

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, September 9, 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 Manager Joseph D'Arco, Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are present.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor states he is grateful for the quick response of the VRS, DPE, OEM, VFD and VPD as well as the Construction Code in regards to the two serious fires that recently occurred. He congratulates UNICO on their successful 5K run and congratulates VRS member Chris Sluk on his performance in the race. It was a great season at the Pool and the Mayor thanks the Recreation Department, pool staff and Buildings and Grounds as well as the sponsors for the Summer Concert Series, specifically the Verona Chamber of Commerce. He reminds the public that the Township's 9/11 ceremony will begin at 8:45.

Essex County Liaison J. Coltre reports that the 9/11 Memorial Service will be held at Eagle Rock Reservation. The Senior Wellness program will take place on 9/24 from 10am-2pm. On 9/29 the Fall Festival will be held at the Environmental Center from 11am-3pm.

Manager's Report:

Township Manager Joseph D'Arco reports that a special meeting will be necessary for the Street Scape applicants to make presentations to the Council. He has discovered that the Township Seal was never codified and states a draft ordinance will be on the next meeting agenda. Departments have begun the 2025 budget request. He will discuss OPEIU labor negotiations in Executive Session.

The Deputy Manager discusses the wastewater infrastructure. He reports that the final recommendations on the pool rate study will be ready by October 1. He also reports on smoke testing, PFAS and the Township wells and states that bid documents are being finalized for the Town Hall windows and repointing project. Once IBank approved funding, the Township can go out to bid for the Claridge pump. The ADA restroom at the Community Center Playground is almost complete and a ribbon cutting ceremony may take place later this month.

Council Members Report:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy thanks everyone for their efforts in the UNICO 5K Labor Day Classic and congratulates all who participated. Sustainable Verona Green Team will hold an EV Fair on October 5, 2024 from 11am - 3pm in the Verona Pool parking lot. He wishes Mayor Tamburro a Happy Birthday.

Councilman Roman states that all the summer recreation programs were great and thanks the Township staff for their coordinated efforts. He commends the fire department for tackling the two recent fires and wishes Mayor Tamburro a Happy Birthday.

Councilwoman McGrath encourages every to vote in the September 18 election to replace our representative, the late Donald M. Payne, Jr. Early voting has begun at the Community Center. She attended a gun safety event with Mikie Sherrill, who sponsored legislation for safe gun storage. The Neighborhood Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee will meet Tuesday on Zoom, the MIAAC is planning an event with the Library for Spanish American Heritage Month. She requests to discuss the planning and rezoning project on Bloomfield Avenue during New Business.

Councilwoman Holland echoes the statements of her colleagues as her heart goes out to the families affected by the recent fires. She thanks the first responders. She wishes the Mayor a Happy Birthday. Acknowledging the warm weather, the Councilwoman cautions the public that it is hurricane season and to stay prepared. She looks forward to receiving the rate study and surveys. She ran in the UNICO Labor Day Classic with her 10 year old daughter who ranked in the top 10 in her age group.

Public Comment:

Jean Stoloff, Verona, New Jersey
Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

Ordinances for Public Hearing/Adoption:

ORDINANCE - H-1

AMENDING CHAPTER 5, "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", ARTICLE II, "TOWNSHIP COUNCIL", SECTION 26, "APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL" BY CREATING SUB-SECTION A, "COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE"

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-1 into the record.

After Council discussion, the ordinance is pulled from the agenda and tabled with recommended changes.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-33

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 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, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$142,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-33 into the record.

Motion to move the ordinance is made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman Holland.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2024-33 is adopted 5-0. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will take place on September 9, 2024.

