

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, August 5, 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, Deputy Mayor McEvoy, Councilman Roman, Councilwoman McGrath, Councilwoman Holland, Township Attorney Brian Aloia Deputy, Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan. Township Manager Joseph O. D'Arco is not present this evening.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro announces that the Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee will meet this Wednesday, August 7 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Wednesday is also National Night Out, being held in Cedar Grove this year. He congratulates the Verona Barnstormers for their undefeated season.

Essex County Liaison, Julius Coltre approaches the lectern and gives the remaining dates for the Summer Concert Series. This year's 9/11 Memorial event will begin at 8:00 a.m. in Eagle Rock Reservation. Senior Wellness will be held on September 24 at Codey Arena from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Manager's Report:

Deputy Manager Kevin O'Sullivan reports that the smoke testing of the sanitary system continues. The Afterglow and Sunset sections of town are complete. He also reports on the status of the new parking meters, the Township's energy initiatives, the Community Center Playground and ADA restroom and also states the RFQ's for the Bloomfield Avenue Streetscape designer are to be received in early September.

Students of the MSU Green Team PSE&G Sustainability Program give a presentation on their analysis of turf and grass for Centennial Field.

Mr. O'Sullivan then leads a discussion on finalizing the plan for Everett Field.

Council Members Report:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy congratulates Dan Salvante, who has been Parks Director for over 28 years. The County honored Mr. Salvante with a bronze bust of himself at Branch Brook Park's new visitor center.

Councilman Roman comments on the great bands this year for the Verona Summer Concert Series and wishes Deputy Mayor McEvoy a happy birthday.

Councilwoman McGrath reported that the MIAAC met and discussed fall planning, especially Hispanic Heritage Month. She is excited to attend the Democratic National Convention in Chicago as a member of the Platform Committee.

Councilwoman Holland states that respective of all the residents in the audience this evening, she will concede her time.

Public Comment:

Anna Fusaro, Verona, New Jersey
Tom Monaghan, Verona, New Jersey
Jean Stoloff, Verona, New Jersey
Kathleen Nitti, Verona, New Jersey
Joseph Benmolo, Essex Fells, New Jersey
Lisa Loudon, Verona, New Jersey
Jessica Pearson, Verona, New Jersey
Sarah O'Farrell, Verona, New Jersey
Fred Goode, Verona, New Jersey
Ed Koenigfest, Verona, New Jersey

Ordinances for Public Hearing/Adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-29

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE VERONA GREEN TEAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-29 into the record.

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. 2024-29 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-30

**AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE VII, ENTITLED "MULTICULTURAL
INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE" OF THE CODE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-30 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilwoman McGrath; seconded by Mayor Tamburro

Public Hearing:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2024-30 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-31

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF VERONA ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY
COMMITTEE"**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-31 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy

Public Hearing:

None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2024-31 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE # 2024-32

**AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE V (PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-32 into the record.

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. 2024-32 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes from the July 22nd meeting are approved unanimously.

Councilwoman Holland requests that Resolution K-4 be voted on separately from the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-135

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

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH
HENDRICKS APPRAISAL COMPANY, LLC**

WHEREAS, the Township has a need for professional tax appeal appraisal and added assessment services; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said services will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Township advertised an RFP and reviewed the proposals received; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that Hendricks Appraisal Company, LLC, 7 Hutton Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 is qualified to conduct tax appeal appraisals and added assessment services for the Township; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Manager and Qualified Purchasing Agent have recommended that a contract be authorized with Hendricks Appraisal Company, LLC to provide said services for the Township, when necessary not to exceed \$35,000.00; and

WHEREAS, services provided by Hendricks Appraisal Company shall be charged to budget account C-53-46-040-006.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Hendricks Appraisal Company, LLC, 7 Hutton Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 is hereby awarded a contract for real estate appraisals when necessary, not to exceed \$35,000.00 without further authorization of the Township Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Determination of Value are to be placed on file with this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement for the aforementioned services a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-136

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FIREFIGHTER ONE, LLC.

