

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, July 1, 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, Councilman Roman, Councilwoman Christine McGrath, 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 invites County Liaison J. Coltre to the lectern. Mr. Coltre reports on the Essex County Summer Concert series and other events being held by Essex County.

The Mayor congratulates the Verona High School class of 2024. He attended the fireworks and recognizes and thanks all involved parties and groups for their planning. The following appointments are made by the Mayor:

- |                             |              |                       |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| a. Board of Adjustment      |              |                       |
| i. Edith Reis               | Alternate #1 | Term Ending 6/30/2026 |
| ii. Michael Tully           | Alternate #2 | Term Ending 6/30/2026 |
| b. Environmental Commission |              |                       |
| i. Jessica Pearson          | Member       | Term Ending 6/30/2027 |
| ii. Fuad Dahan              | Member       | Term Ending 6/30/2027 |
| iii. Adam Bulger            | Alternate #1 | Term Ending 6/30/2026 |
| Jessica Pearson             | Chairperson  | Term Ending 6/30/2025 |

Manager's Report:

Mr. D'Arco announces the town wide community meeting on the Emergency Services complex was on the 26<sup>th</sup>, he and Kevin O'Sullivan met with one of the two fundraising firms and discussed the modifications to their proposal and also were up with the Township Engineer reviewing the Pickle Ball court at Caldwell University.

Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan provides updates on all projects in motion including the pool strategic plan, water infrastructure, a smoke testing program, upgrades to the UV disinfection system and the micro screens project.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy congratulates the Verona High School graduating class and all other graduating classes in Verona. He announces that the Historic Preservation Commission is looking into moving the Freight Shed. He thanks Public Works for their quick response in regards to their debris clean up left behind on the ropes course on the Hilltop Conservancy and lastly, on July 18<sup>th</sup> the Chamber of Commerce is going to have a meet and greet at the Verona Inn.

Councilman Roman also congratulates all of the VHS graduates and thanks everyone who put together both the graduation ceremony and those who coordinated the amazing Verona fireworks display.

Councilwoman McGrath also attended the graduation ceremony for the Verona High School students and is looking forward to next year's fireworks display as she was not able to attend this year. The Multicultural Inclusion Accessibility Advisory Committee met last week and discussed plans to raise awareness on disability and also elected a new chairwoman. She acknowledges Michele Gruet, the first chairperson of the committee. The Shade Tree Committee meeting on Monday and the Neighborhood Traffic and Safety will be meeting on Tuesday.

Councilwoman Holland congratulates all Verona 2024 classes on their graduations. The Flood Advisory Committee's cancelled meeting will be rescheduled and she concludes by wishing everyone a happy and healthy Independence Day.

Public Comment:

John O'Dell, Verona, New Jersey  
Brandon Tibido, Verona, New Jersey  
Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

Hearing Adoption or Amendment of Ordinances:

**ORDINANCE No. 2024-26**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 140, ARTICLE XII OF THE CODE OF VERONA, SPECIFICALLY SECTION X, "STOP INTERSECTIONS", SECTION I "NO PARKING" AND SECTION II "NO PARKING CERTAIN HOURS"**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2024-26 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

Public Hearing:

None

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance No. 2024-26 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

Ordinances for Introduction:

**ORDINANCE No. 2024-27**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 46 LAKESIDE AVENUE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,250,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,142,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-1 into the record.

Motion to move Ordinance H-1 is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance H-1 will be numbered 2024-27. It is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 22, 2024.

Minutes:

The Meeting Minutes from June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> are unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda:

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-119**

A motion was made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy that the

following resolution be adopted:

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CIVIL SOLUTIONS FOR TAX MAP  
PREPARATION**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey State Statutes require a municipality to periodically update their tax maps to meet the updated required standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has a need to acquire such services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19-44A-20.5; and

**WHEREAS**, Civil Solutions, a division of ARH Associates, 215 Bellevue Avenue, Hammonton, New Jersey 08037 provides said services; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of this purchase shall not exceed the total amount of \$50,000.00 and shall be charged to line C-53-46-040-005.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Verona, County of Essex and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that a contract is awarded to Civil Solutions to prepare and update the Tax maps of the Township of Verona:

