

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, June 17, 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 Christopher Tamburro, Deputy Mayor Jack McEvoy, Councilman Alex Roman, Councilwoman Christine McGrath, Councilwoman Cynthia Holland are present. Victoria Lucido, Esq., of the Aloia Law Firm, LLC, Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan and Township Manager Joseph D'Arco are present along with Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro thanks the Deputy Mayor for presiding in his absence last week. The Deputy Mayor filled in on several events while the Mayor was away and he thanks the Deputy Mayor for stepping in. The Juneteenth flag raising took place just before tonight's meeting. The Mayor thanks Bill Brown, longtime resident of Verona and Vice President of the NAACP- Oranges/Maplewood Chapter, for attending. He thanks the 3rd grade Forest Avenue students for the thanks you not they made for him for reading to them on Read Across America Day.

Julius N. Coltre Essex County Liaison

Essex County Liaison J. Coltre reports that the pickle ball courts in Verona Park opened last week. The light at Pease and Lakeside is under design as a traffic light/crosswalk was approved by the State. The traffic light at Personette and Fairview Avenues is also under design. Mr. Coltre reports on the Essex County Summer Concert Series, locations and dates. Codey Arena will be open as a cooling center due to the approaching heat wave.

Township Manager Joseph D'Arco appoints Michael McMahon to the MIAAC Committee as the ADA liaison and appoints David Rowbotham as Director of Community Services.

Mr. D'Arco also reports that the Community Center will be a cooling center during the heatwave. He acknowledges Mr. Coltre and thanks him for his prompt responses to all the administration's and Council's requests. The Hometown Heros project is complete and fully funded and the banners will be going up shortly. He cites the need to address the condition of the streetscape of Bloomfield Avenue, with the Council's permission and recommends putting out a RFP for design and creating committee of members from the Chamber of Commerce and two (2) Council members to review submitted RFPs and have those firms present their designs to the "committee". He will meet with Caldwell University to discuss use of their fields and facilities as an alternate planned location during reconstruction of the fields.

Deputy Manager Kevin O'Sullivan reports on the wastewater infrastructure and a smoke testing program that will begin June 24th. New Zoning fees will go into effect July 1st. He provides updates on the Linn Drive and Fairview wells and Claridge pump station. He reports on the Township's energy initiatives and road reconstruction projects as well as sustainable initiatives. A bond ordinance for the purchase of OLL parking lot will be on the July 1st meeting agenda. The Township will also be meeting with Comcast to review the technology needs of Council Chambers and the Community Center Ballroom.

Council Members Report:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy reports that Sustainable Verona Green Team met and will be present at the August 5th Council meeting to discuss their findings and recommendations for Centennial Field. He requests better signage at the recycling center. He thanks DPW, Buildings and Grounds, the MIAAC Committee members and the Public Information Officer for the Pride Flag raising event. He congratulates the Verona High School Class of 2024, graduating this Wednesday.

Councilman Roman attending the Pride event and states the Deputy Mayor did an excellent job presiding over the event. He also attended the PBA annual fundraiser dinner.

Councilwoman McGrath thanks the County Executive for the pickle ball courts. She acknowledges the hard work the MIAAC committee put into organizing the Pride event. The Shade Tree Commission met and she attended that meeting.

Councilwoman Holland joined her colleagues at the pickle ball opening ceremony, the Pride event and the Juneteenth flag raising and the 4th Grade Farewell at Forest Ave School earlier today. She is grateful to residents who donated time to make Verona a more welcoming place. The Rec committee meets tomorrow night. She urges residents to take all necessary precautions during the upcoming heatwave and stay hydrated and to make use of the cooling centers.

Public Comment:

Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey
Monica Vincent, Verona, New Jersey
Fred Goode, Verona, New Jersey

Ordinances for Introduction:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 140, ARTICLE XII OF THE CODE OF VERONA, SPECIFICALLY SECTION X, "STOP INTERSECTIONS", SECTION I "NO PARKING" AND SECTION II "NO PARKING CERTAIN HOURS"

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

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Councilman Roman.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance H-1 will be numbered 2024-26. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on July 1, 2024.

