

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, June 3, 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 Manager Joseph O. D’Arco, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan.

(Deputy) Mayor’s Report:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy invites Essex County Liaison J. Coltre to the lectern. Mr. Coltre reports on the pickle ball courts in Verona Park and this year’s concert in Verona Park will be held on June 26th. He updates the public on concerts in Essex County Parks for this year’s Summer Concert Series.

The Deputy Mayor reports that the Valerie Fund 5k run/walk in the Verona Park is this Saturday along with the Township’s Pride flag raising ceremony in the Civic Center. He thanks Doug Huber, this year’s Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Tomorrow is Election Day.

Township Manager Joseph D’Arco reports on the status of this year’s VHS Capstone Program. He confirms that the Town Hall presentation for the Emergency Services Complex will be in the Ballroom on June 26th at 7pm.

Deputy Manager Kevin O’Sullivan reports that the Wastewater Treatment Plant’s assessment has been posted on the website. NewGen will present their Pool survey after the pool season. The new zoning fees go into effect on July 1st. He reports on the status of the stormwater management program, upcoming road projects sustainable initiatives and grant applications.

Mayor Tamburro thanks DPW, Buildings & Grounds and Kris Gould for coordinating the Memorial Day Parade and Doug Huber, Grand Marshall. The Mayor was able to visit the Verona Pool this past weekend and thanks all the pool staff for their work this season.

Appointment:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Library Board of Trustees | | Term Ending |
| i. Laura Desai | Mayor’s Alternate | 6/30/2025 |

Council Members Report:

Councilman Roman appreciates all the work that went into planning the Memorial Day service and applauds the Mayor on a great speech. The Councilman visited the Departments of the Township today and spent some time at the Public Works facility.

Councilwoman McGrath thanks the staff for planning the Memorial Day service and thanks all the participants. The MIAAC committee met and will hold the Pride flag raising on Saturday at 11am in the Civic Center. The Valerie Fund’s 5k walk/run is supporting VHS student Daria Strong.

Councilwoman Holland reports that the Parks & Rec committee met. She would like to discuss the nature of that ordinance during New Business tonight. She comments on the beautiful Memorial Day ceremony to honor veterans. She attended the Verona Music Department’s concert honoring Max Morden, going into retirement. The Councilwoman wishes him well.

Public Comment:

Noel Brogan, Verona, New Jersey
Josh Jacobs, Verona, New Jersey

Consent Agenda:

The Municipal Clerk’s 1st quarter Raffle report is filed.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-098

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

ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF THE 2024 CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has been awarded a grant in the sum of \$34,965.48 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the 2024 Clean Communities Program to help Verona conduct litter cleanups that improve the quality of life in New Jersey’s communities; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s contribution toward the grant will be the 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 \$ 34,965.48.

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. 2024-099

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE CY2021 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 CLEAN COMMUNITIES 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 \$34,945.48 from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the form of the Clean Communities 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 \$34,945.48 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:
- Clean Communities 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 \$34,945.48 appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"
Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:
Clean Communities 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. 2024-100

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH INTEGRATED TECHNICAL SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is seeking to change the manner in which parking is paid within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona currently utilizes single and double head meters to control parking in both municipal parking lots and various locations throughout the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to provide multiple and more customer-friendly ways of paying for parking; and

WHEREAS, such parking payment kiosks will be from procured from Integrated Technical Systems located at 8 Capital Drive, Wallingford, CT 06492; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has determined that the value of the service will not exceed \$39,000 for such services; and,

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account Nos. C-53-46-003-0098 and C-53-46-040-026 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 of the Township; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Technical Systems has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Integrated Technical Systems has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Verona in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Integrated Technical Systems from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that a contract is awarded to Integrated Technical Systems to provide parking kiosks:

1. The Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager, or his designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this resolution.
2. The Township is in receipt of the Stockholder Disclosure form, Contribution Disclosure form, Certificate of Employee Information Report, Business Registration Certificate, and Certificate of Insurance.
3. The services requested shall not exceed \$39,000 and no services or materials shall be requested without a certification of funds.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-101

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

**DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE
AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 50,000 deaths from firearms every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has the 46th highest rate of gun violation in the nation, with 465 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 5.3 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the State more than \$5.3 billion each year, of which over \$168.9 billion is paid by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2024, to recognize the 27th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, who was tragically shot and killed in 2013 at the age of 15, people across the United States, as well as here in Verona, will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to -

- (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and
- (2) the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, a color they chose because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods; orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 7, 2027 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories, raising awareness about gun violence, and honoring the lives of victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, mayor, council members and law enforcement officers –in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources –know their communities best and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has committed to reducing gun violence and pledging to do all it can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, and encouraging responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and community safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby resolve the first Friday in June, June 7, 2024, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives. Furthermore, the Township of Verona recognizes Gun Violence Awareness by lighting its buildings orange during the month of June.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

New/Old Business:

The Public Hearing for the Proposed Project at Hillwood Terrace Park, 122 Fairview Avenue for diversion approval from the Department of Environmental Protection is held in accordance with State statute.

Public Comment Period:

Melissa Dat, Verona, New Jersey

There is explanation and discussion for an ordinance to amend "Stop Intersections" of the Township Code to place a stop sign for traffic traveling west on Claremont at the intersection of Cumberland Avenue. Council discusses 2023 Municipal Election expenses and moving the nonpartisan election from May to November. San Chavan of H2M Architects discusses a draft ordinance to provide a clear definition in regards to assisted living facilities as stated in the Master Plan.

Councilwoman Holland requests clarification from the Township Attorney on the communication she received regarding Township staff on committees and council person's constitution a quorum and if they are or are not voting members.

Mayor Tamburro raises the issue with the quality of our hybrid meetings and the Zoom capabilities in Council Chambers.

Public Comment:


Melissa Dat, Verona, New Jersey

Council will not enter into Executive Session this evening.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Councilwoman McGrath at 9:36 p.m.; seconded by Councilman Roma. The next meeting is June 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: July 1, 2024