

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, January 22, 2024, 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, Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan and Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan are also present.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro reminds residents of the ordinance to clear their sidewalks of ice and snow within 24 hours after the event. He had the pleasure of being a judge at the Junior Women's Club Spelling Bee and congratulates all of the participants on their extraordinary bravery to be up on stage in front of an audience. He thanks Deputy Mayor McEvoy for attending the Legislative District 40 Mayor's Practice on his behalf. He looks forward to future visits from the entire Legislative District 40 Delegation, and encourages everyone to attend the future Chinese New Year celebration, the Verona UNICO Sunday Gravy Dinner, and the Verona Rescue Squad Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast.

Manager's Report:

Mr. D'Arco announces that professionals will be joining tonight's meeting to present some revisions on the Everett Field project. He then opens up the conversation to request questions from the Council on his list of topics. He provides updates on the Claridge pump, and lastly directs the next topics of discussion regarding town projects towards Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan.

Mr. O'Sullivan reports that the Water and Sewer Rate Study is still on schedule and Boswell's continued advancement of the wastewater treatment plan assessment is discussed. Regarding the residential escrow fees, the application has been cleaned up and recommendations regarding zoning fees will be presented to the Council in the near future. Updates on all drinking water projects are given and a storm water presentation will be given this evening. The administration had a good phone call with the Blue Acres Office and the office of Climate Resiliency which discussed many changes to the program and some additional funding. The parking meter rates is scheduled on the agenda for tonight's meeting, the energy supply discussions and initiatives are continuing to advance, as well as the Community Center project plans. A number of road projects are also advancing, and there are a number of projects being presented tonight in detail.

Township Manager Joseph D'Arco reports that the Township of Verona is planning to create new facilities at Everett Park, specifically, a completely inclusive playground. The Township is seeking funding through the State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Green Acres Program for improvements at Everett Park. A concept plan showing the proposed changes, a preliminary cost estimate, and an environmental impact assessment are posted on the Township's website. He explains tonight's public hearing is being held in compliance with the application for funding from the DEP Green Acres Program and the public is encouraged to attend to learn about the proposal, ask questions and provide comments on the proposed plan presented tonight.

Anthony Kurus, PE, PP, of Neglia Engineering Associates is present this evening and will provide an overview of the project. Mr. Kurus discusses the tree replacement program, slopes and grading and explains that final concepts can be determined when and if funding is secured.

Public Hearing for ADA Playground

Phil DeLisi, Verona, New Jersey
Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey
Kim Festa, Verona, New Jersey
Sarah O'Farrell, Verona, New Jersey
Paul Petrangeli, Verona, New Jersey
Steve Neale, Verona, New Jersey

Council discussion. Public Hearing closes at 8:26 p.m.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-023

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

**ENABLING RESOLUTION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REQUEST
FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, GREEN ACRES PROGRAM FOR
EVERETT FIELD PLAYGROUND**

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

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$674,400.00, in the form of a \$674,400.00 matching grant and, if available, a \$0 loan, from the State to fund the following project(s): Everett Field ADA Completely Inclusive Playground at a cost of \$899,200.00.

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the application 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 such rules, regulations, and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above-named project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey that:

1. Joseph D'Arco or the successor to the office of the Township Manager is hereby authorized to:
 - a. make application for such a loan and/or such a grant,
 - b. provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
 - c. act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant;
2. The applicant agrees to provide its matching share to the Green Acres funding request, if a match is required, in the amount of \$224,800.00;
3. In the event the State's funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project;
4. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, Tamburro

NAYS: McEvoy

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy attended the breakfast this morning with the State Representatives which was very well attended with good discussions. The Chamber of Commerce is bringing back Restaurant Week this year with more information available in the coming weeks. Deputy Mayor McEvoy also attended a Composting Webinar which he found to be very informative.

Councilman Roman reinforces the point that the L.D. 40 Representatives are very much active in Verona, and he had the opportunity to see them last week. Our Public Safety Facility is being discussed by them as well as many other Verona needs and Councilman Roman appreciates their attentiveness.

Councilwoman McGrath reports on the Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee meeting last week and congratulates former Councilman Ted Giblin for being selected as the Grand Marshall for the 89th Anniversary Newark Saint Patrick's State Parade. The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee has a date for their first ever Black History Month Celebration and she would like to thank them for all of their robust activities that they have done throughout the year.

