

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, May 6, 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, Councilwoman Christine McGrath, Councilman Alex Roman, and Councilwoman Cynthia Holland are present. Township Attorney Brian Aloia, Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan and Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan are also present. Township Manager Joseph D'Arco is not present this evening.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro addresses the loss of one of Congressman Donald Payne. He invites Environmental Commission Chairperson, Jessica Pearson to the lectern to present the awards for the 2024 Environmental Commission Poster Contest and presents each with a certificate of recognition. The Mayor continues his report and extends condolences to the Gasin family for their losses and thanks all of the First Responders who assisted at the scene. He attended the Forest Avenue Recycling Museum, the Arbor Day event and the Verona Foundation Educational Excellence event.

Mayor Tamburro reads proclamations for National Police Week, Teacher Appreciation Week and Professional Municipal Clerk's Week and announces that Doug Huber, who was an in-country vet of the Vietnam War will be the grand marshal of this year's Memorial Day Parade.

Councilmember's Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy also extends his condolences to the Gasin family and to the family of Congressman Payne. He thanks all First Responders for their volunteer services. On May 18th the County will be conducting an electronics recycling and lastly a Happy Mother's Day is wished for all.

Councilman Roman echoes his condolences to the Gasin family and Congressman Payne tragedies and expresses appreciation to all First Responders as well as the community. He lastly congratulates all educators as it was very inspiring to him to hear their stories about what they are doing to make a difference in their student's lives.

Councilwoman McGrath extends her condolences to both the Gasin and Congressman Payne families. She reports that the Governor has called for a Special Election to fill Congressman Payne's remaining term and she encourages residents to sign up for vote by mail. The Shade Tree Committee, Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Committee and the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee each had meetings since the last Council meeting. The Councilwoman also reports that the County is having a Women's Health event at the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center.

Councilwoman Holland acknowledges the Community's grieving for the Gasin and Congressman Payne families. The Recreation Advisory Committee held a meeting and Councilwoman Holland attended a VMAC meeting. Verona and Cedar Grove had their first joint Flood Advisory Committee meeting which was very productive. She concludes by commending the Administration for the various grants that are moving forward.

Deputy Manager Kevin O'Sullivan gives an update on the wastewater treatment plant, Linn Drive and Fairview Avenue wells, the Community Center Playground, the Derwent and Douglas Place reconstruction projects and the status of various grants for Everett Field. He announces that representatives from Conifer Realty are present tonight to inform the public on the application process for Verona Flats.

Dan Hauben from DMR Architects and Jaime Placek from DeCotiis inform the Council of the obligations for the 4th round of NJ Affordable Housing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Scott Primmer, Verona, New Jersey
Pam Priscoe, Verona, New Jersey

Hearing, Adoption or Amendment of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-16

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PRELIMINARY PLANNING EXPENSES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EVERETT FIELD LOCATED ON BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, BLOCK 707, LOT 10, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$50,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$47,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2024-16 into the record.

A 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. 2024-16 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-17

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER A565 SCHEDULE OF FEES OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE BY CREATING SECTION 9 "ZONING FEES"

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2024-17 into the record.

A motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

Public Hearing: None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2024-17 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-18

ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER A565-1, FEES, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA BY AMENDING PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION AND PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE FEES

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2024-18 into the record.

A motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

Public Hearing: None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2024-18 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-19

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY SYSTEM IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$260,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$247,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. H-1 into the record.

A 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 No. H-1 is numbered 2024-19. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 20, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-20

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE BIG POOL FOR THE POOL UTILITY IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$350,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$333,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. H-2 into the record.

A motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman Holland; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. H-2 is numbered 2024-20. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 20, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-21

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY SYSTEM IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$8,406,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$8,406,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. H-3 into the record.

A motion to move the ordinance is made by Mayor Tamburro; seconded by Councilman Roman.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. H-3 is numbered 2024-21. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 20, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-22

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$3,110,000 THEREFOR, INCLUDING A \$75,000 LOCAL RECREATION GRANT EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,978,725 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. H-4 into the record.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. H-4 is numbered 2024-22. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 20, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-23

CAPITAL ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING \$10,000 FROM THE POOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR POOL FURNITURE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. H-5 into the record.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. H-5 is numbered 2024-23. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 20, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-24

CAPITAL ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING \$235,000 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. H-6 into the record.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. H-6 is numbered 2024-24. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 20, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-25

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$355,000 FOR PHASE II OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF HILLTOP PARK IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$355,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF.

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. H-7 into the record.

A 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 No. H-7 is numbered 2024-25. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 20, 2024.

Consent Agenda:

Item J-1, April 6, 2024 meeting minutes is pulled from the Consent Agenda so Councilman Roman can vote on the resolutions as he was not present on April 6th.

