantial financial harm to the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council was unaware of the deadline to make the award and therefore could not reasonably have foreseen the need for a meeting at a time when adequate notice could have been provided to made the award; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the above referenced factual scenario on October 20, 2023, the Council awarded Contract #2023-03, entitled "Reconstruction of Balston Drive, Windemere Road and Whitney Terrace"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Attorney recommends ratifying and reaffirming Resolution No. 2023-176 so that members of the public who were unable to attend or otherwise did not get notice of the emergency meeting are informed of the Council's previous action and have the opportunity to address the Council on the topic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Attorney also recommends ratifying and reaffirming Resolution No. 2023-176 to correct any potential procedural or other issues that may have occurred in calling the emergency meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the Township Attorney's recommendation, the Council desires to ratify and reaffirm Resolution No. 2023-176 awarding Contract No. 2023-03 entitled "Reconstruction of Balston Drive, Windemere Road and Whitney Terrace" by the passage of this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the award of contract made by way of Resolution No. 2023-176 for Contract No. 2023-03 made to Crossroads Paving, 296 South Street, Suite 169, Newark, NJ 07105 in the base bid amount of \$721,803.75 is hereby ratified and reaffirmed.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN (Recuse): Holland**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-181**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH  
WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Volunteer Fire Department requires proper maintenance, quarterly updates and testing for various; and

**WHEREAS**, the Waste Water Treatment Plant requires specific equipment to meet the requirements from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration has determined that the value of these services will exceed \$17,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township seeks to make the award as non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* to Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc., 104 Independence Way, Coatesville, PA 19320; and,

**WHEREAS**, Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. has submitted a proposal indicating the ability to perform said services at a cost not-to-exceed \$15,000 for the Fire Department, charged to budget line item 3-01-25-255-082 and \$10,000 for the WWTP, charged to budget line item 3-05-55-502-334; and

**WHEREAS**, Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and the contract will prohibit Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that a contract is awarded to Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. for equipment, tools and apparel.

1. The award of this contract is subject to finalization of the contract terms to be drafted and approved by the Township Attorney.
2. The contract and any contract amendments which may become necessary shall be subject to the Township's ability to appropriate sufficient funds, which appropriation shall be at the sole discretion of the Township Council.
3. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
4. The Township Clerk is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township reserves the right to cancel this contract upon thirty (30) days' notice and Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. shall only be paid for the work completed; furthermore, no minimum amount of work or payment is implied or guaranteed.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Addendum

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-181**

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**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

2. Appointments

a. VMAC

Regina Tully

Member

**Unexpired Term Ending**

6/30/2026

Motion to move VMAC appointment of Regina Tully made by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath. Vote: 5 ayes.

New / Unfinished Business:

Council discusses the recommended water consumption rate surcharge

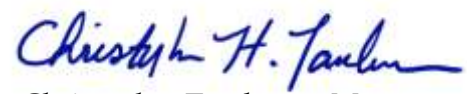
Public Comment:

None.

Motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman at 8:24 pm; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Council is November 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: December 4, 2023