

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Tuesday, November 12, 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, Councilwoman Holland, Township Manager Joseph D'Arco, Deputy Township Manager Kevin O'Sullivan, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are present. Councilman Roman is joining remotely. Councilwoman McGrath will arrive late.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tamburro participated in the Diwali Celebration and thanks the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee and everyone else involved for the lovely event. It was a pleasure for the Mayor to see the Veterans during the Veterans Day Observance yesterday, and mentions former crossing guard Sal Rosamilia who will be deeply missed after his passing. He warns residents to take extra precautions due to the unprecedented New Jersey forest fire season and thanks Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan and the poll workers for running a successful election in Verona. The Environmental Commission is hosting an environmental clean up this Saturday and the Verona Public Library is hosting their annual Gala event this Thursday. There is still time to be a part of the Women's Club share light night event and the Verona Clergy Council's Thanksgiving service will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Essex County Liaison J. Coltre announces that as of February 1, 2025, the Star Ledger will no longer be available in print. There will be turkeys and food boxes distributed at the Cherry Blossom Center on the 21st of November, and the annual Friday Lights event is beginning through December.

Councilwoman McGrath arrives at 7:19 p.m.

Township Manager's Report:

Mr. D'Arco reports that the 2024 Best Practices worksheet was provided to the governing body. He states that all "no" answers are being addressed by the administration. However, the Township did well and scored more than enough points to receive that average State funding without penalty. He reports on the status of Everett Field and municipal parking lot signage. The Recreation fields usage report will be provided to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The staff of the Health Department met with Bloomfield Health Department, who will be working in conjunction with the Verona Health Department as of January 1, 2025.

The Deputy Township Manager reports on the wastewater infrastructure and the wells. He updates the Council on the receipt of bids for the pickle ball and tennis courts at the Verona Pool. He discusses the Township's sustainable initiatives and the Town Hall repointing project and reports negotiations with Comcast are ongoing.

Council Members Reports:

Deputy Mayor McEvoy reminds residents to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors due to daylight savings time changes. He apologizes for not making the Diwali event and acknowledges and thanks the Municipal Clerk and poll workers for a smooth election day. The Sustainable Verona Meeting was held on November 6th and lastly, the Deputy Mayor thanks all of our Veterans who attended the Veterans Day ceremony yesterday and all of our staff who made it possible.

Councilman Roman apologizes for not being in person at the meeting and virtually waves his report.

Councilwoman McGrath echoes the compliments to the Municipal Clerk, poll workers and county staff for a very successful election day. She thanks all involved in planning and executing the Diwali and Veterans Day events and was able to attend the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Advisory Committee's walkable workshop.

Councilwoman Holland acknowledges the impressive turn out in regards to the election and thanks the Municipal Clerk for her hard work and dedication. She congratulates our new Senator and Congresswoman and reminds residents to take all appropriate precautions in regards to climate change.

Public Comment:

Rosann Pena, Verona, New Jersey
Violet Malone, Verona, New Jersey
Jamal Mahmood, Verona, New Jersey
Elena Thomas, Esquire

Hearing and Adoption of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-35

**AMENDING CHAPTER 150 - ZONING, ARTICLE XXV
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CONTROLS AND REQUIREMENTS
OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-35 into the record.

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

Public Hearing: None

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance 2024-35 is adopted by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-36

**AMENDING CHAPTER A565-1 SCHEDULE OF FEES, SPECIFICALLY
STORMWATER FEES OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance 2024-36 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 2024-36 is adopted by a vote of 5-0. It will be published according to law

Ordinances for Introduction:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-37

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF
\$195,000 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PICKLE BALL/TENNIS COURTS,
INCLUDING EQUIPMENT, IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
\$195,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST
THEREOF**

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance H-1 is numbered 2024-37. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on December 2, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-38

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$225,000 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE BIG POOL FOR THE POOL UTILITY IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$225,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-2 into the record.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance H-2 is numbered 2024-38. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on December 2, 2024.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-39

REAPPROPRIATING \$340,000 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPOINTING OF THE TOWNSHIP HALL IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance H-3 into the record.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance H-3 is numbered 2024-39. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on December 2, 2024.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting are unanimously approved. Councilwoman Holland requests that resolutions K-3 and K-7 be pulled from the consent agenda. Motioned by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

None

RESOLUTION No. 2024-210

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

AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS PURSUANT TO NJSA 40a:40-1

WHEREAS, certain transfers of funds for various 2024 budget appropriations are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40a:4-58 provides for transfer of appropriations with an excess over and above the amount deemed necessary to fulfil their purposes to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

