

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, January 27, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey.

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; specifically, the time, date and location were included in the annual notice of meetings adopted by the governing body, posted in the Municipal Building, and sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger. Additionally, the agenda for this meeting was posted in the Municipal Building and sent to the two newspapers before 4:30 p.m. on the Friday preceding this meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Jack McEvoy, Deputy Mayor Alex Roman, Councilman Kevin Ryan and Councilwoman Christine McGrath. Township Manager Matthew Cavallo, Brian Aloia, Township Attorney and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present. Councilman Ted Giblin is absent.

Mayor's Report:

Mr. McEvoy calls for the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. McEvoy announces Solutions Architecture is celebrating their 10th year and congratulates them. The Mayor participated as a judge in last weekend's annual Spelling Bee hosted by the Junior Woman's Club. He attended the VRS Dinner and congratulates Sandy Bowman for her 30 years of service to the Squad. Yesterday, UNICO held their Sunday Dinner fundraiser. He thanks UNICO for their many fundraisers, scholarships and ongoing sponsorship of the Labor Day Run. He informs the public that the Verona Public Library has purchased museum passes which residents can sign out for 3 days for free. Museums include the Intrepid, Guggenheim and the Children's Museum of Montclair.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Cavallo invites Director of Community Services, Jim Cunningham to the lectern to discuss this year's recreation programs and camps plan in regards to the late school start in Fall 2020. Mr. Cunningham also states he is trying to staff the Community Pool after Labor Day for families, as well.

Mr. Cavallo makes the following appointments:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Planning Board | Steven Neale | Class II Member | Term Ending | 12/31/2020 |
| 2. NJIIF | Matthew Cavallo | Commissioner | Term Ending | 12/31/2020 |
| 3. NJIIF | Steven Neale | Asst. Commissioner | Term Ending | 12/31/2020 |
| 4. BMED | Matthew Cavallo | Commissioner | Term Ending | 12/31/2020 |

All Belgian block work is for the Linn Drive Reconstruction is complete. Milling, paving and striping will be completed in the spring. At a recent CDBG meeting, the staff praised Verona on the project.

Some final coordination work with the SCADA system is required to complete the Fairway Avenue Tank project. Once the work is complete, the project will be closed out. Landscaping around the tank will be replaced in the spring along with repaving of the driveway up to the tank.

The automatic door opener on the Gould Street Doors into the Library should be installed next week.

Town Hall Upgrades and Improvements are underway, or near completion. The clock finally appears to be working correctly. Complete refurbishment of the Public Restrooms at Town Hall is currently underway by the Buildings & Grounds Division. One restroom is being done at a time. Glass windows have been installed at the counter of the Finance Department and the Clerk's Office.

The 2019 Municipal Audit has been started. We expect a report from them before June 30, depending on State pension actuary numbers and when they are received.

The 2020 Municipal Budget is currently being reviewed internally and we hope to have a draft to the Council by the beginning of next week. Budget workshops will be probably be conducted in late February/early March.

At the request of the Court, the Affordable Housing Fairness Hearing will be held Thursday, April 9th to determine if the Township's Affordable Housing plan is in compliance with the Act.

The 2020 Township Recycling Calendar, which runs through January 2021, will be in the mail to all residents next week. A PDF of the calendar will be uploaded to the Township website.

An Overview of the PILOT programs in the State presented by Benecke Economics will be held this upcoming Wednesday, January 29 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Ballroom. The presentation will include a Q&A Session.

Municipal offices will be closed Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents' Day.

The developer for Cameco will present their plan for the property on Wednesday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor Roman reports that Congresswoman Sherrill's first Town Hall of 2020 will take place on January 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Heritage School auditorium in Livingston.

Councilman Ryan reports that he had hoped the State would pass a plastic bag law. He is not encouraged and requests the Township Manager put a discussion for the plastic bag ordinance under New Business for discussion at the next meeting. The Councilman also reports that UNICO has donated \$250 to the Holy Spirit Food Pantry. He urges everyone to attend the VRS Pancake Breakfast on Superbowl Sunday.