Deputy Mayor McEvoy makes a motion to move the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mayor Tamburro. Vote: 5 ayes

Public Comment on Consent Agenda: None

RESOLUTION No. 2024-075

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

DECLARING BLOOMFIELD AVENUE AS AN AREA IN NEED OF REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq.* (the "Redevelopment Law") provides a mechanism to empower and assist local governments to promote the advancement of community interests through programs of redevelopment for the expansion and improvement of commercial, industrial, residential, and civic facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Law empowers the Township of Verona ("Township"), by and through its Township Council (the "Governing Body"), to delineate an area within the Township as an area in need of rehabilitation if the area qualifies under one of the criteria enumerated under *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14*; and

WHEREAS, Township Manager directed the Township's planning firm, H2M Associates, Inc. ("H2M"), to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if the Bloomfield Avenue corridor ("Study Area"), as described in the attached boundary map, and which is generally bounded by Sunset Avenue to the east, White Rock Road to the west and an irregular boundary along properties fronting on Bloomfield Avenue, qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A-12A-14*; and

WHEREAS, H2M's findings, presented in a revised report entitled "*Area in Need of Rehabilitation Study Bloomfield Avenue Corridor*" dated March 15, 2024, attached herewith as **Exhibit A** ("H2M Report"); and

WHEREAS, the H2M report concludes that because (a) more than half of the housing stock were built before 1974 and, therefore, are at least 50 years old and (b) a majority of the water and sewer infrastructure in the delineated area is at least 50 years old and is in need of repair or substantial maintenance, the Study Area qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation under the

Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2024, the Governing Body referred the Study Report and this Resolution in draft form to the Planning Board for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2024, the Planning Board returned this resolution and H2M Report with a recommendation that the Study Area be delineated as an area in need of rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds it to be in the best interest of the property owners and business owners within the Study Area to delineate the Study Area as an area in need of rehabilitation, and that based upon the H2M report and the Planning Board's recommendation, finds that the Study Area meets the criteria of *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14* of an area in need of rehabilitation.

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

1. Based upon the facts reported in the H2M report and the recommendation of the Planning Board, the Township Council find that the Study Area, consisting of the Bloomfield Avenue Corridor, meets the eligibility criteria of *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14* for designation as an area in need of rehabilitation in that (a) a majority of water and sewer infrastructure in the Study Area is at least 50 years old and is in need of repair or substantial maintenance and (b) more than half of the housing stock in the Study Area is at least 50 years old. The Township Council further find that the designation of the Study Area as an area in need of rehabilitation is expected to prevent further deterioration and promote the overall development of the Township of Verona in accordance with the requirements of *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14*.
2. The Township Council hereby delineates the Study Area and all of the properties therein as an area in need of rehabilitation (hereinafter, the Study Area shall be the "Rehabilitation Area"), which delineation allows the Township Council to, among other things, adopt redevelopment plans for all or part of the Rehabilitation Area, enter into redevelopment agreements with redevelopers within the Rehabilitation Area, and adopt an ordinance pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-21, et seq.*, authorizing short-term tax exemptions and/or abatements to properties located within the Rehabilitation Area. Furthermore, the Township Council may further direct the Planning Board to conduct investigations to determine whether specific properties within the rehabilitation area meet the redevelopment criteria, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5*.
3. The Township Council hereby directs the Municipal Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs in accordance with the Redevelopment Law.
4. All Township officials and employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-076

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

**REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATED TRUST
BY RIDER FOR BEQUESTS OF VETERAN BANNERS TRUST FUND**

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government

Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenue received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and,

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A 40A:5-29* allows municipalities to accept bequests, legacies and gifts made to it and is empowered to utilize such bequests, legacies and gifts in the manner set forth in the conditions of the bequests, legacy or gift, provided, however, that such bequest, legacy or gift shall not be put to any use which is inconsistent with the laws of this State and the United States.

WHEREAS, as per *N.J.S.A 40A:5-29*, the donations received are to provide for the purchase of banners, and operating to costs to administer this act, and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39* provides the dedication of funds collected as Veteran Banner Trust Fund and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirements:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council, of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey as follows (passage requires passage by a majority of the full membership):

1. The Council does hereby request permission of the Director of the Local Government Services to pay expenditures for purchasing the Veteran Banners under *N.J.S.A 40A:4-39*.
2. The Municipal Clerk of Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this resolution, with the votes indicated, to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-077

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

CANCELLING FUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCES UNDER CERTAIN BOND ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA FOR VARIOUS WATER SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$13,679.01

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona, Essex County, New Jersey previously adopted Bond Ordinances for the purpose of funding various capital projects and improvements of the Township as more fully specified in the Bond Ordinances and

WHEREAS, as of the date hereof, the projects have been completed and

WHEREAS, the Township now desires to cancel such appropriations and transfer the funded balances to their respective fund surplus;

ORDINANCE	ORDINANCE DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT TO BE CANCELLED
General Capital		
2018-29	Municipal Roof Replacement	\$1,156.35
2021-26D	Replace Grove Traffic Light	\$802.99
2023-27A	Shade Tree Replacement	\$10.00
2023-28	I-Plan Table	\$800.00
2023-38	Repair Elevator at VCC	\$154.00
Total General Capital		\$2,923.34
Water/Sewer Capital		
7-10	Improvement of Water	\$10,755.67