WHEREAS, the appropriations subject to fund transfers hereby are not within those restricted by N.J.S.A. 40a:4-58 for transfer purposes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that the Chief Financial Officer shall and is hereby authorized to make transfers between appropriations accounts of the 2024 Municipal Budget as follows:

| | TO: | FROM: |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| PERS | \$15,000.00 | |
| Telephone | \$4,000.00 | |
| Health Waivers | \$2,500.00 | |
| IT - Other Expenses | \$2,500.00 | |
| Pool - Operating | \$10,000.00 | |
| Water and Sewer - Other Expenses | \$100,000.00 | |
| Administration - Salary and Wages | | \$15,000.00 |
| Assessor - Salary and Wages | | \$2,000.00 |
| Planning Board - Salary and Wages | | \$5,000.00 |
| Zoning - Salary and Wages | | \$2,000.00 |
| Pool- Salary and Wages | | \$10,000.00 |
| Water and Sewer - Salary and Wages | | \$100,000.00 |
| TOTALS | \$134,000.00 | \$134,000.00 |

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-211

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

APPROVING CLOSE-OUT OF CONTRACT #2022-13 - RECONSTRUCTION OF DERWENT AVENUE

WHEREAS, DLS Contracting and the Township of Verona have heretofore entered into an Agreement, more particularly known as Contract No. 2024-02 - "Reconstruction of Douglas Place" for the furnishing of labor, equipment and materials in a base contract amount of \$135,435.35 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 +\$21,463.33 and Change Order was approved by the Township Council at a regular meeting held on September 23, 2024 by Resolution No. 2024-147; and

WHEREAS, DLS has submitted a 2-year maintenance bond #2347975MB in the amount of \$23,534.80.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that a final contract amount of \$156,898.68 be approved and Contract No. 2024-02 be closed out.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager, the Municipal Clerk and any other officer as may be deemed appropriate are hereby authorized to execute Contract Close-Out for Contract No. 2024-02 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-212

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

REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATED TRUST BY RIDER FOR BEQUESTS OF MEDICAL TRANSPORT BUS TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenue received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and,

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

WHEREAS, as per N.J.S.A 40A:5-29, the donations received are to provide for the Medical Transport Bus service and operating costs to administer this act, and

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

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-213

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

**AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
WITH JACOBS ENGINEERING**

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-192 appointing Jacobs Engineering Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., Water Business Group, 412 Mt Kemble Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey for PFAS removal at the Linn Drive and Fairview Avenue Well sites for preliminary design for the PFAS Water Treatment at Linn Drive and Fairview Avenue Potable Water Well Sites Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has determined that the contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. requires amending to incorporate further scopes of services including professional services during construction; 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, the Administration has determined and certified in writing that the value of the service will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., Water Business Group, with offices at 412 Mt Kemble Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey (hereinafter "Jacobs") has submitted the attached proposal for additional professional services at a cost not-to-exceed \$47,000; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted Bond ordinance No. 2021-24 at a regular meeting on August 31, 2021 for the preliminary planning expenses for PFAS removal at the Fairview Avenue and Linn Drive wells to fund the costs associated with this project; and

WHEREAS, Jacobs has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Jacobs 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 the Jacobs 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 amended with Jacobs for Professional Services for the project for PFAS removal at the Linn Drive and Fairview Avenue Well Sites in an amount not-to-exceed \$47,000 subject to the following:

1. The award of this contract is subject to finalization of the contract terms to be drafted and approved by the Township Attorney.
2. The contract and any contract amendments which may become necessary shall be subject to the Township's ability to appropriate sufficient funds, which appropriation shall be at the sole discretion of the Township Council.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The Township Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement as outlined herein with:

Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., Water Business Group
412 Mt Kemble Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-214

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH E&M O'HARA ELECTRIC

WHEREAS, the Township is periodically in need of electrical services; and

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

WHEREAS, funds are available to award contracts for the services listed shall be charged to any budget account determined by the CFO to be applicable; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to E&M O'Hara Electric, 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 E&M O'Hara Electric, Inc., have been filed with the Township and are annexed to this Resolution; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that E&M O'Hara Electric, Inc. located at 144 Main Street, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 is hereby awarded a contract for providing various electrical services not to exceed \$25,000; 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. 2024-215

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH STARFIRE CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Services' Division of Recreation annually schedules the Township's fireworks display for the Fourth of July celebration; and

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

WHEREAS, expenditures not to exceed \$19,000.00 shall be charged to Budget Account No. 4-01-28-374-224 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, the award of the contract to Starfire Corporation 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 Starfire Corporation 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 Starfire Corporation, 566 Theatre Road, PO Box 179, St. Benedict, PA

15773 is hereby awarded a contract for providing fireworks display services not to exceed \$19,000 without further authorization of the Governing Body.