Consent Agenda:

Councilwoman Holland requests that resolution K-12 be removed from the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-147

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

**APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR CONTRACT No. 2024-02
RECONSTRUCTION OF DOUGLAS PLACE**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2024-066 awarded Contract 2024-02 - Reconstruction of Douglas Place to DLS Contracting, Inc. 36 Montesano Road, Fairfield, New Jersey in the base bid amount of \$135,760.71; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received Contract Change No. 1 for as-built quantities in the amount of +\$21,463.33; 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 \$153,760.71, a +14% 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. 2024-02 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-148

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

**APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR CONTRACT No. 2023-07 LINN DRIVE
PFAS AND ARSENIC TREATMENT UPGRADES**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2024-015 awarded Contract 2023-07 – Linn Drive PFAS and Arsenic Treatment Upgrades to Sovereign Consulting, Robbinsville, New Jersey in the base bid amount of \$1,711,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received Contract Change No. 1 for bid quantities in the amount of +\$34,035.84; 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 \$1,745,035.84, a +1.99% 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. 2023-07 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-149

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

**AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AND THE COUNTY OF ESSEX FOR THE
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS AND
EQUIPMENT ON TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND
ESSEX COUNTY RIGHTS OF WAY**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona (“The Township”) wishes to install and maintain surveillance cameras and equipment on traffic signals and within Essex County rights of way; and

WHEREAS, Essex County requires that the Township of Verona submit a certified copy of a resolution approved by the Township Council of the Township of Verona indicating that the Township will hold Essex County harmless from any claims or actions at law directly resulting from the installation and maintenance of said surveillance cameras and equipment; and

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

1. The Township Council supports the efforts of the Verona Police Department and authorized contractors to install and maintain surveillance cameras and equipment on traffic signals and within Essex County rights of way.

2. The Township Manager and Police Chief/Officer-in-Charge are hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Township of Verona a Memorandum of Understanding including a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement with Essex County providing for indemnification of Essex County for any claims directly arising from the Township's use of Essex County traffic signals and Essex County rights of way for the purpose of installing and maintaining surveillance cameras and equipment.
3. A copy of this Resolution and executed Memorandum of Understanding with Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement shall be filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and the Police Chief/Officer-in-Charge.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage according to law.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-150

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

**REQUESTING THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE PLANNING BOARD
DENY THE APPLICATION OF WEST ESSEX HIGHLANDS LLC**

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona has reviewed the preliminary and final site plan application of West Essex Highlands LLC, for Block 179, Lot 32, Warner Road, West Orange; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes the construction of 496 residential units on a parcel which is comprised of approximately 120 acres of undeveloped woodlands; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will impact the Township of Verona based on the changes in land cover and runoff that will discharge towards Verona and the Peckman River and will have a significant environmental impact based upon the removal of trees; and

WHEREAS, some of the Township's concerns are outline in the attached July 26, 2024, correspondence of Paul W. Ferriero, PE, CME of Boswell Engineering; and

WHEREAS, in order to mitigate against the high probability of increase flooding caused by the development (if approved), the Township requests that the application be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure the latest and most up to date storm water management rules and regulations are implemented and applied to the project; and

WHEREAS, the Township also requests that the applicant is required to address the concerns raised in Mr. Ferriero's July 26, 2024 correspondence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Township Clerk is hereby directed to serve a copy of this resolution upon the Township of West Orange Planning Board as well as the West Orange Mayor and Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is respectfully requested that the Township of West Orange Planning Board **DENY** the application of West Essex Highlands LLC.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-151

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

**DESIGNATING THE PROPERTIES KNOWN AS 320 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
(BLOCK 704, LOT 18) AND 11 CHURCH STREET, (BLOCK 704, LOT 20) AS AN
AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq., as amended and supplemented (the "Redevelopment Law"), provides a process for municipalities to participate in the redevelopment and improvement of areas in need of redevelopment or as areas in need of rehabilitation; and,

