

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, January 9, 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 Alex Roman, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath, Councilman Jack McEvoy, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland and Councilman Christopher Tamburro are present. Township Attorney Brian Aloia, Township Manager Joseph D'Arco and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present as well as Steven Neale, Director of Administration and Economic Development.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Roman invites Essex County Liaison, J. Coltre to the lectern. Mr. Coltre reports on this year's Essex County Deer Management Program at South Mountain and Hilltop Reservations. He also announces the COVID testing and vaccination locations throughout the County.

Mayor Roman makes the following appointments to the Library Board of Trustees:

- Benjamin Blinder      Member      Term Ending      12/31/2027
- Michele Gruet      Mayor's Alternate      Unexpired Term Ending      06/30/2023

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joe D'Arco reports on the Flood Control ordinance on tonight's agenda; Boswell Engineering in Phase II of the Claridge Pump; status of IBank, installation date of 2/23/23 for the traffic light at Pompton and Claremont Avenues; PFAS and undertaking a complete review of the wastewater treatment plant; business licensing throughout the Township; length of Holiday free parking and providing the Council with a draft 2023 budget this month. Mr. D'Arco makes the following appointments:

		<b>Term Expires</b>
1.	Township Engineer      Boswell Engineering	12/31/2023
2.	Planning Board	
	i.   Steven Neale      Class II Member	12/31/2023
3.	New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund	
	i.   Joseph O. D'Arco      Commissioner	12/31/2023
	ii. Steven Neale      Alt. Commissioner	12/31/2023
4.	Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (Gateway BMED)	
	i.   Joseph O. D'Arco      Commissioner	12/31/2023
	ii. Jennifer Muscara      Alt. Commissioner	12/31/2023

Township Attorney Brian Aloia discusses the requirements to set up a 501(c) 3 for the Friends of Verona Parks.

Steve Neale reports on the Fire Grant and application for next year; PIRHL will begin soil remediation on the Cameco property and a tentative ground breaking sometime in April. Pool construction is pretty much done. Mr. Neale gives a list of boards/committee/commission positions open for public members and provides information on the disbursements from the Children's Fund.

Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan gives a 2023 Municipal Election update.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McGrath reports on Congresswoman Sherrill's efforts to include authorizing the Army Corp of Engineers to perform a watershed study of the Peckman River in the National Defense Authorization Act, signed earlier this week by President Biden. She attended the Verona Green Team meeting, the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, the Shade Tree Commission meeting earlier this evening and will attend the VMAC meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman McEvoy recognizes the Verona Police Department and the danger they put themselves in each day on the job.

Councilman Tamburro thanks the police department, fire department, rescue squad and DPW for working over the holidays. He reports that the Local Emergency Planning Council met this month. The Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow.

Councilwoman Holland recaps her goal in running for Council in 2021 was to improve infrastructure. In 2022, the Township grappled with wells, storm water, the pool and roadwork. Year 2023 brings improvements to the wastewater treatment facility and continued infrastructure renovations. She urges the administration to continue to look for funding. She cites the utility workers working over the holidays due to a strained grid creating emergency requests for electricity.

#### **ORDINANCE # 2023-01**

##### **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ENCOURAGING ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY/SERVICE EQUIPMENT (EVSE) & MAKE-READY PARKING SPACES**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-01 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-01 is moved by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman McEvoy.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023.01 is introduced 5-0, and will be referred to the Planning Board to determine its' consistency with the Master Plan.

#### **ORDINANCE No. 2023-002**

##### **ESTABLISHING THE VERONA-CEDAR GROVE FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-02 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-02 is moved by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath.

Council discussion.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-02 is introduced 5-0, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on January 23, 2023.

#### **ORDINANCE No. 2023-03**

##### **FIXING THE HOURLY COMPENSATION OF PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-03 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-03 is moved by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Council discussion. Police Chief Christopher Kiernan is present to answer any questions regarding Special Law Enforcement Officer II's compensation.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-03 is introduced 5-0, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on January 23, 2023.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-04**

**AUTHORIZING AND REGULATING TEMPORARY STREET CLOSINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS SUCH AS BLOCK PARTIES AND NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVALS BY THE CREATION OF CHAPTER 458, ENTITLED "STREET CLOSINGS FOR BLOCK PARTIES"**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2023-04 by title into record.

Motion to Introduce Ordinance No. 2023-04 is moved by Councilman McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2023-04 is introduced 5-0, will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on January 23, 2023.

Minutes from the December 19, 2022 meeting are unanimously approved.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

Council discussion on consent agenda.

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 EG Technology NJ, LLC shall only be paid for the work completed; furthermore, no minimum amount of work or payment is implied or guaranteed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2022-212**

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

**AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH FRANK SEMERARO CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. D/B/A FSC LEAK DETECTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has a need to award a contract to Frank Semeraro Construction Company, Inc. D/B/A FSC Leak Detection (hereinafter "FSC") to provide leak detection services throughout the Township of Verona as recommended in the Asset Management Plan for the Water/Sewer Utility; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Administration has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

**WHEREAS**, FSC, located at 805 Preakness Avenue, Wayne, New Jersey 07470 has indicated they will provide the services for at a cost not-to-exceed \$24,000; and,

**WHEREAS**, funds will be charged to Budget Line 2-05-55-502-334 or any other account deemed sufficient by the Interim Chief Financial Officer.