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 services requested shall not exceed \$50,000 and no services or materials shall be requested without a certification of funds.
4. This resolution and the contract will be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-120**

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

**AWARDING CONTRACT 2024-08 - REVALUTAION OF ALL  
COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL & REAL PROPERTIES**

**WHEREAS**, on June 7, 2024 the Township of Verona advertised in the Star Ledger for bids for Contract No. 2024-08 - Revaluation of All Commercial, Residential & Real Properties within the Township of Verona, setting the date for the return of bids as June 27, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 2024 the Township of Verona received one (1) responsive and responsible bid for Contract No. 2024-08; and

**WHEREAS**, Professional Property Appraisals, 101 Route 130, Suite 301, Cinnaminson, New Jersey, 08077 is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, the Deputy Township Manager has reviewed the proposal and recommends that Contract No. 2024-08 be awarded to Professional Property Appraisals as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder to perform revaluation of all commercial, residential and real properties within the Township of Verona for an amount not to exceed \$499,345.00.

**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. 2024-08 shall be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Professional Property Appraisals.
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. 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. 2024-121**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH RILEIGHS OUTDOOR, LLC d/b/a HOLIDAY DECOR**

**WHEREAS**, the current holiday decorations placed the Township light posts along Bloomfield Avenue during the winter holiday season require replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, Rileighs Outdoor, LLC d/b/a Holiday Décor, 1053 N Plymouth Street, Allentown, PA 18109, provides outdoor holiday decorations for light posts; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of this purchase shall not exceed the total amount of \$20,000.00 and shall be charged to line 4-01-20-105-021.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Verona, County of Essex and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that a contract is awarded to Rileighs Outdoor, LLC dba Holiday Decor, Inc. to provide camera inspections of the water and sewer lines throughout the Township of Verona:

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The services requested shall not exceed \$20,000 and no services or materials shall be requested without a certification of funds.
8. This resolution and the contract will be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-122**

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

**RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A 26:3A2-12  
WITHDRAWING FROM THE UNIFORM SHARED SERVICES  
AGREEMENT WITH MONTCLAIR FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2022, the Township of Verona and the Township of Montclair entered into a Uniform Shared Services Agreement requiring the Township of Montclair to provide Public Health Services to the Township of Verona; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona desires to terminate the Agreement with the Township of Montclair because Verona is entering into an agreement with the Township of Bloomfield to provide local public health services to the Township of Verona effective January 1, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-12* the Township of Verona hereby announces and declares its intention to withdraw from the uniform shared services agreement with Montclair for local public health services, after participation for not less than 2 years, by approval of this resolution declaring the Township of Verona's intention to join with the Township of Bloomfield for local public health services meeting "Standards of Performance"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona Municipal Clerk shall provide the Township of Montclair a certified copy of this resolution, setting forth the date of the Township of Verona's intention to withdraw a minimum of 6 months prior to the proposed withdrawal date of January 2, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Verona, County of Essex and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

9. The above recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
10. The Township of Verona hereby terminates the Uniform Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Montclair to provide Public Health Services effective January 2, 2025.
11. Township of Verona Municipal Clerk shall provide the Township of Montclair a certified copy of this resolution.
12. The Council hereby authorizes the 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.
13. This resolution and the contract will be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-123**

A motion was made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy 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) 2008 FORD ESCAPE, VIN 1FMCU93148KB61022;
- 2) 2015 FORD F350 1FTRF3B66FEC46622

**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. 2024-124**

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

**DESIGNATING THE REGULAR, CONFERENCE AND LEGAL MEETING DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR 2024-2025**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975, requires all public bodies covered by said Act, at least once each year, and within seven (7) days following the annual reorganization meeting of such body, to post and maintain posted throughout the year a schedule of the regular meetings of the public body to be held during the succeeding year.