WHEREAS, by Resolution adopted on January 22, 2024, the Township Council (the "Township Council") of the Township of Verona (the "Township") authorized and directed the Planning Board of the Township of Verona (the "Planning Board") to conduct a preliminary investigation of the properties identified as 320 Bloomfield Avenue, (Block 704, Lot 18) and 11 Church Street, (Block 704, Lot 20) on the tax map of the Township (the "Study Area") to determine whether all or a portion of the Study Area meets the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law to be designated as an area in need of redevelopment without condemnation powers ("Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area"); and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Redevelopment Law, a study was performed by Sanyogita Chavan, AICP, PP of H2M Associates, the Planning Board's Professional Planner (the "Planner") to determine whether the Study Area should be designated an area in need of redevelopment; and,

WHEREAS, the Planner conducted an investigation and prepared a report with a map of the Study Area depicting the proposed redevelopment area and the location of the parcels under consideration which included a statement of the basis for the investigation and other information, in a report entitled "Township of Verona, 320 Bloomfield Avenue and 11 Church Street, Area in Need of Redevelopment Preliminary Investigation Report" (the "Study"), memorializing its findings and recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, the Study concluded that the Study Area satisfies the criteria set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5(d) and 5(h), including but not limited to faulty design creating a hazardous condition and a negative impact on public health, safety, and welfare to be designated as a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area under the Redevelopment Law; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Redevelopment Law, the Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing concerning the Study ("Public Hearing") and gave an opportunity to be heard to all persons interested in or affected by a determination that the Study Area is a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area; and,

WHEREAS, at the Public Hearing the Planning Board reviewed the findings of the Planner set forth in the Study, heard expert testimony from the Planner (Sanyogita Chavan, AICP, PP) concerning the potential designation of the Study Area as an area in need of redevelopment using the criteria set forth in the Redevelopment Law, and opened the Public Hearing to members of the public for comment and to present their own evidence and/or to address questions to the Planning Board and its representatives concerning the potential designation of the Study Area as an area in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2024, based on its review of the Study and the testimony presented at the Public Hearing, the Planning Board adopted a resolution (the "Planning Board Resolution"), in the form introduced to it at the Public Hearing, accepting and adopting the recommendations contained in the Study, and recommending that the Study Area be declared a Non-Condemnation Redevelopment Area for the reasons set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of the Study, the Planning Board Resolution, and all of the relevant facts and circumstances concerning this matter, the Township of Verona seeks to designate the Study Area as an area in need of redevelopment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona as follows:

SECTION 1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

SECTION 2. Based upon the evidence and the recommendation of the Planning Board, the properties in the Study Area satisfy the criteria for designation as an area in need of redevelopment set

forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5(d) and 5(h), and such properties are hereby designated as an area in need of redevelopment without condemnation powers.

SECTION 3. In connection with the redevelopment of the Study Area, the Township shall be authorized to use all the powers provided under the Redevelopment Law for use in a redevelopment area, other than the power of eminent domain.

SECTION 4. The Township Council hereby directs the Township Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution forthwith to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs for review pursuant to Section 6(b)(5)(c) of the Redevelopment Law.

SECTION 5. The Township Council hereby directs the Township Clerk to serve, within ten (10) days hereof, a copy of this Resolution upon (i) all record owners of property located within the Study Area, as reflected on the tax assessor's records, and (ii) each person who filed a written objection prior to the Public Hearing, service to be in the manner provided by Section 6(b)(5)(d) of the Redevelopment Law.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-152

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

**DESIGNATING QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3a AND N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 ET SEQ.**

WHEREAS, *N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et. seq.* establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Agnieszka Brynczka possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et. seq.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey hereby acknowledges the Township Manager's designation of Agnieszka Brynczka as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Township of Verona to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(30)*, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the contracting unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council hereby also authorizes the bid threshold set by the Governor of the State of New Jersey pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(c)*, which is \$44,000 for the current year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in pursuant with *N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2* the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Agnieszka Brynczka's certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-153

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

AWARDING CONTRACT No. 2024-09

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLAN TERTIARY FILTER SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona received bids for RFP No. 2024-09, "Planning, Engineering and Design Services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Treatment Improvements" on August 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, five (5) bids were received for RFP No. 2024-09; and