Councilwoman McGrath reports that the Junior Woman's Club held a Tricky Tray with over 300 attendees. The Councilwoman held office hours last Saturday in the Library Conference Room and is looking forward to the next one. She attended the Newly Elected Officials training seminar at the Meadowlands. She comments that there was a good showing of women elected officials whose main topic of discussion between breaks was Affordable Housing. She announces that the Environmental Commission invited Sustainable Verona to their meeting at view a presentation about a residential pick-up composting service and is excited to see where that will go. She also reports that the Library is conducting a short online survey and encourages everyone to participate. In regards to Holocaust Remembrance Day, and given the rise in hate crimes, Councilwoman McGrath has reached out to the Verona Pubic Schools to learn more about how anti-Semitism and the Holocaust is taught in the Verona Public Schools and will report back to the Council on those discussions.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 13 (COURT, MUNICIPAL) IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 13 (COURT, MUNICIPAL) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-01 by title into record.

Public Hearing: None

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-01 is moved by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

Ordinance No. 2020-01 is adopted 4-0 and will be published according to law.
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02

**AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT),
SECTION 4-22 TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-02 by title into record.

Public Hearing: None

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-02 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

Ordinance No. 2020-02 is adopted 4-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2020-03

**AMENDING CHAPTER 140 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC)
BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-03 by title into record.

Public Hearing: None

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-03 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Ryan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

Ordinance No. 2020-03 is adopted 4-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04

**ADOPTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE DEPOT AND PINE
REDEVELOPMENT AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-04 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-04 is moved by Deputy Mayor Roman; seconded by Mayor McEvoy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

Ordinance No. 2020-04 is adopted 4-0 and will be referred to the Planning Board for review and recommendation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7(e).

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-05

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$50,000 FROM CAPITAL
SURPLUS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF HVAC UNITS
IN THE VERONA COMMUNITY CENTER GYMNASIUM IN AND BY THE
TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-05 by title into record.
Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-05 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

Ordinance No. 2020-05 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on February 10, 2020.

Minutes from the January 6, 2020 regular meeting and January 21, special meeting are approved by unanimous consent.

RESOLUTION No. 2020-041

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS FOR THE 2020 YEAR

WHEREAS, The Township of Verona will participate in the Community Development Block Grant Program for the 2020 Program Period, and;

WHEREAS, The Township must designate and prioritize its project application for the 2020 Program year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Manager and the Engineering Manager are hereby authorized and directed to submit an application for the Community Development Block Grant in accordance with the priority indicated below:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	- ADA Ramp Installation at FN Brown Elementary School	\$99,840.00
	- ADA Ramp Rehabilitation at Township Municipal Building	
	- ADA Ramp Installation at Forest Elementary School playground	

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-042

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

**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE'S TO THE ESSEX COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that Municipal Officials Michael DeCarlo, Engineering Manager and Matthew Cavallo, Township Manager are hereby appointed to serve as the Township's representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for the year 2020.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION No. 2020-043

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

**APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
ESSEX COUNTY RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND
ADVISORY BOARD – 2020 LOCAL AID PROGRAM**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey does hereby approve the submission of a grant application to the Essex County Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Board – 2020 Open Space Local Aid Program for the installation of an Accessible Play Area and Adult Exercise Area located at the Verona Community Center Complex.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, Township Clerk or any officer of the Township as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to submit the grant application on behalf of the Township of Verona.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION No. 2020-044

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

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 CENSUS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a count of the population and provides a historic opportunity to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is committed to ensuring every resident is counted; and

WHEREAS, federal and state funding is allocated to communities, and decisions are made on matters of national and local importance based, in part, on census data and housing; and

WHEREAS, census data helps determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and is necessary for an accurate and fair redistricting of state legislative seats, county and municipal councils, and voting districts; and

WHEREAS, information from the 2020 Census and American Community Survey are vital tools for economic development and increased employment; and

WHEREAS, the information collected by the census is confidential and protected by law; and

WHEREAS, a united voice from business, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and others will enable the 2020 Census message to reach more of our citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey is committed to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau and the State of New Jersey and will:

1. Support the goals and ideals for the 2020 Census and will disseminate 2020 Census information.
2. Encourage all Township of Verona residents to participate in events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the 2020 Census and increase participation.
3. Provide Census advocates to speak to the Township of Verona and Community Organizations.
4. Support census takers as they help the Township of Verona complete an accurate count.
5. Strive to achieve a complete and accurate count of all persons within our borders.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION No. 2020-045

