

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, beginning at 7:04 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 law. The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting of the Township Council which is being held via Zoom video conferencing and in person. The time and date, along with the public internet link and telephone call-in information was posted in the Municipal Building, and sent the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger at least 48 hours preceding the start time of this meeting. The agenda and public handouts for this meeting can be viewed online at [www.veronanj.org/councilmeetings](http://www.veronanj.org/councilmeetings). A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda and instructions on how to comment will be provided at the appropriate time. This meeting is being recorded, both audibly and visually for retention purposes and for rebroadcast on the Township's YouTube.

Roll Call:

Mayor Alex Roman, Deputy Mayor Christine McGrath, Councilman Jack McEvoy, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland and Councilman Chris Tamburro. Township Manager Joseph D'Arco, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present along with Interim Chief Financial Officer Jen Muscara.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-046**

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

**ENABLING RESOLUTION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REQUEST  
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program ("State"), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition and development of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has previously obtained a Green Acres grant of \$500,000 from the State to fund the following project(s):

**VERONA OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION - 0720-21-001; and**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona desires to further the public interest by requesting an additional Green Acres grant of \$3,716,000 to fund the project(s); and

**WHEREAS**, the State shall determine if the supplemental funding request is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant is willing to use the State's funds in accordance with its rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an Amendment of the Agreement with the State for the above-named project.

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

1. Joseph O. D'Arco, Township Manager or the successor to the office of Township Manager is hereby authorized to:

- (a) Request such a loan and/or such a grant

- (b) Provide additional information and furnish such documents as may be required
  - (c) Act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant
2. The applicant agrees to provide the local government share if a match is required.
  3. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project.
  4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

New/Unfinished Business:

2023 Municipal Budget presentation and discussion budgetary items in Administration, Municipal Clerk/ Elections, Assessment of Taxes, Finance & Revenue Collection, Legal, Court, Planning, Zoning & Rent Control Boards, Communications, Civic Affairs, Public Library and the Fire Department/Rescue Squad

Public Comment:

Al DeOld, [REDACTED]

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Deputy Mayor McGrath; seconded by Councilman Tamburro at 9:19 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Township Council is March 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Alex Roman, Mayor

APPROVED: March 13, 2023