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has received a FEMA grant for firefighter gear; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona may, without advertising for bids, purchase such materials through the New Jersey State Contract Pricing Contract #17-FLEET-00811 firedex t-0790, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12* and *N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 et seq.*, and

WHEREAS, Firefighter One LLC is supplying gear for the Volunteer Fire Department for an amount of the grant not to exceed \$67,514.66 and a grant match not to exceed \$3,375.74.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, that Firefighter One LLC is hereby awarded a contract to supply gear for the Verona Volunteer Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$70,890.40, charged to budget lines G-60-41-723-328 and 3-01-25-255-081.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-137

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

**ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF A BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
CLEAN FLEET GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Fleet Grant Program.

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 \$150,000.

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. 2024-138

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland 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 \$13,081.18

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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 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	\$4,875.00
2019-17A	Ambulance	\$6,191.18
2021-22	Engineer Service for Reconstruction of Derwent	\$1,126.25
Total General Capital		
		\$12,192.43
Water/Sewer Capital		
2021-23	Engineering Costs for Reviewing Water Distribution at Claridge	\$888.75
Total Water/Sewer Capital		
		\$888.75

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-139

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland 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

- 1) 2011 Ford Escape 1FMCU9DG8BKB43682

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. 2024-140

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

REFUNDING TAX LIEN REDEMPTION

WHEREAS, property located at 19 Derwent Avenue, Block 1704 Lot 26, owned by Angiana Jean-Baptiste, has been held in tax lien since December 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, payment was received from Citizens One Home Loans in the amount of \$1,876.98, clearing the lien as follows:

Certificate #23-00004	
Certificate	\$ 324.83
2% Redemption Penalty	\$ 6.50
2023 Water/Sewer plus Interest	\$ 1,299.07
2024 Water/Sewer plus Interest	\$ 179.58
Recording Fee	\$ 55.00
Search Fee	\$ <u>12.00</u>
	\$ 1,876.98
Premium	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$ 3,376.98

WHEREAS, this certificate has been held by the Township of Verona and the certificate has been received and properly signed for cancellation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from Trust, \$3,376.98 to:

WSFS As Cust LVTLOPS/Firsttrust
LVTL Operations, LLC
PO Box 815
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0815

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-141

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

**APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR CONTRACT No. 2023-03
RECONSTRUCTION OF BALSTON DRIVE, WINDEMERE ROAD AND WHITNEY
TERRACE**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2023-176 awarded Contract 2023-03 – Reconstruction of Balston Drive, Windemere Road and Whitney Terrace to Crossroads Paving, 296 South Street, Suite 169, Newark, NJ 07105 in the base bid amount of \$721,803.75; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received Contract Change No. 1 for as-built quantities in the amount of -\$63,012.80; and

WHEREAS, Contract Change No. 1 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 be approved for a final contract amount of \$658,790.85, a -8.73% 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 for Contract No. 2023-03 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

ABSTAIN (Recusal): Holland

RESOLUTION No. 2024-142

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH J&J PEST CONTROL

WHEREAS, there exists a need for ongoing pest control services; and

WHEREAS, services such as baiting, trapping and utilizing other pest control methods may be awarded without competitive bidding pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(dd)*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager determined that J&J Pest Control shall be awarded a contract to provide said services; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to J&J Pest Control is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5* and the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form completed by J&J Pest Control have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that J&J Pest Control, P.O. Box. Verona, NJ 07044 is hereby awarded a contract for pest control services not to exceed \$26,000; and

WHEREAS, services provided by J&J Pest Control shall be charged to budget accounts 4-01-27-330-196 Health (\$6,000), 4-01-26-310-130 B&G (\$6,000), 4-05-55-502-345 W/S (\$5,000), 4-01-26-290-030 S&H (\$8,000), 4-01-29-390-063 Library (\$500), and 4-45-55-502-024 Pool (\$500) for a total amount not to exceed \$26,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Determination of Value are to be placed on file with this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is being awarded pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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:

New/Old Business:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Appointments | | | Term Expires |
| a. Municipal Alliance Committee | Kathleen Cuartas | | 6/30/2027 |

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman at 9:57 p.m.; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath. The next meeting is August 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: August 19, 2024