Minutes:

The Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2024 are unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda:

Councilwoman McGrath requests to pull resolutions K-8 and K-10 from the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-102

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

ENABLING RESOLUTION FOR THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION SUBMITTAL TO THE STATE COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PURSUANT TO 2023 NJ REVISED STATUTES, TITLE 13, § 13:8C-53A, FOR THE FAIRVIEW AVENUE WELL FACILITY TREATMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Township is in the process of upgrading its water treatment processes to remove PFAS at the Fairview Avenue Well Site; and,

WHEREAS, the Fairview Avenue Well Site at Hillwood Terrace Park, 122 Fairview Avenue, Block 2701, Lot 22, had previously been designated as 'unfunded parkland' per N.J.A.C. 7:36, Green Acres Program, and,

WHEREAS, recent 2023 NJ Revised Statutes, Title 13, § 13:8C-53a, provide provisions to allow for the exemption from N.J.A.C. 7:36-26 (standards for disposal or diversion) for this project; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Verona held a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Statute, Act C.13:8C-53a, on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 8:00 pm, in the Verona Town Hall, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044, and,

WHEREAS, the filing of this application submittal for the Fairview Avenue Well Facility Treatment Project shall demonstrate that this project meets the criteria set forth in 2023 NJ Revised Statutes, Title 13, § 13:8C-53a, for an exemption from N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona (the Governing Body of the Township of Verona) authorizes the filing of an application submittal to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to 2023 NJ Revised Statutes, Title 13, § 13:8C-53a, for the Fairview Avenue Well Facility Treatment Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona (the Governing Body of the Township of Verona) that the Township Manager, or his designee, is authorized to sign this resolution.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-103

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

AUTHORIZING A GRANT SUBMISSION TO THE NJ DOT FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS OF AFTERGLOW WAY, DODD TERRACE AND SUMMIT ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council of Township of Verona formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2025-Verona Township-00331 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Township of Verona.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Township Manager and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of 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. 2024-104

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

APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 & CLOSE-OUT OF CONTRACT #19-08 - RECONSTRUCTION OF LYNWOOD ROAD

WHEREAS, KM Construction Corp. and the Township of Verona have heretofore entered into an Agreement, more particularly known as Contract No. 19-08 – “Reconstruction of Lynwood Road” for the furnishing of labor, equipment and materials in the amount of \$654,579.67, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, there is a Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$-49,049.20 for work performed by the contractor, KM Construction Corp. for Contract No. 19-08; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 adjusts the bid quantities to the As-Built Quantities of the project and also incorporates and supersedes previously approved Change Orders 1 and 2 from Resolution No. 2022-116; and

WHEREAS, whereas this Change Order follows the correct format, adjusts the bid quantities to the final As-Built Quantities and is necessary for NJDOT reimbursement of the Municipal Aid Grant received for this project.; and

WHEREAS, Boswell Engineering recommends approval of Change Order No. 1 and Final Close Out in the amount of \$-49,049.20; and

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 -\$49,049.20, for a final contract amount of \$605,530.25 be approved and Contract No. 19-08 be closed out.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, the Township Clerk and any other officer as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute Contract Close-Out for Contract No. 19-08 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-105

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

**APPROVING CHANGE ORDERS #1 AND #2 FOR CONTRACT No. 2022-13
RECONSTRUCTION OF DERWENT AVENUE**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2022-178 awarded Contract 2022-13 – Reconstruction of Derwent Avenue to Stanziale Construction, PO Box 2597, Bloomfield, NJ 07004 in the base bid amount of \$787,642.24; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received Contract Change No. 1 for additional sewer investigations and sewer repairs in January/February 2024 in the amount of +\$90,870.00 and No. 2 for adjustments for actual quantities constructed and measured in the field in an amount of -\$38,200.18; and

WHEREAS, Contract Change No. 1 and No. 2 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 and No. 2 be approved for a final contract amount of \$840,208.22, a +6.69% change, be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, the Township Clerk and any other officer as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute Contract Change No. 1, No. 2 for Contract No. 2022-13 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-106

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT,
COMPUTER PROGRAM ACCESS AND STORAGE FROM AXON ENTERPRISE
UNDER STATE CONTRACT NUMBER T0106/17-FLEET-00738 FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has need for equipment and access to computer programs and storage, including, but not limited to mobile video cameras, body worn cameras, cloud storage, and computerized review and redaction of video for the police department; and

WHEREAS, Axon Enterprise, Inc., 17800 N. 85th St, Scottsdale, Arizona 85255 has been awarded New Jersey State Contract Number T0106/17-FLEET-00738 for the sale of law enforcement equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has recommended the award of the attached contract with Axon subject to the terms and conditions contained in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the cost of this purchase shall not exceed the total amount of \$195,000.00 annually, or the total amount of \$975,000.00 over the potential Agreement duration of 60 Months.

