

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, June 22, 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 states that Julius Coltre, Essex County liaison is present. Mr. Coltre reports that there will be a food distribution at James Caldwell High School in Caldwell on June 25 at 10 am until the boxes are gone. The County will hold a COVID-19 testing clinic at the Verona Community Center by appointment only on June 30, and Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Weequahic Park in Newark. Appointments must be made online at essexcovid.org.

Mayor McEvoy thanks the County for paving the section of Pompton Avenue between Claremont and Bloomfield Avenues. He also tables his appointment of a Mayor's Alternate to the Planning Board.

He congratulates the 2020 VHS graduates as well as the 8th and 4th graders, graduating from HB middle school and the elementary schools.

He commends the young adults of the community for setting up a peaceful Black Lives Matter march. He also reports that Verona was designated Tree City USA for 2019 by the Arbor Day Foundation. He wishes everyone a safe and happy 4th of July.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Cavallo reports that COVID-19 testing will be held at the Verona Community Pool this Wednesday. Appointments can be made by calling 973-857-4767. These tests are offered free of charge from the Smith Foundation. Mr. Cavallo urges those who can donate to the Smith Foundation do so.

The Community Pool will open July 1. Registration began this morning. There have been many changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several outdoor dining permits have been approved. Tables have been set up in the Civic Center for those patrons who get take-out from a restaurant nearby.

The Planning Board will meet this Thursday for the consistency review of the PIRHL redevelopment area. The public hearing on this second amendment will be held at a special meeting of the governing body on Monday, June 29, 2020, if approved by the Planning Board.

There is an issue with VTV's control system, which has failed and now needs to be either fixed or replaced.

Mr. Cavallo also reports that the IT manager has built a program and wrote code creating the

ability to have the number of people are in the pool at any given time on the Township's website.

The Municipal Clerk reports on the upcoming Primary Election.

The Township Manager makes the following appointments:

- a. Environmental Commission
 - i. Sarah Yauch O'Farrell Regular Member Term Ending 6/30/2023
 - ii. Kari Baureis Regular Member Term Ending 6/30/2023
 - iii. Martin Golan Regular Member Term Ending 6/30/2023
 - iv. Fuad Dahan Alternate #1 Term Ending 6/30/2022

- b. Environmental Commission - Chairperson
 - i. Jessica Pearson Term Ending 06/30/2021

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor Roman reports that he has dined out at a number of local restaurants and they are all doing a great job making this situation work. He encourages everyone to go frequent our business community.

Councilman Ryan echoes the graduation comments of the Mayor. He congratulates the graduates, Superintendent Dionisio, Principal Cogdill and Board of Education president Lisa Freschi in organizing this unique graduation ceremony.

He states that there is an increase in traffic due to the construction at all the school buildings. Truck traffic has increased and he cautions bike riders to be diligent. He requests the police department contact the contractors to slow down.

Councilman Giblin states the graduation ceremony shown on YouTube was fantastic. He suggests the administration look into live streaming Council meetings when we get back into Council Chambers. He commends the Township Manager and Buildings and Grounds crew for getting everything ready to open the pool. He knows the members and guests will respect the staff and rules of the pool. The Councilman attended the Black Lives Matter rally on June 13 and thanks the organizers and Chief Kiernan for making that happen.

Councilwoman McGrath reports that the Environmental Commission has relaunched their new website, veronaec.org. She applauds the members for the redesigning of the website. She participated in the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting, where the modified pool procedures were discussed extensively. Safety is everyone's concern and if not followed, she states, we will need to make adjustments. She reminds those going to the pool to social distance and wear masks when required.

She also commends the organizers for the Black Lives Matter protests and applauds the police department for creating a safe space for this important conversation to take place. She also wants to form a group where diversity and other issues can be discussed and is eager to continue the conversation.

The Councilwoman reports that she submitted her mail-in ballot this weekend at the secure drop box in West Orange. Also, she states that she has an issue to discuss which she will reserve for New Business.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-13

**AMENDING CHAPTER A175-7 (VERONA COMMUNITY POOL;
MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER FEES) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
VERONA BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-13 by title into record.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-13 is moved by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Ryan.

Public Hearing: None

Council discussion on Ordinance No. 2020-13.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2020-13 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-15

**AMENDING CHAPTER 100 (PARK RULES & REGULATIONS) OF THE
CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA TO ADD ARTICLE II
RESPECTING THE DISPLAY OF FLAGS ON TOWNSHIP FLAGPOLES**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-15 by title into record.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-15 is moved by Councilman Giblin; seconded by Mayor McEvoy.

