

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, May 4, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing platform.

Call to Order:

Municipal Clerk reads notice of Open Public Meetings law. The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting which is being held via Zoom video conferencing; specifically, the time, date and public internet link and telephone call-in information, was posted in the Municipal Building, on the Township's website, and sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger and MyVeronaNJ.com and TAPinto, the official online news source(s), at least 48 hours preceding the start time of this meeting. The agenda and public handouts for this meeting can be viewed online at www.veronanj.org/councilmeetings. A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda and instructions on how to comment will be provided at the appropriate time. This meeting is being recorded, both audibly and visually for retention purposes and for rebroadcast on the Township's YouTube channel and VTV.

Roll Call:

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor McEvoy thanks the County for continuing the Mayor's Calls. He also thanks Julius Coltre, the Township's County liaison.

Mr. McEvoy states that Verona has lost 11 residents to COVID-19. He also reports that Steve Fenton passed away. He reads a letter sent by the family thanking the Township for the procession that took place on April 24.

Mr. McEvoy also reports that the tax property payment grace period has been extended by the State to June 1. He states the Council will be discussing that under "New Business" later in the meeting.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Cavallo reports that he is working with the land use boards in order for them to continue their meetings via Zoom, as per guidance from the State.

He also reports that residents will be notified this week regarding decisions to the programs at the Community Center, Pool, Fireworks and Summer Concert Series. He states that the Community Pool will not be open by Memorial Day.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor Roman has no report this evening.

Councilman Ryan reports that it is Public Employees week. He also compliments people he notices adhering to social distancing restrictions as he walks throughout town.

Councilman Giblin requests an update on the garbage truck incident on Gerdes Avenue. Mr. Cavallo reports that the vehicle lost brakes and ended up on a front lawn of a West Orange residence. No one was injured.

Councilwoman McGrath states that it is Teacher Appreciation Week and commends the teachers for their efforts with online schooling. She reports that the Board of Education gave their budget presentation, which she was in attendance for, where the Board stated that they are making adjustments to staffing and feel positive about their financial position.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

Minutes of the April 27, 2020 regular meeting are approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION No. 2020-093

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH SHERWOOD-LOGAN & ASSOCIATES
FOR MATERIALS FOR SEWER UTILITY**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for materials for the Sewer Utility of the Township of Verona; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has recommended that Sherwood-Logan & Associates, 2140 Renard Court, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 be awarded a contract to provide materials for the Sewer Utility of the Township of Verona.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Sherwood-Logan & Associates is hereby awarded a contract for providing sewer services not to exceed \$39,000.00 without further authorization of the Governing Body.

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 a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and the Township 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 Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-094

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH ALL AMERICAN SEWER SERVICE, INC.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for drainage and sewer services within the infrastructure of Township of Verona; 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, the Township Manager has determined that the value of said services will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has recommended that All American Sewer Service, Inc., PO Box 605, Lodi, New Jersey 07664 be awarded a contract to provide drainage and sewer services on the sewer lines within the Township of Verona.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that All American Sewer Service is hereby awarded a contract for providing sewer services not to exceed \$39,000.00 without further authorization of the Governing Body.

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 a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and the Township 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 Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-095

A motion was made by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath 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)*
 - Cameco Property
 - GTI
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, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-096

A motion was made by Councilman Ryan; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath that

the following resolution be adopted:

**INSTITUTING A GRACE PERIOD THROUGH JUNE 1, 2020 FOR THE
PAYMENT OF SECOND-QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES DUE MAY 1, 2020,
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 130**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), second-quarter property taxes in the Township of Verona are due on May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, in response to New Jersey's ongoing COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, signed Executive Order 130 regarding a grace period for property tax payments; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 130 more specifically authorizes municipalities to institute by resolution a grace period concluding on a date no later than June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes due on May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order 130, the Township is prohibited from enacting or enforcing any conflicting order, rule, regulation, ordinance or resolution, including providing any additional extension of the installment date or grace period for the payment of property taxes or to otherwise temporarily fix, reduce, or retroactively modify the rate of interest charged for failure to make timely payment to achieve this effect; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council find it in the best interest of the Township to institute a grace period to June 1, 2020 to provide relief to property owners who may be incurring financial hardship during the COVID-19 emergency while maintaining the Township's ability to meet its own financial payment obligations, due dates of which have not been extended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that the Township hereby institutes a grace period through June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall not apply retroactively to second-quarter property tax payments previously submitted to the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of this Resolution no later than the third business day following its adoption.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

Council goes into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm is motioned by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Giblin.

The next regular scheduled meeting is June 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan
Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Jack McEvoy
Jack McEvoy, Mayor

APPROVED: June 8, 2020