**WHEREAS**, FSC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that FSC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit FSC 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 FSC to assist the Township of Verona in providing leak detection services in an amount not-to-exceed \$24,000.00 subject to the following:

1. 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.
2. The Township is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.
3. The Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with FSC.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2022-213**

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

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF  
QUALIFIED PRIVATE COMMUNITY SERVICE AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40:67-23.1 et seq.*, the Township is required either to perform certain specified services on public roads and streets in the Condominium, which is a qualified private community, or to reimburse said Condominium to the extent specified in that statute for the actual costs to the Association of providing said specified services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Linwood Village is a Qualified Private Community in the Township of Verona for the years, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

**WHEREAS**, the Township wishes to enter into a Qualified Private Community Service Agreement with the Qualified Private Communities for purposes of providing reimbursement for street ice and snow removal, street lighting, solid waste collection and leaf collection where applicable at a rate not to exceed the cost that would be incurred by the municipality in providing those services directly.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey that the Township is hereby authorized to enter into 2020, 2021 and 2022 Qualified Private Community Service Agreement with Linwood Village for the purpose of providing reimbursement for street ice and snow removal, street lighting, solid waste collection and leaf collection where applicable at a rate not to exceed the cost that would be incurred by the municipality in providing those services directly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute said agreements on behalf of the Township of Verona to effectuate same.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2022-214**

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

**REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from John Sorger, for property located at [REDACTED] and the fees have been held in Trust; and

**WHEREAS**, certification has been received from the Engineer to release these funds, from Trust, as follows:

<b>ESCROW AMOUNT</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED</b>
\$500.00	\$215.60	\$284.40

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$284.40 to John Sorger, [REDACTED]

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2022-215**

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; 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 Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*  
- 200 Bloomfield Avenue
3. Personnel Matters pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (8)*

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2022-216**

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilman McEvoy that the

following resolution be adopted:

**AWARDING CONTRACT TO VCI EMERGENCY VEHICLE SPECIALISTS  
FOR THE PURCHASE ONE NEW 2019 TYPE I, FORD 550, MODEL 623  
AMBULANCE FOR THE VERONA RESCUE SQUAD**

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Rescue Squad ("Squad") recommends that Verona procure new Ambulance for its use by the Squad in fulfilment of their mission to the residents of the Township replacing the 2008 Ambulance owned by the Verona Rescue Squad; and

**WHEREAS**, the Squad has researched vendors that would achieve their goals and determined that the sought-after equipment may be procured through a nationally-recognized and accepted cooperative purchasing contract between the Houston-Galveston Area Council ("H-GAC") and Bay Head Investments, Inc. dba VCI Emergency Vehicle Specialists ("VCI"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2b(3)* (as amended by *P.L. 2011, c.139*) and LFN 2012-10, a New Jersey municipality may purchase goods and services without public bidding under the Local Public Contracts Law through the use of a nationally-recognized and accepted cooperative purchasing contract that has been developed utilizing a competitive bidding or contracting process by another contracting unit within New Jersey or another state; and

**WHEREAS**, H-GAC is a regional organization of governments operating under the laws of the State of Texas and is a political subdivision of the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject cooperative purchasing contract was awarded by H-GAC to VCI utilizing a competitive contracting process; and

**WHEREAS**, also pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2b(3)* (as amended by *P.L. 2011, c.139*) and LFN 2012-10, prior to making purchases under nationally-recognized and accepted cooperative purchasing contracts, the municipality must determine that the use of the cooperative purchasing contract shall result in cost savings after all factors, including charges for service, material, and delivery, have been considered; and

**WHEREAS**, the Squad have determined that Verona's use of the H-GAC cooperative purchasing contract to procure the sought-after ambulance will result in cost savings to Verona; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the H-GAC cooperative purchasing contract and needs of Verona, VCI has submitted a proposal to provide one (1) new 2019 Type 1, Ford F550, Model 623 ambulance to Verona for the sum of \$350,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Temporary Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available for this purchase in Bond Ordinance No 2019-17 (Capital Account # C-53-46-031-001).

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

1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby incorporated as if fully restated.
2. A contract for the purchase of one (1) new 2019 Type 1, Ford F550, Model 623 ambulance for the sum of \$300,000 is hereby awarded to VCI without the Township soliciting public bids as permitted by law.
3. The Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an "End User Agreement" with VCI pursuant to the terms of its nationally-recognized and accepted cooperative purchasing agreement with the Houston-Galveston Area Council.
4. The form and terms of the End User Agreement shall be consistent with this resolution is subject to the approval of the Township Attorney.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

DL042023

**NAYS:**  
**ABSENT (Recusal): Tamburro**

New Business:

The Proposed Part-Time Salary ordinance is discussed. Chief Kiernan is present to explain the reasoning to implement a SLEO I and II on this ordinance. Council discusses the proposed Tree Defacing ordinance and draft Street Closing for Parties and Festivals ordinance.

There is discussion about the RFPs received for 2023 Professional Services. The Township Attorney's appointment will be on the next meeting. Mr. D'Arco advises that after that appointment, all professionals who submitted RFPs should be appointed so that they are "on standby" for the Township.

Steven Neale requests direction from the governing body regarding Cannabis dispensaries in the Township. Do they need more information from the Township Administration? Do they want the Administration to create a survey or jump into drafting an ordinance? The Deputy Mayor suggests DMR coming to a meeting to discuss the memo they created at the Council's request. The Mayor would like to discuss potential locations before coming to a conclusion. There is unanimous to table the discussion until the next meeting.

There is discussion about the zoning ordinance amendment to the plant placement and selection section. The list is located at the beginning of Chapter 150 along with the Zoning Map and Summary of Permitted Use Bulk Schedule.

Discussion on shortening the length of a Council Meeting will be on the January 9 meeting agenda per Councilman Tamburro's request.

Public Comment:

Jessica Pearson, [REDACTED]  
Haider Rizvi, [REDACTED]  
Chris Reilly, [REDACTED]  
Kevin Ryan, [REDACTED]  
Rob Puleo, [REDACTED]

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Mayor Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McGrath. Unanimously approved. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council is January 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Alex Roman, Mayor

APPROVED: January 9, 2023