Councilwoman Holland recognizes the work of the Rec Committee for providing recommendations for Everett Field and the pool fees. She attended the VMAC Meeting where funding was discussed and thanks all of the volunteers on their continued efforts and service.

Public Comment:

Paul Petrangeli, Verona, New Jersey
Steve Cruz, Verona, New Jersey
Anthony D., Verona, New Jersey
Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey
Scott P., Verona, New Jersey
Sarah O'Farrell, Verona, New Jersey

Proposed Ordinances:

Mayor Tamburro suggests that item H-1 should be moved to New Business for Council discussion. Motion to move H-1 to New Business is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman. **Vote: 5 ayes.**

Consent Agenda:

The minutes from December 4, 2024 and December 18, 2024 are unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-024

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

**AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATION
ACCOUNTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59**

WHEREAS, certain transfers of funds for various 2023 budget appropriations are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40a:4-59* provides for transfer of appropriations with an excess over and above the amount deemed necessary to fulfil their purposes to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

WHEREAS, the appropriations subject to fund transfers hereby are not within those restricted by *N.J.S.A. 40a:4-59* for transfer purposes;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Chief Financial Officer shall and is hereby authorized to make transfers between appropriations accounts of the 2023 Municipal Budget as follows:

	TO:	FROM:
Health – Salaries and Wages	\$500.00	
Health – Operating Expenses		\$500.00
TOTAL:	\$500.00	\$500.00

ROLL CALL:

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

RESOLUTION No. 2024-025

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, COUNTY OF ESSEX,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CANCELLING FUNDED APPROPRIATION
BALANCES UNDER CERTAIN BOND ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY
ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA FOR VARIOUS WATER
SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT
OF \$33,402.61**

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 DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT TO BE CANCELLED
Water/ Sewer Capital		
2017-1A	Replace Roof Unit AHU	\$4,314.95
2018-30	Rehab Fairway Ave. Tank	\$29,087.66
Total Water/Sewer Capital		\$33,402.61

ROLL CALL:

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

RESOLUTION No. 2024-026

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland that the 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 Court General /Court Bail Account 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>
5/8/2023	341	\$2.00
	Total Current Fund	\$2.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That two 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 each of the following:

1. Chief Financial Officer
2. Township Auditor

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-027

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

**EXTENDING CONTRACT No. 2022-02
TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL & MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022 the Township of Verona received two (2) responsive and responsible bids for Contract No. 2022-02 – Tree Trimming, Removal & Maintenance Services; and

WHEREAS, Caputo Brothers Tree Service, Inc., 22 Appleton Place, Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043 was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and was awarded a twelve-month contract that contained an option to renew for a maximum of four (4) additional twelve month terms; and

WHEREAS, the contract shall not be extended so that it runs for more than a total of five consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council approved Resolution 2023-35 at a regular meeting held on February 6, 2023, extending the contract for an addition twelve months, from February 6, 2023 through February 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township administration desires to extend this contract for an additional twelve month period, bringing this contract into its third year; and

WHEREAS, any price change included as part of this extension is be based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or extension and shall not exceed the change in the index rate for the 12 months preceding the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the contract is renewed; and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the contract remain substantially the same; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has indicated that the services are being performed in an effective and efficient manner and recommends that Contract No. 2022-02 be extended and an agreement be executed with Caputo Brothers Tree Service, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded as an open-ended contract pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.10* and there shall be a maximum of 250 work orders as defined in the bid specifications

per contract year (twelve-months); and

WHEREAS, the as required amount shall be chargeable at such time as a certification of available funds is made by the Chief Financial Officer upon receipt of a properly executed purchase order.

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

1. The preamble to this Resolution is hereby incorporated as if more fully set forth herein.
2. Contract No. 2022-02 is renewed for an addition twelve month term (February 5, 2024 through February 4, 2025).
3. No amount of this contract shall be chargeable until such time as to the certification of available funds is made by the Chief Financial Officer, upon receipt of a properly executed Purchase Order pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.10*.
4. No minimum payment is implied or shall be guaranteed under the contract which shall be terminable by the Township with or without reason and contractor shall only be paid for the work completed up to the date of termination.
5. The Township Manager and the Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary 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. 2024-028

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

**EXTENDING CONTRACT No. 2022-08
FURNISHING OF SNOW PLOW EQUIPMENT & PERSONNEL**

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022 the Township of Verona received one (1) responsive and responsible bid for Contract No. 2022-08– Furnishing of Snow Plowing Equipment & Personnel; and

