

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, July 22, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey, and via Zoom video conferencing

Call to Order:

The Municipal Clerk reads the notice of Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:

Mayor Tamburro (via Zoom), Deputy Mayor McEvoy, presiding over meeting, Councilman Roman, Councilwoman McGrath, Councilwoman Holland, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan. Township Manager Joseph O. D'Arco is not present this evening.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor congratulates Lieutenant Brendan Huber and Sergeant Aaron Seubert and comments that they are find public servants. He recently visited Verona, Italy and presented the Verona staff with our Verona flag and was invited to come back. He escorted 73 Verona High School students to Italy. He wishes a Happy Birthday to Councilwoman McGrath.

Manager's Report:

Deputy Manager Kevin O'Sullivan reports that Township Manager Joseph D'Arco appoints Alena Sticha as an Alternate #2 to the Historical Preservation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2026.

The Deputy Manager discusses the wastewater infrastructure and provides updates on the road projects, Everett Field and the pickle ball courts at the Verona Pool. He discusses the sign sponsorships and various grant programs and applications.

Council Members Report:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy congratulates Brendan Huber and Aaron Seubert for on their promotions and thanks them for all their hard work. He reminds residents of the new stop-sign at the intersection of Cumberland and Claremont Avenues. He attended the Chamber of Commerce's Meet and Greet, which went very well. The Summer5 Concert Series continues this Wednesday in the Civic Center.

Councilman Roman congratulates Lieutenant Huber and Sergeant Seubert on their promotions and thanks his fellow councilmembers for observing those promotions. He attended the Chamber of Commerce where new businesses attended. He wishes Councilwoman McGrath a Happy Birthday.

Councilwoman McGrath was honored to attend the police ceremonies and congratulates Lt. Huber and Sgt. Seubert on their accomplishments. She thanks the Municipal Clerk for running a successful election and reminds the public that the Primary has been held to fill Representation Congressman Donald M. Payne's seat and that general election will be held on September 18th. She encourages all to sign up to receive a Vote by Mail ballot by completing an application that can be found on the County Clerk's website or right here in Town Hall. The Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Committee met and discussed drafting the Complete Streets policy. She mentions yet another act of gun violence with the assignation attempt of former President Trump that took one person's life. She encourages leaders to do more to end gun violence and asks voters to consider gun violence prevention strategies before casting their vote. She thanks Councilman Roman for the Birthday wishes.

Councilwoman Holland congratulates the officers on their promotions and acknowledges the hard work of the Municipal Clerk during the election and recognizes the challenge with organizations and summer camps at the schools along with the election districts and thanks all involved. The Verona Summer Music program concluded with two successful performances of Wonka. There expresses her gratitude for such a positive program that the kids really enjoy. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee met and had a robust discussion of the recreational facilities and programs. Lastly, she acknowledges the hot and dry summer weather and reminds residents to stay hydrated.

Public Comment:

Kerry Lucente, Verona, New Jersey

Ordinances for Public Hearing/Adoption:

**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 2024-27 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. 2024-27 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

**ORDINANCE #2024-28**

**AMENDING THE STANDARDS OF THE C-2 (PROFESSIONAL OFFICE AND BUSINESS ZONE DISTRICT) BY ESTABLISHING ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES AS A CONDITIONAL USE AND COWORKING SPACE AS A PERMITTED USE**

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

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance H-1 will be numbered Ordinance No. 2024-27 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be referred to the Planning Board for consistency review with the Master Plan.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-29**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV "GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-2 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance H-2 will be numbered Ordinance No. 2024-29 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 5, 2024.

**ORDINANCE No. 2024-30**

**AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE VII, ENTITLED "MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-3 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance H-3 will be numbered Ordinance No. 2024-30 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 5, 2024.

**ORDINANCE No. 2024-31**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE"**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-4 into the record.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance H-4 will be numbered Ordinance No. 2024-31 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 5, 2024.

**ORDINANCE # 2024-32**

**AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE V (PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-5 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilman Roman.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

Ordinance H-5 will be numbered Ordinance No. 2024-32 is introduced by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on August 5, 2024.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes from the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting are approved unanimously.

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-126**

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

**ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF THE 2024 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has been awarded a grant in the sum of \$2,547.94 from the State of New Jersey for the 2024 National Opioid Settlement to help Verona with the abatement of the opioid epidemic across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township's contribution toward the grant will be zero dollars.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Township of Verona is hereby authorized to accept for this grant in the amount of \$2,547.94.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager, Municipal Clerk and any other officer deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to accept this grant.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-127**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM  
OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$2,547.94 from the State of New Jersey in the form of the National Opioid Settlement Grant and wishes to amend its CY2024 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2024 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$2,547.94 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of  
Local Government Services -  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
National Opioid Settlement Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2024 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$2,547.94 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
National Opioid Settlement Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-128**