WHEREAS, CP Engineers, LLC, 11 Park Lake Road, Sparta, NJ was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in the Base Bid Amount of \$168,750.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Attorney has reviewed and recommends the Contract award be made to CP Engineers, LLC, as the lowest responsive and responsible bid.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the contract for RFP No. 2024-09 be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, CP Engineers, LLC, 11 Park Lake Road, Sparta, NJ in the total amount of \$168,750.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that account number C-51-44-997-005 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or her designee, shall be charged against and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-154

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

**AWARDING CONTRACT No. 2024-10
PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION
SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona received bids for RFP No. 2024-10, "Planning, Engineering and Design Services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Ultraviolet Disinfection System" on August 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, seven (7) bids were received for RFP No. 2024-10; and

WHEREAS, CP Engineers, LLC, 11 Park Lake Road, Sparta, NJ was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in the Base Bid Amount of \$132,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Attorney has reviewed and recommends the Contract award be made to CP Engineers, LLC, as the lowest responsive and responsible bid.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the contract for RFP No. 2024-10 be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, CP Engineers, LLC, 11 Park Lake Road, Sparta, NJ in the total amount of \$132,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that account number C-51-44-997-005 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or her designee, shall be charged against and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-155

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH JOHN CREO CONTRACTING, INC.

WHEREAS, certain areas of Township properties require spot and patch paving throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, John Creo Contracting, Inc. provides such services; and

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

WHEREAS, services provided shall be charged to the budget account 4-05-55-502-338; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to John Creo Construction, Inc. 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 the contractor have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that John Creo Contracting, Inc., 22 Penn Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 is hereby awarded a contract for providing paving services for an amount and not to exceed \$24,000; 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 Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary 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. 2024-156

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH PAUL MILLER ENTERPRISES, LLC

WHEREAS, purchasing automobile parts is required to maintain and repair Township vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Paul Miller Enterprises, LLC provides such goods; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said goods exceeds \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, said services provided shall be charged to the budget account 4-01-26-295-015; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to Paul Miller Enterprises, LLC 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 the contractor have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Paul Miller Enterprises, LLC, 950 Bloomfield Avenue, West Caldwell, NJ is hereby awarded a contract for providing automobile parts for an amount and not to exceed \$32,000; 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 Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary 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. 2024-157

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH STATEWIDE STRIPING

WHEREAS, various traffic lines, crosswalks, parking spots, safety wording, etc. is required on public roadways; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Striping performs such services; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said goods exceeds \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, said services provided shall be charged to the budget accounts 4-01-20-170-000 (\$5,000), 4-01-26-290-188 (\$1,700) C-53-46-039-011 (\$1,800), C-53-46-038-004 (\$4,000), C-53-46-039-010 (\$8,000) and C-53-46-039-011 (\$1,700); and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to Statewide Striping 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 the contractor have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Statewide Striping, 499 Pomeroy Road, Parsippany, NJ is hereby awarded a contract for providing painting of various traffic lines for an amount and not to exceed \$22,200; 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 Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary 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. 2024-158

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

**ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF A NEW JERSEY
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the State of New Jersey Division of Highway & Traffic Safety 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 \$10,000.

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. 2024-159

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

**AUTHORIZING THE INSERTION INTO THE FY2024 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 A STATE OF NEW JERSEY PEDESTRIAN SAFETY
GRANT**

WHEREAS, N. J. S. A. 40A:4-87 provides that The Director of the Division of Local Government Services 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 \$10,000.00 from the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway and Traffic Safety, Pedestrian Safety Grant and wishes to amend its 2024 Municipal Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024 in the sum of \$10,000.00 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:
Pedestrian Safety Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$10,000.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations:

(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS" - Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations: Pedestrian Safety Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution will be electronically filed with the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-160

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

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LIEN

WHEREAS, the Supervisor of Public Works and the Township’s forester determined that the owner of the Block 1003 Lot 19 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Verona, commonly known as 25 Brookside Terrace, must comply with the Township property maintenance code, specifically removal of a dangerous tree on the property and provided appropriate notice and opportunity for the tree to be removed; and