WHEREAS, Martin Contracting, LLC, P.O. Box 15, 49 Commerce Court, Verona, New Jersey 07044 was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and a contract was entered into, for a twelve-month period with an option to renew for a maximum of two (2) additional twelve month terms; and

WHEREAS, the contract shall not be extended so that it runs for more than a total of three consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council approved Resolution 2023-36 at a regular meeting held on February 6, 2023, extending the contract for an addition twelve months, from February 6, 2023 through February 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township administration desires to extend this contract for an additional twelve month period, bringing this contract into its third year; and

WHEREAS, any price change included as part of this extension is be based upon the price of the original contract as cumulatively adjusted pursuant to any previous adjustment or extension and shall not exceed the change in the index rate for the 12 months preceding the most recent quarterly calculation available at the time the contract is renewed; and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the contract remain substantially the same; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has indicated that the services are being performed in an effective and efficient manner and recommends that Contract No. 2022-08 be extended and an agreement be executed with Martin Contracting, LLC; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded as an open-ended contract pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.10* and there shall be a maximum of 50 work orders as defined in the bid specifications per contract year (twelve-months); and

WHEREAS, the as required amount shall be chargeable at such time as a certification of available funds is made by the Chief Financial Officer upon receipt of a properly executed purchase order.

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

6. The preamble to this Resolution is hereby incorporated as if more fully set forth herein.
7. Contract No. 2022-08 is renewed for an addition twelve month term (February 5, 2024 through February 4, 2025).
8. No amount of this contract shall be chargeable until such time as to the certification of available funds is made by the Chief Financial Officer, upon receipt of a properly executed Purchase Order pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.10*.
9. No minimum payment is implied or shall be guaranteed under the contract which shall be terminable by the Township with or without reason and contractor shall only be paid for the work completed up to the date of termination.
10. The Township Manager and the Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary 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. 2024-029

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH EDMUNDS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

WHEREAS, there exists a need to renew the software maintenance for the Edmunds System; and

WHEREAS, services such as support and/or maintenance of proprietary hardware and software may be awarded without competitive bidding pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(dd)*; and

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

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged in an amount not to exceed \$22,000 to Budget Accounts 4-01-20-145-122 an amount not to exceed \$11,000 and 4-05-55-502-368 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; and

WHEREAS, Edmunds & Associates has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Edmunds & Associates 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 Edmunds & Associates 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, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Edmunds & Associates, Inc., 301A Tilton Road, Northfield, NJ 08225 is hereby awarded a contract for the software maintenance for the Edmunds software system not to exceed \$22,000.00.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

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. 2024-030

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

**AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH
STRIVE FOR SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS**

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department's youth soccer programs require coaching and training for young athletes; and

WHEREAS, Strive for Sports Scholarships provides training opportunities that make young athletes feel good about themselves and in their ability to grow with the game of soccer; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Township Manager has determined that the value of said services has exceeded \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, funds will be charged to a Budget line item 4-01-28-370-216 or any other account deemed sufficient by the Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to Strive for Sports Scholarships is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* and the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form completed by Strive for Sports Scholarships have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Strive for Sports Scholarships, 358 Page Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071 is hereby awarded a contract for providing gaming officials for programs offered by the Recreation Department not to exceed \$24,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and the Acting Director of Community Services are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary for the aforementioned services.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-031

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland

that the following resolution be adopted:

**AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE
VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2025 (2024-25)**

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 recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

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

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Essex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Verona Municipal Alliance grant for Fiscal Year 2025 (2024-25) in the amount of:

DEDR	\$16,921.26
Cash Match	\$ 4,230.32
In-Kind	\$12,690.95
TOTAL BUDGET	<u>\$33,842.53</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-032

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

DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE TOWNSHIP EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has advised the Township Council that there is obsolete equipment that is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36(7)* authorizes the disposition of personal property not needed for public use as part of a purchase to offset the price of the new purchase; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to dispose of said equipment:

- 1) Henderson Salter Model No. WSH X 10X48X304SS, serial WSH-25886
- 2) Electronic Arrow Board on Trailer
- 3) Eight Panasonic ToughBook Laptops (I.D. No.’s 8DKYA31134, 8EKYA44344, 5KKSA48632, 5KKSA48569, 5JKSA47184, 5KKSA48249, 5KKSA48618, 6AKSA57838)
- 4) Sony LCD Digital Color TV KDL-37M4000, Serial No. 8207808.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the obsolete equipment referenced by the