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

**ACCEPTING THE 2024 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY-PSE&G ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has been awarded a grant in the sum of \$10,000 from the 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program help increase energy efficiency for residents, businesses, and municipal facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona will provide staff support for all activities related to the Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program pursuant to the application.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Township of Verona is hereby authorized to accept for this grant in the amount of \$10,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager, Municipal Clerk and any other officer deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to accept this grant.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-129**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY PSE&G PROGRAM GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the "Director") may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$10,000 from the State of New Jersey in the form of a Sustainable Jersey & PSE&G Program Grant and wishes to amend its CY2024 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2024 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$10,000 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of  
Local Government Services –  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
Sustainable Jersey & PSE&G Program Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2024 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$2,547.94 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from “CAPS”  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
National Opioid Settlement Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-130**

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) OF A SPECIAL ITEM  
OF REVENUE IN THE FORM OF THE 2023-2024 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87* provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (the “Director”) may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has received \$16,921.26 from the County of Essex in the form of the 2024-2025 Municipal Alliance Grant and wishes to amend its CY2024 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2024 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$16,921.26 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F:  
Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of  
Local Government Services –  
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
2023-2024 Municipal Alliance Grant.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Director to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY2022 Municipal Budget in the like sum of \$4,230.32 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:  
(A) Operations - Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:  
2024-2025 Municipal Alliance Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-131**

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

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF EMERGENCY CONTRACT UNDER NEW JERSEY  
LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6  
RESULTING FROM AN EMERGENT CONDITION AT THE COMMUNICATIONS  
TOWER BUILDING AT 880 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE**

**WHEREAS**, an emergency has arisen with respect an emergent condition requiring immediate construction and repairs to the communications tower building located at 880 Bloomfield Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Architect has determined that immediate attention to the building to safeguard all communications equipment for the purpose of protecting public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for such could not have been reasonably foreseen notwithstanding a good faith effort on the part of the Township to plan for the purchase of any goods or services required; and

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6* permits a contract to be negotiated or awarded without public advertisement for bids and bidding therefor, notwithstanding the contract price will exceed the bid threshold, when an emergency affecting the public health, safety or welfare requires the immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.12*, contracts awarded under such circumstances are excepted from Pay-to-Play due to public exigency; and

**WHEREAS**, Infrastructure Repair Service, LLC, 163 Beaver Brook Road, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035 has confirmed that they have the ability to commence the emergency work required as soon as a contract is executed with the Township in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account C-53-44-997-007 and C-53-46-040-013, 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes award of an emergency contract pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A-11-6* to Infrastructure Repair Service, LLC for emergency repairs to the communications tower building at 880 Bloomfield Avenue for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** said contract shall be limited to duration as to meet only the immediate needs of this emergency.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-132**

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT HERTRICH FLEET SERVICES, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, a need exists for the acquisition of Police rated vehicle for the daily operations of the Township of Verona Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona may, without advertising for bids, purchase such materials through the New Jersey State Contract Pricing Contract #21-FLEET-01483 (T2776) pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12* and *N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 et seq.*, and

**WHEREAS**, Hertrich Fleet Services Inc. of Milford DE is furnishing 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Utility model for an amount of \$49,725.92.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that Hertrich Fleet Services is hereby awarded a contract to supply a 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Utility model in an amount not to exceed \$49,725.92, charged to budget line C-53-46-040-009, C-53-56-039-004.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-133**

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

**REFUNDING TAX LIEN REDEMPTION**

**WHEREAS**, property located at 17 Otis Place, Block 207 Lot 1 Qualifier C0053, owned by [REDACTED], has been held in tax lien since December 1, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, payment was received from Acres Land Title Agency, Inc. in the amount of \$36,634.73, clearing the lien as follows:

Certificate #22-00004	
Certificate	\$ 8,210.19
4% Redemption Penalty	\$ 328.41
2022 Taxes plus Interest	\$13,953.09
2022 Water/Sewer plus Interest	\$ 39.25
2023 Taxes plus Interest	\$ 7,907.51
2023 Water/Sewer plus Interest	\$ 475.45
2024 Taxes plus Interest	\$ 5,509.57
2024 Water/Sewer plus Interest	\$ 154.26
Recording Fee	\$ 45.00
Search Fee	\$ 12.00
	\$36,634.73
Premium	\$81,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$118,134.73</b>

**WHEREAS**, this certificate has been held by the Township of Verona and the certificate has been received and properly signed for cancellation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from Trust, \$118,134.73 to:

Fundpality II, LLC  
100 N. LaSalle, Suite 710  
Chicago, IL 60602



**ROLL CALL:**

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

**NAYS:**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-134**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman 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:**

New/Old Business:

- |   |            |                     |
|---|------------|---------------------|
| 1. Appointments                             |            | <b>Term Expires</b> |
| a. Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee | Larry Raff | 6/30/2025           |

San Chavan from H2M is present to discuss the Town Center zone district ordinance.

Public Comment:

None

Council goes into Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. No action will be taken afterwards.

Council enters back into Public Session at 9:46 p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman at 9:47 p.m.; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath. The next meeting is August 5, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

  
 Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: August 5, 2024