WHEREAS, because of the dangerous condition, after the owner failed to remove the tree, the Township contracted with Dujets Tree Removal in the amount of \$4,300.00 to remove the tree; and

WHEREAS, the Verona Police Department was needed for traffic control in the amount of \$280.16, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department was needed to provide cones and barrels for the area in the amount of \$215.12, and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official was needed to provide services in the amount of \$423.25, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Administrative secretary was need for follow ups including phone calls, emails and letters in the amount of \$210.10, and

WHEREAS, Administration was needed in reviewing this matter in the amount of \$98.90, and

WHEREAS, these charges shall be imposed on the property in the form of a municipal lien for above services pursuant to Township of Verona Code §493-8 and to any other applicable State or Federal regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized and directed to take all appropriate actions to impose on the property commonly known as 25 Brookside Terrace, Verona, New Jersey (Block 1003, Lot 19) a municipal lien in the amount of the tax lien certificate (\$5,527.53), where upon the Tax Collector shall, within ten (10) days of encumbering of the property, send official notice of said encumbrance via certified mail, return receipt requested and regular mail to any and all other lien holders or creditors with a secured interest in the property.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-161

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

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LIEN

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official determined that the owner of the Block 908, Lot 9 on the Tax Maps of the Township of Verona, commonly known as 13 Woodland Avenue, to comply with the Township property maintenance code, specifically lawn maintenance of the property; and

WHEREAS, clean up was performed by Green Valley Landscape Design on behalf of the Township in the month of February totaling the amount of \$275.00; and

WHEREAS, these charges shall be imposed on the property in the form of a municipal lien for above services pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 54:5-8* and to any other applicable State of Federal regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized and directed to take all

appropriate actions to impose on the property commonly known as 13 Woodland Avenue, Verona, New Jersey (Block 908, Lot 9) a municipal lien in the amount of the tax lien certificate (\$275.00), where upon the Tax Collector shall, within ten (10) days of encumbering of the property, send official notice of said encumbrance via certified mail, return receipt requested and regular mail to any and all other lien holders or creditors with a secured interest in the property.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-162

A motion was made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy 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. 2024-163

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH TURFSMITH, LLC

WHEREAS, planting of Township trees along Balston Drive, Whitney Terrace and Windemere Road; and

WHEREAS, Turfsmith, LLC provides the service of planting trees; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has determined that the value of said goods exceeds \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, said services provided shall be charged to the budget account C-53-46-039-010; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to Turfsmith, LLC 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 the contractor have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Turfsmith, LLC, 50 Park Avenue, Verona, NJ is hereby awarded a contract for providing tree planting services for an amount and not to exceed \$20, 631; 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 Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into any agreement necessary for the aforementioned services a copy of which shall be available for public inspection in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

ABSTAIN (Recusal): Holland

New/Old Business:

Council discusses an ordinance on Committee meeting attendance. Changes will be made and the ordinance will come back to the table at another meeting. Council then discusses the Zoning Code. Councilwoman McGrath suggests the administration work with the Township Planner and the Affordable Housing Planner to corroborate on the new Zoning Ordinance required to comply with the Master Plan.

The Council makes the following appointments to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee:

Clariza Mione	Member	Term Expiring	6/30/2025
John Fatatis	Member	Term Expiring	6/30/2026
Ashley Ravah	Member	Term Expiring	6/30/2027

Public Comment:

Kevin Ryan, Verona, New Jersey

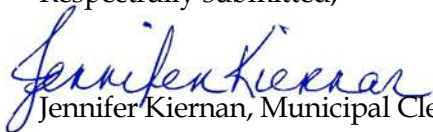
Council goes into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. No action will be taken afterwards.

Council enters back into Public Session at 9:31 p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn is made by Councilman Roman at 9:32 p.m.; seconded by Deputy Mayor McEvoy. The next meeting is September 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: September 23, 2024