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

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Agreement shall automatically terminate and shall be null and void at the expiration or termination of Axon’s State Contract.
3. Furthermore, the Initial Term of the Agreement is two years and shall automatically terminate at the conclusion of the initial two year term unless extended for an additional two years (hereinafter “Renewal Term”) by Resolution of the Township Council. Upon the expiration of the Renewal Term, the Agreement shall automatically terminate unless it is extended by one additional year by Resolution of the Township Council. This Agreement is for a maximum term of five (5) years.
4. Any requests for an increase in the not to exceed amount is in the Township’s sole discretion, and is subject to the Township’s ability to appropriate sufficient funds. The Township shall not be held liable for costs incurred above the not to exceed amount unless authorized by Council resolution.
5. The Council hereby authorizes the 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.
6. The Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement, voucher, and/or purchase order for the abovementioned goods and/or services subject to all of the terms and conditions contained herein with:

Axon Enterprise, Inc.
 17800 N. 85th Street
 Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

7. The Agreement and all purchases thereunder are subject to and contingent upon the Township allocating sufficient funds in their sole discretion.
8. If any term and condition of the Agreement shall be in conflict with this Resolution, the Resolution shall control.
9. This resolution and the contract will be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-107

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BOSWELL ENGINEERING FOR FIRST PHASE OF THE INFLOW AND INFILTRATION STUDY

WHEREAS the Wastewater Treatment Plant (TWP) experiences peak flows in excess of the average flow during extreme wet weather events; and

WHEREAS, a peaking factor of this magnitude is indicative of excessive rainfall derived inflow and infiltration (I/I) commonly explained as groundwater and stormwater entering the sanitary sewer system through defects in the pipes and manholes and through illicit connections into the system; and

WHEREAS, excessive I/I is a common issue with older sanitary collection systems and can significantly impact operating conditions at the WTP; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer recommends a comprehensive I/I study to identify sources of extraneous flow in order to minimize peak flow challenges; and

WHEREAS, phase 1 of the I/I study is to conduct smoke testing of the sanitary system to identify illicit connections, including cross connections between storm and sanitary systems, connected roof and cellar drains, leaking manholes, yard and fountain drains and sump pumps;

WHEREAS, information will be coordinated with home and business owners explaining the process;

WHEREAS, there is 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, this expenditure shall be charged to Bond Ordinance No. 2024-19 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 Boswell Engineering, 330 Phillips Avenue, South Hackensack, New Jersey 07606 is hereby awarded a contract for the conducting smoke testing of approximately 181,500 linear feet of sanitary sewer lines in the Township in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00,.

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. 2024-108

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH JCT SOLUTIONS/JOHNSTON COMMUNICATIONS

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the purchase of automated license plate reader cameras for the police department; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to acquire such services pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19-44A-20.5*; and

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

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. C-53-46-038-005 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 JCT Solutions/Johnston Communications, 36 Commerce Street, Springfield, New Jersey 07081 is hereby awarded a contract for the purchase of fixed automated license plate readers in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00, and a \$57,000 Federal grant earmarked to the Township of Verona.

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. 2024-109

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT NIELSEN FORD OF MORRISTOWN, INC.

WHEREAS, a need exists for the acquisition of Police rated vehicle for the daily operations of the Township of Verona Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona may, without advertising for bids, purchase such materials through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (Contract #15-A) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 et seq., and

WHEREAS, Nielsen Ford of Morristown, Inc. has proposed two (2) 2025 Ford Interceptor Utility models for an amount of \$45,963.35 per vehicle.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that Nielsen Ford of Morristown, Inc. is hereby awarded a contract for two (2) 2025 Ford Interceptor Utility models in an amount not to exceed \$91,926.70, charged to budget line C-53-46-040-009.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-110

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

APPROVAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

WHEREAS, the submitted renewal application forms are complete in all respects and the applicants are qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by *N.J.S.A. 33* and regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the following licensees have obtained a Tax Clearance Certificate from the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the following applications for renewal of Plenary Retail Distribution License be granted, effective July 1, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk be and is hereby authorized to sign and issue said license certificates to the following applicants:

- 0720-44-010-009 Ami & Tithi LLC, dba KRAUSER’S LIQUOR LOCKER
645 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey
- 0720-44-001-003 Hinaxi, LLC, dba VERONA WINE CELLAR
360 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey
- 0720-44-003-005 Vallabh Krupa Inc., dba PILGRIM LIQUORS
283 Pompton Avenue
Verona, New Jersey

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro
NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-111

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

**APPROVAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS**

WHEREAS, the submitted renewal application forms are complete in all respects and the applicants are qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by *N.J.S.A. 33* and regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the following licensees have obtained a Tax Clearance Certificate from the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the following applications for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License be granted, effective July 1, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to sign and issue said license certificates to the following applicants:

- 0720-33-007-008 470 Bloomfield Avenue Inc., dba AVENUE BISTRO
558 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey
- 0720-33-006-015 Jimmy’s Restaurant LLC, dba JIMMY’S FAMILY KITCHEN
125 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey
- 0720-33-008-005 RJV Corporation, dba RICHFIELD REGENCY
420 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey
- 0720-33-011-010 Verona Liquor License LLC, dba VERONA INN
624 Bloomfield Avenue
-Verona, New Jersey

0720-33-004-010

Watchung Saints, LLC dba THE PARKSIDE SOCIAL
706 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-112