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

**APPROVING CONTRACT CHANGE NO. 1 AND CONTRACT CLOSE-OUT
CONTRACT NO. 18-17 - MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT**

WHEREAS, White Rock Corp and the Township of Verona have heretofore entered into an Agreement, more particularly known as Contract No. 18-17 - "Municipal Building Roof Replacement" for the furnishing of labor, equipment and materials in the amount of \$233,000.00, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has received Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Close-Out for the within contract in an amount of plus \$1,488.08, for a final contract amount of \$234,488.08; and

WHEREAS, the Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Close-Out do not expand the scope of the within contract; and

WHEREAS, the within Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Close-Out is in the best interests of the Township of Verona.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Contract Change No. 1, in the amount of plus \$1,488.08, for a final contract amount of \$234,488.08 be approved and Contract No. 18-17 be closed out; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, the Township Engineer, the Township Clerk and any other officer as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute Contract Change No. 1 and Contract Close-Out for Contract No. 18-17 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION No. 2020-046

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP AND RING, LLC**

WHEREAS, Ring, LLC ("Ring") operations an online application called Neighbors by Ring (the "Neighbors App") which allows users to share and comment on real time crime and safety events in their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Ring and the Township of Verona Police Department have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding whereby Ring has agreed to provide the Township of Verona Police Department access and utilize the Neighbors App at no cost to the Township of Verona Police Department or the Township of Verona; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Township of Verona Police Department and Ring is annexed hereto as Exhibit "A."

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 Police Department be and hereby is authorized to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with Ring, annexed hereto as Exhibit "A;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, the Township Clerk and the Chief of Police are hereby authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Township and the Township of Verona Police Department.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION No. 2020-047

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

REFUND TAX COURT JUDGMENT

WHEREAS, notification has been received from the Tax Court reducing the assessment on property located at 825 Bloomfield Avenue owned by Romano, M & J and Davidson, L & M, Block 1601 lot 1 as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessment Reduced</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Refund</u>
2016	100,000.00	3.063	3,063.00
	Total Refund	\$3,063.00	

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund \$3,063.00 to:

Blau & Blau Attorney for Romano
M&J Romano and L&M Davidson
223 Mountain Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION No. 2020-048

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

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LIEN

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official determined that the owner of the Block 902, Lot 10 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Verona, commonly known as 111 Linden Avenue, to comply with the Township property maintenance code, specifically lawn maintenance of the property; and

WHEREAS, clean up was performed by Green Valley Landscape Design on behalf of the Township on December 26th totaling the amount of 125.00; and

WHEREAS, these charges shall be imposed on the property in the form of a municipal lien for above services pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 54:5-8* and to any other applicable State of Federal regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized and

directed to take all appropriate actions to impose on the property commonly known as 111 Linden Avenue, Verona, New Jersey (Block 902, Lot 10) a municipal lien in the amount of the tax lien certificate (\$125.00), where upon the Tax Collector shall, within ten (10) days of encumbering of the property, send official notice of said encumbrance via certified mail, return receipt requested and regular mail to any and all other lien holders or creditors with a secured interest in the property.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

RESOLUTION No. 2020-049

A motion was made by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Deputy Mayor 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:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - a. Pending, Ongoing, or Anticipated Litigation pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*
 - Docket No. ESX-L-4773-15
(In All Declaratory Judgement Actions Filed by Various Municipalities, County of Essex, Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Decision in In re Adoption of *N.J.A.C. 5:96, 221 N.J. 1 (2015)*)
 - b. Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (7)*
 - Docket No. ESX-L-4773-15
(In All Declaratory Judgement Actions Filed by Various Municipalities, County of Essex, Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Decision in In re Adoption of *N.J.A.C. 5:96, 221 N.J. 1 (2015)*)
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when said subject has been fully discussed by the Council, and the attorney rules this matter may be brought before the public without jeopardizing any pending litigation.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

ABSENT: Giblin

New Business:

Councilwoman McGrath requests that the Council be provided safety and traffic reports completed as well as a summary of other things to be implemented from those reports before the next meeting.

Public Comment:

George Manousos, 37 Forest Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm is motioned by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Deputy Mayor Roman.

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Jack McEvoy
Jack McEvoy, Mayor

APPROVED: February 10, 2020