Public Hearing: None

Council discussion on Ordinance No. 2020-15.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2020-15 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

Mr. Cavallo states again that a public hearing and adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-14 will take place at a special meeting of the Township Council on Monday, June 29, 2020 if it is determined by the Planning Board at their June 25 meeting to be consistent with the Master Plan.

ORDINANCE No. 2020-16

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

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2020-16 by title into record.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2020-16 is moved by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Ryan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

Mr. Cavallo reports that the repaving of Linn Drive was funded by a Community Development Block grant. After a request by the police department and approval from the Township Engineer, it was determined that moving parking to the west side of the street cleans up the line of sight when approaching Linn Drive from Personette Avenue, adds 10 parking spots to the complex and allows for lined parking down to the Community Center.

Ordinance No. 2020-15 is introduced 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 13, 2020.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items:

None.

Minutes of the June 8, 2020 regular meeting are approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION No. 2020-120

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

the following resolution be adopted:

**DECLARING AN EMERGENCY FOR PURPOSES AUTHORIZING THE
IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE #2020-13**

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181* permits the waiver of the 20-day estoppel period for the enactment of ordinances upon the adoption of a resolution, by at least two-thirds majority of the Council affirmatively concurring, declaring that an emergency exists necessitating the immediate enactment of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen affecting the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of the Township of Verona specifically Executive Order No. 153 issued by Governor Murphy on June 9, 2020 allows for the opening of the Verona Community Pool on or after June 22, 2020 which required the Township to amend its fee ordinance to prorate the membership costs to join the Verona Community Pool; and

WHEREAS, immediate enactment of Ordinance #2020-13 is needed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that an emergency exists as detailed herein for which waiving the 20-day estoppel period for enactment of Ordinance #2020-13 is warranted and justified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ordinance #2020-13 shall take effect immediately upon final adoption.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-121

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

**DESIGNATING THE REGULAR, CONFERENCE AND LEGAL MEETING
DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR 2020-2021**

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, or any other place or media that may be determined from time to time and properly noticed on the meeting, as set forth in the schedule herein.
2. The Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to prominently post the schedule on the public bulletin located in the lobby of the Municipal Building.
3. In the event that the approved schedule is hereafter revised, the revised schedule shall be posted and filed by the Municipal Clerk as required by the Act; and
4. The Municipal Clerk shall post a copy of this resolution and publish it in full in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and Star Ledger.

SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified.

Monday July 27, 2020
Monday, August 10, 2020
Monday, August 24, 2020

Monday, January 4, 2021
Monday, January 25, 2021
Monday, February 8, 2021

Monday, September 21, 2020
Monday, October 5, 2020
Monday, October 19, 2020
Monday, November 9, 2020
Monday, November 23, 2020
Monday, December 7, 2020
Monday, December 21, 2020

Monday, February 22, 2021
Monday, March 8, 2021
Monday, March 22, 2021
Monday, April 5, 2021
Monday, April 19, 2021
Monday, May 3, 2021
Monday, May 17, 2021
Monday, June 7, 2021
Monday June 21, 2021
Thursday, July 1, 2021
Re-Organizational Meeting – Noon

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-122

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

**APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE
RECONSTRUCTION OF DERWENT AVENUE**

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 New Jersey Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of Derwent Avenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any officer of the Township as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2021 Reconstruction of Derwent Avenue - 00506 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Verona.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Verona and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-123

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

RECOGNIZING PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is an inclusive community whose residents believe in safety, prosperity, equality and hope for all; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona recognizes the human rights of all citizens and actively supports an end to all forms of prejudice and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is committed to promoting LGBTQ equality and fostering welcoming and affirming LGBTQ spaces; and

WHEREAS, more recent advances in LGBTQ equality, including marriage, bans against LGBTQ conversion, the advancement of some federal protections with respect to access to federal services and open military service, LGBTQ inclusive and protective anti-discrimination public access state laws, positive LGBTQ public opinion, widespread LGBTQ visibility and

representation in media, education, public office, LGBTQ anti-bullying laws and welcoming and affirming school climate policies – including actions to create LGBTQ inclusive curriculum- and corporate America’s LGBTQ inclusion and promotion, are all directly linked back to the victories of earlier LGBTQ rights advocates; and

WHEREAS, the community recognizes the efforts of the many advocates and allies who have enabled this progress and opened society’s eyes to the idea that love is love and no one should be forced to hide part of their identity; and