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

REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Board of Adjustment, were received from Lynn Graffeo and the fees have been held in Trust; and

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

ESCROW AMOUNT	EXPENSES	AMOUNT TO BE REFUNDED
\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00

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, \$750.00 Lynn Graffeo.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-113

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

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA TO CANCEL OLD OUTSTANDING CHECKS AND RECONCILING ITEMS

WHEREAS, certain checks have been identified in the Court General /Court Bail Account by the Chief Financial Officer as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, it is a normal financial practice to review the bank accounts for old outstanding items for cancellation with the balances to be returned to the Fund Balance; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said checks so that the unnecessary balances may be returned to the fund balance of the respective funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the following old outstanding checks, be cancelled;

<u>DATE OF CHECK ISSUE</u>	<u>CHECK NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
8/4/2023	1002	\$10.00
	Total Current Fund	\$10.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That two certified copies of the resolution are to be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services and that a certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Township Clerk to each of the following:

- 1. Chief Financial Officer
- 2. Township Auditor

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-114

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

AUTHORIZING THE VERONA TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L 1994, C.72

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has not certified Municipal County Budgets as of this date, and

WHEREAS, as a result thereof, the Essex County Board of Taxation is unable to verify Verona’s tax rate and the Verona Township Collector will be unable to mail the Township’s 2024 tax bills on a timely basis;

WHEREAS, the Verona Township Tax Collector has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with *N.J.S.A 54:4-66.3*, and has signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted estimated tax levies;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 72, P.L. 1994, the Mayor and Council request the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the estimated tax levy exceeding 105% listed below. Approval will enable the Township to meet its financial obligations, maintain the tax collection rate, provide uniformity for tax payments and save the unnecessary cost of interest expenses on borrowing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey on this 17th day of June 2024 as follows:

- 1. The Verona Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the Township for the third installment of 2024 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as are permitted and required by L.1994, C. 72(N.J.S.A 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3).
- 2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2024 is hereby set at \$75,072,326.65.
- 3. The Estimated tax rate (based on estimated levy) is hereby set at \$3.127.
- 4. In accordance with law, the third installment of 2024 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10 or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-115

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

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:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-116

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

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH MILLENNIUM STRATEGIES FOR GRANT CONSULTANT SERVICES

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary for the Township of Verona to engage the professional services of a Grants Consultant for the year 2024, to provide services for the proper operation of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(1)(i)* permits contracts for professional services to be negotiated and awarded by the governing body without public advertising for bids and requires that the resolution authorizing the award of a contract for professional services without competitive bids and the contract itself be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, funds to pay said professional persons are available by way of budget to compensate said Grants Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the compensation for said professional services shall be \$150/hour for grant writing services and a \$400 monthly retainer fee/portal access and this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. 4-01-20-100-126, 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 pending approval of the 2024 Budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Grants Consultant for the year 2024 is hereby designated as Millennium Strategies, 60 Columbia Road, Building B, Suite 230, Morristown, New Jersey 07960.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award of the contract to Millennium Strategies is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that Township Manager and Township Clerk are authorized to enter into a professional services contract for this appointment.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: McGrath

RESOLUTION No. 2024-117

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT O'NEILL PLUMBING

WHEREAS, the Township has a need to retain a New Jersey Licensed Plumbing Services Provider; and

WHEREAS, there is 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 may exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. 4-01-26-310-130 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 O'Neil Plumbing is hereby awarded a contract for plumbing services within the Township for an amount not to exceed \$18,000.

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, Roman, Tamburro

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: McGrath, McEvoy

Addendum:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-118

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MONTANA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has a need cleaning batch basins within the Township throughout the 2024year; and

WHEREAS, Montana Construction Corp, Inc., 80 Contant Avenue, Lodi, New Jersey 07644 has provides said services; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed the pay to play threshold of \$17,500 but will remain under the bid threshold of \$44,000; and,

WHEREAS, this expenditure shall be charged to Budget Account No. C- 53.-46-040-018 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee, and the availability of funds have been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Verona; and

WHEREAS, Montana Construction Corp, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Montana Construction Corp, Inc. 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 Montana Construction Corp, Inc. 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 Montana Construction Corp, Inc. to provide camera inspections of the water and sewer lines throughout the Township of Verona:

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 \$44,000 and no services or materials shall be requested without a certification of funds.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

New/Old Business:

Council discusses moving the May non-partisan election to November. They discuss the proposed 2024-2025 Council meeting dates. Although it is not discussed, Councilwoman Holland would like a continued discussion and more input before placing the ordinance on the meeting agenda for introduction.

Public Comment:

Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey
Corey Shor, Verona, New Jersey

Executive Session:

Council enters into Executive Session at 8:46 p.m. and returns to the public meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman at 9:08 p.m.; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy. The next meeting is July 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: July 1, 2024