Township Manager which is no longer needed for public use by the Township shall be disposed of according to the manner as prescribed by law.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-033

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

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF
2024 QUALIFIED PRIVATE COMMUNITY SERVICES AGREEMENTS**

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 qualified private communities, or to reimburse said communities to the extent specified in that statute for the actual costs to the Association of providing said specified services; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Private Communities in the Township of Verona for the year 2024 are as follows:

1. Claridge House I Condominium Association
2. Green Acres/Ardleigh Mews
3. Verona 421 Bloomfield Ave Association
4. 300 Claremont Avenue
5. 284 Claremont Avenue
6. Kimberly Gardens
7. Kathleen Gardens
8. Beacon Hill
9. Kips Ridge
10. Wedgewood Gardens
11. Commons at Verona
12. Linwood Village (Nordan Realty)
13. Huntington Park; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to enter into a Qualified Private Community Services 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 these 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 2024 Qualified Private Community Service Agreements with all the Qualified Private Communities for the purpose 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, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-034

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

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA PLANNING BOARD TO
UNDERTAKE AN AREA IN NEED OF REHABILITATION**

INVESTIGATION

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona (“Township”) believes that economic growth and development is an important priority for the future of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et. seq.* provides a mechanism to empower and assist local governments in efforts to promote programs of rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-4b*, the Planning Board has the power to make recommendations concerning the determination of an area in need of rehabilitation pursuant to the criteria set forth in *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council desires the Planning Board to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if the Bloomfield Avenue corridor (“Study Area”), as described in the attached boundary map, and which is generally bounded by Sunset Avenue to the east, White Rock Road to the west and an irregular boundary along properties fronting on Bloomfield Avenue, qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A-12A-14*.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Verona Township Planning Board is hereby directed to conduct the necessary preliminary investigation, including the holding of a public hearing, to determine whether the study area is or is not an area in need of rehabilitation under the criteria set forth in *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et. seq.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Board shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Township Council in the form of a Resolution with supporting documentation.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-035

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

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA PLANNING BOARD TO UNDERTAKE A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION FOR NONCONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona (“Township”) believes that economic growth and development is an important priority for the future of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et. seq.* provides a mechanism to empower and assist local governments in efforts to promote programs of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6*, the Governing Body of Verona is authorized to direct the Planning Board of the Township of Verona to undertake a preliminary investigation in order to determine whether an area within the Township is an area in need of redevelopment pursuant to the criteria set forth in *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council desire the Planning Board to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether the proposed property fronting on Bloomfield Avenue and Church Street “Study Area,” as described in the attached boundary map and identified as Block 704, Lots 18 and 20 in the Township’s Tax Maps, qualifies as an area in need of redevelopment pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to designate a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area and will not exercise the power of eminent domain if the Township Council determines the area, or any portion of the area, qualifies as an area in need of redevelopment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of

Verona that the Verona Township Planning Board is hereby directed to conduct the necessary preliminary investigation, including the holding of a public hearing, to determine whether the study area is or is not an area in need of redevelopment under the criteria set forth in *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et. seq.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Board shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Township Council in the form of a Resolution with supporting documentation.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-036

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland 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)*

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Public Comment:

Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey
Greg Mascera, Essex Fells, New Jersey (Planning Board Attorney)

Resolution No. 2024-034 will be sent to the Planning Board for determination of consistency with the Master Plan.

New Business:

A motion is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman that Edwin "Paul" Mickiewicz be appointed to the Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee for an unexpired term ending 6/30/2025. **Vote: 5 ayes.**

The Deputy Manager explains his analysis and assessment of all parking meters reporting that upgrades are necessary and raising rates similar to surrounding townships would be required in order to meet the capital needs required for that infrastructure. Council discussion.

Public Comment:

Paul Petrangeli, Verona, New Jersey
Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

Executive Session:

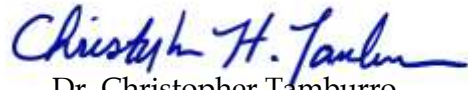
Council enters into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

Adjournment:

Council returns to Public Session at 10:23. A motion to adjourn is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman at 10:24 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Township Council is February 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan
Municipal Clerk


Dr. Christopher Tamburro
Mayor

APPROVED: February 26, 2024