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

1. The schedule of regular meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Verona will be held in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey and via Zoom conferencing platform as deemed necessary, as set forth in the schedule annexed hereto be and the same is hereby adopted

SCHEDULE

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL 2024-2025 MEETING DATES

Monday, July 22, 2024	Monday, February 3, 2025
Monday, August 5, 2024	Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Monday, August 19, 2024	Monday, March 3, 2025
Monday, September 9, 2024	Monday, Mach 17, 2025
Monday, September 23, 2024	Monday, April 7, 2025
Monday, October 7, 2024	Monday, April 21, 2025
Monday, October 21, 2024	Monday, May 5, 2025
Tuesday, November 12, 2024	Monday, May 19, 2025
Monday, December 2, 2024	Monday, June 9, 2025
Monday, December 16, 2024	Monday, June 23, 2025
Monday, January 6, 2025	Tuesday, July 1, 2025*
Monday, January 20, 2025	<i>*(Reorganizational Meeting)</i>

Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-125**

A motion was made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor 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.

- 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:**

Appointments

- a. Board of Adjustment
  - i. Genevieve Murphy-Bradacs                      Member                      6/30/2028

Motion made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

- b. Environmental Commission
  - i. Adam Bulger    Alternate #1                      6/30/2026

Motion made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

- c. Green Team
  - i. Kerry Bass    Member                      6/30/2025
  - ii. Jami Bjornstad-Bal                                      Member                      6/30/2025
  - iii. Christine Liaukus                                      Member                      6/30/2025
  - Kerry Bass    Chairperson                      6/30/2025

Motion made by Mayor Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

- d. Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee
  - i. Tovah Kopan    Member                      6/30/2027
  - ii. Michelle O'Neill    Member                      6/30/2027

Motion made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

- e. Municipal Alliance Committee
  - i. Rosanna Gionni Member 6/30/2027
  - ii. Rachel Klansky Member 6/30/2027
  - iii. Staci Puleo Member 6/30/2027

Motion made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

- f. Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee
  - i. Abigail Chirico Member 6/30/2027
  - ii. Andrea Anderson Member 6/30/2027
  - iii. Elizabeth Hynes Member 6/30/2027
  - iv. Robin Wallace Member 6/30/2027

Motion made by Mayor Tamburro; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

- g. Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee
  - i. Chris Budesca Member 6/30/2027
  - ii. Chris Duffy Member 6/30/2027
  - iii. Jim Day Member 6/30/2025

Motion made Mayor Tamburro; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

- h. Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
  - i. Steve Farrell Member 6/30/2027
  - ii. David Conlon Member 6/30/2027

Motion made by Mayor Tamburro; seconded by Councilman Roman

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN: Holland, McGrath**

- i. Planning Board
  - j. David Freschi Member 6/30/2028
  - ii. Julie Parker Alternate #2 6/30/2026

Motion made by Mayor Tamburro; seconded by Councilman Roman

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN: Holland, McGrath**

- iii. Jessica Pearson Env Comm Member 6/30/2027

Motion made by Mayor Tamburro; seconded by Councilman Roman

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Holland, Roman, Tamburro**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN: McGrath, McEvoy**

- i. Rent Control Board
  - i. Sean Byrnes Member 6/30/2028

Motion made Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**



2. Council Liaisons to Committees/Commissions

a. Environmental Commission	Tamburro	6/30/2025
b. Green Team	McEvoy	6/30/2025
c. Historical Preservation Comm	McEvoy	6/30/2025
d. MIAAC	McGrath	6/30/2025
e. Municipal Alliance Committee	Holland	6/30/2025
f. NT&SAC	McGrath	6/30/2025
g. Open Space Advisory	Tamburro/Roman	6/30/2025
h. Parks & Rec Advisory Comm	Holland	6/30/2025
i. Shade Tree Commission	McGrath	6/30/2025

Mayor Tamburro makes a motion to amend to add Councilwoman Holland as liaison to the Joint Flood Committee; seconded by Councilman Roman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Council discusses amending ordinances for the advisory committees: Green Team, Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee, Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee and Parks & Recreation Committee.

Councilwoman McGrath makes a motion to direct the administration to draft an ordinance to add a voter non-binding referendum on the November ballot to move the May non-partisan municipal election to November. There is council discussion.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Holland, McGrath**

**NAYS: Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro**

Council discusses the funding for the Emergency Services Building Complex.

Public Comment:

None.

Council enters into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath at 10:08 p.m. The next meeting of the governing body will be July 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: July 22, 2024