	Tank Communications	
Total Water/Sewer Capital		\$10,755.67

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-078

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

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OF LITIGATION CAPTIONED THE LANDTEK GROUP, INC. V. TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, DOCKET NO. ESX-L-5857-16

WHEREAS, the Township is party to litigation in Essex County Superior Court, Law Division, captioned the LandTek Group, Inc. v. Township of Verona, Docket No. ESX-L-5857-16; and

WHEREAS, LandTek and the Township wish to avoid the time, expense and uncertainty associated with continuing the litigation and have instead decided to resolve their respective claims in accordance with the terms of the attached settlement agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Township Manager, or his designee, is authorized to execute the attached settlement agreement to effectuate the settlement of the litigation and take all other necessary steps to effectuate the settlement.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-079

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

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUGAR AQUATIC SWIM TEAM

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona wishes to enter into an agreement with the Cougar Aquatic Swim Team to provide for use of the Verona Community Pool facilities to conduct their summer practices; and

WHEREAS, the Cougar Aquatic Swim Team shall have the right to enter upon and use the Pool for practice sessions during the term commencing Monday, June 24, 2024 and ceasing on Friday, July 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Cougar Aquatic Swim Team may use the Pool facility Monday to Friday, 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Cougar Aquatic Swim Team agrees to keep and maintain a daily log of all personnel who appear on the grounds and/or around the Pool areas under the terms of this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona shall be paid directly by the Cougars for the use of the Community Pool facilities and staff in the sum of \$8,092.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Township Manager and Municipal Clerk are authorized to execute an agreement with the Cougar Aquatic Swim Team for use of the pool

facility, a copy of which is attached hereto and 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. 2024-080

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MIRACLE CHEMICAL COMPANY

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the purchase of various chemicals used in the operation of Water/Sewer Utility specifically soda ash to adjust the PH level in the waste water treatment process; 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 Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account Nos. 4-05-55-502-342 and 4-45-55-502-342 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, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that W.R. Neumann Company, Inc. d/b/a Miracle Chemical Company, 1151 B Highway #33, Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727 is hereby awarded a contract for the purchase of various chemicals used in the operation of Water/Sewer Utility not to exceed \$44,000.00.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-081

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro 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 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect an emergent condition requiring immediate repairs to the Waste Water Treatment Plant's anaerobic digester biogas pipe; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has determined that immediate attention to the methane gas piping is required to avoid a hazardous risk to 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, JDV Equipment Corporation, 104 Fulton Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005 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 \$51,922.00; and

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account 4-05-55-52-384 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 JDV Equipment Corporation for emergency repairs to methane gas piping in the Wastewater Sewer Treatment Plant for an amount not to exceed \$51,922.00.

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. 2024-082

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro 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, six (6) nine foot (9') foot round folding tables

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. 2024-083

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

**AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE NJEDA
LOCAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority provides grant funding under the Local Property Acquisition Grant Program to municipalities, municipal entities, counties, county entities, and/or not-for-profit local economic and community development entities for the acquisition of property in order to facilitate and enable the property's future redevelopment as a part of local economic development priorities.

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is requesting up to approximately \$1,000,000.00 to apply for Acquisitions for Strategic Public Use; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding will be used to acquire property to be used as a publicly accessible parking lot; and

WHEREAS, there are no matching funds required for this program, but the Township of Verona must pay the standard \$1,000 non-refundable application fee.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Township Manager is 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: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-084

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

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from Saraceno Properties, for property located at 106-110 Fairview Avenue and the fees have been held in Trust; and

WHEREAS, certification has been received from the Engineer to release these funds, from Trust, as follows:

ESCROW AMOUNT	EXPENSES	AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED
\$2,000.00	\$909.50	\$1,090.50

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$1,090.50 to Saraceno Properties, 106 Fairview Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-085

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

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, escrow fees, for the Rent Board, were received from Pine Street 21 LLC for property located at 21 Pine Street and the fees have been held in Trust; and

WHEREAS, certification has been received from the Engineer to release these funds, from Trust, as follows:

ESCROW AMOUNT EXPENSES AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED

\$3,500.00

\$2,200.00

\$1,300.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$1,300.00 to Pine Street 21 LLC, PO Box 110, Lakewood, NJ 08701

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-086

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

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE 46 LAKESIDE AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Township has need to purchase property for additional public facilities including parking; and

WHEREAS, the Church of Our Lady of the Lake has agreed to sell 46 Lakeside Avenue, to the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Township Manager, or his designee, is authorized to execute the attached contract and effectuate the purchase of 46 Lakeside Ave, Verona, New Jersey, and take all other necessary steps to effectuate the purchase which is subject to the contingencies set forth in the contract.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-087

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro 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:

Meeting Minutes from April 6, 2024 are approved by a vote of 4-0 with Councilman Roman abstaining.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn at 9:54 p.m. is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman. Vote: 5-0.

The next Council meeting is Monday, May 20, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan
Municipal Clerk


Dr. Christopher Tamburro
Mayor

APPROVED: May 20, 2024