WHEREAS, without comprehensive federal civil rights protections, and because of legislative and executive attempts at rolling back LGBTQ advances or cultural and political climate shifts that empower LGBTQ hate crimes, LGBTQ individuals and families continue to face significant uncertainty, oppression and discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey does hereby acknowledge June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Township of Verona. We urge all people of the Township of Verona to join LGBTQ advocacy and actions, promote diversity and inclusion, create welcoming and affirming spaces for LGBTQ youth, trans and non-binary folks be visible, outspoken allies and up standers as any injustice against one is an injustice against all. Furthermore, the Township of Verona recognizes LGBTQ Month by flying the rainbow flag in the Verona Civic Center during the month of June.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-124

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

OBSERVING JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one-half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the South and Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called “JUNETEENTH!” combining the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, do hereby acknowledge June 19, 2020, as “JUNETEENTH” in the Township of Verona and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in our Nation.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Giblin, Ryan, Roman, McEvoy

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2020-125

A motion was made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Ryan 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)*
 - GTI New Jersey
 - Depot & Pine Redevelopment (Block 2301, Lots 11, 12, 14, 15 & 16)
 - Poekel Property (Block 2301, Lots 17 & 18)
 - Forsons Partners Properties (Block 501, Lot 83 & Block 1201, Lot 3.01)
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:

New Business:

The Township Manager reports that, as noted on tonight's agenda, the governing body's consideration of the request of GTI New Jersey for a letter of support for a medical cannabis dispensary located at 30 Pompton Avenue, Verona, New Jersey is tabled until the July 13, 2020 regular meeting.

The Council makes the following appointments:

- a. Board of Adjustment
 - i. Genevieve Murpy-Bradacs Regular Member Term Ending 6/30/2024
 - ii. Albert D'Alessio Alternate #1 Term Ending 6/30/2022
 - iii. Paul Matthewson Alternate #2 Unexpired Term 6/30/2021
 - b. Municipal Alliance Committee
 - i. Colin Boyle Public Member Term Ending 6/30/2023
 - ii. Mindy Frey Public Member Term Ending 6/30/2023
 - iii. Kimberly Manis Public Member Term Ending 6/30/2023
 - iv. Jackie Trujillo Public Member Term Ending 6/30/2023
 - c. Planning Board
 - i. James Kirby Class IV Member Term Ending 6/30/2024
 - ii. Timothy Camuti Alternate #1 Term Ending 6/30/2022
1. Council Representatives to Boards/Committees/Commissions
 - a. Environmental Commission
 - i. Councilman Kevin Ryan Term Ending 6/30/2021
 - b. Green Team
 - i. Councilman Kevin Ryan Term Ending 6/30/2021
 - c. Historical Preservation Commission
 - i. Mayor Jack McEvoy Term Ending 6/30/2021

- d. Municipal Alliance Committee
 - i. Councilwoman Christine McGrath Term Ending 6/30/2021
- e. Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee
 - i. Councilman Giblin Term Ending 6/30/2021
- f. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
 - i. Councilwoman Christine McGrath Term Ending 6/30/2021
- g. Planning Board
 - i. Deputy Mayor Roman Class III Member Term Ending 6/30/2021
- h. Shade Tree Commission
 - i. Mayor McEvoy Term Ending 6/30/2021

Councilwoman McGrath follow up on the Black Lives Matter discussion. She states the Board of Education is doing an audit and review of their policies and procedures and curriculum embarking on an effort that is part of the outgrowth of all the things talked about over the last few weeks. She would like the Township to consider how we can continue conversations on a Township level and create a safe space for residents to continue to share feedback, discuss concerns about inclusiveness and diversity to ensure that we open up communication flow constantly in town. She asks that this be worked on over the coming weeks and hopefully implement something come fall.

Public Comment:

John Gasiewski, 7 Pease Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
 Marwa Elessaway, 36 Martin Road, Verona, New Jersey
 Maryann Maher, 38 Elmwood Road, Verona, New Jersey
 Paul Sciarra, 7 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey
 Hanna Mir, 21 Otsego Road, Verona, New Jersey
 Rob Gottstein, 3 Windemere Road, Verona, New Jersey

Adjournment:

Council goes into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 pm is motioned by Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Giblin.

The next regular scheduled meeting is July 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan
 Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Jack McEvoy
 Jack McEvoy, Mayor

APPROVED: July 13, 2020