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, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-216

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH UNIFIED TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS

WHEREAS, the Township desires to install security cameras outside the Verona Community Center; and

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

WHEREAS, funds are available to award contracts for the services listed shall be charged to budget accounts C-53-44-997-007 and C-53-46-040-0250; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to Unified Technology Partners CO, who is contracted with the Somerset County Co-Op #CC-0056-23.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that Unified Technology Partners, located at 80 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004 is hereby awarded a contract for providing the installation of security cameras at a cost not to exceed \$43,461.00; 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, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-217

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

**AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
2024 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY-PSE&G ENERGY EFFICIENCY
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (TRACK 2)**

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic, and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is participating in Sustainable Jersey; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of Sustainable Jersey is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created the 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program to help increase energy efficiency for residents (Track 1), businesses (Track 2), and municipal facilities (Track 3); and

WHEREAS, this Program includes a Sustainable Jersey funded by PSE&G in the amount of \$5,000 for Track 2 and after successful implementation of Track 1.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of Verona has determined that the Township of Verona should apply for the aforementioned 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program and \$5,000 for Track 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Verona, applying for the 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program, will provide staff support for all activities related to the Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program, including outreach to help local businesses save energy and lower their utility bills and will also:

- Identify one or more staff to serve as primary contacts for Sustainable Jersey for the projects selected (e.g. outreach campaigns)
- Provide access to utility bills and other energy records as needed for the project (energy efficiency in municipal facilities)
- Commit to attend a virtual kick-off event and other virtual trainings (energy efficiency outreach campaigns)
- Provide support from relevant finance, facility, and other staff as needed for project implementation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Verona, County of Essex in the State of New Jersey, authorizes submission of the aforementioned application to the 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-218

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

**AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
2024 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY-PSE&G ENERGY EFFICIENCY
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic, and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is participating in Sustainable Jersey; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of Sustainable Jersey is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created the 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy

Efficiency Partnership Program to help increase energy efficiency for residents (Track 1), businesses (Track 2), and municipal facilities (Track 3); and

WHEREAS, this Program includes a Sustainable Jersey funded by PSE&G in the amount of \$5,000 and/or technical assistance for Track 3 after successful implementation of Track 2.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of Verona has determined that the Township of Verona should apply for the aforementioned 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program and \$5,000 (and/or technical assistance) for Track 3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Verona, applying for the 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program, will provide staff support for all activities related to the Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program, including outreach to help local businesses save energy and lower their utility bills and will also:

- Identify one or more staff to serve as primary contacts for Sustainable Jersey for the projects selected (e.g. outreach campaigns; energy efficiency in the municipality)
- Provide access to utility bills and other energy records as needed for the project (energy efficiency in municipal facilities)
- Commit to attend a virtual kick-off event and other virtual trainings (energy efficiency outreach campaigns)
- Provide support from relevant finance, facility, and other staff as needed for project implementation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Verona, County of Essex in the State of New Jersey, authorizes submission of the aforementioned application to the 2024 Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-219

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath 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) 2002 FORD TRUCK VIN 1FDAF57F82EB56721
- 2) 2006 FORD DUMP TRUCK VIN 1FDWF37Y56ED84418
- 3) LIGHTED OUTDOOR DECORATIVE WREATHS

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 and 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. 2024-220

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath 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. 2024-221

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

**APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 & CLOSE-OUT OF
CONTRACT #2023-03 – RECONSTRUCTION OF BALSTON, WHITNEY AND
WINDEMERE ROAD**

WHEREAS, Crossroads Construction and the Township of Verona have heretofore entered into an Agreement, more particularly known as Contract No. 2023-03 – “Reconstruction of Balston, Whitney and Windemere Road” for the furnishing of labor, equipment and materials in the amount of \$721,803.75, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council approved Resolution No. 2024-141 for Change Order #1 in the amount of -\$63,010.80; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 2 adjusts the bid quantities to the As-Built Quantities of the project in the amount of +1,985.00; and

WHEREAS, Boswell Engineering recommends approval of Change Order No. 2 and Final Close Out in the amount of \$660,775.95.

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has released the submitted performance bond as Crossroads Construction has submitted a 2-year maintenance bond #FP0026172M in the amount of \$99,116.39.

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. 2, in the amount of +1,985.00, for a final contract amount of \$660,775.95 be approved and Contract No. 2023-03 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. 2023-03 on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

ABSTAIN (Recusal): Holland

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH FORD MOTOR CREDIT.

WHEREAS, the Township requires two (2) mason dump trucks for the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, Ford Motor Company designs F550 mason dump trucks and is contacted under the State ESCNJ-Co-op; and

WHEREAS, the cost of this purchase shall not exceed the total amount of \$12,000.00 and shall be charged to various budget line items at the discretion of the CFO.

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

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 services requested shall not exceed \$12,000 and no services or materials shall be requested without a certification of funds.
3. 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:

Addendum:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-40

AMENDING CHAPTERS 140-36 "NO PARKING CERTAIN HOURS", 140-38 "TIME LIMIT PARKING" AND 140-68 "PARKING METER/PERMIT PARKING ZONES DESIGNATED"

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

Ordinance M-1 is numbered 2024-40. It will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on December 2, 2024.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-223

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

CALLING ON THE LEGISLATURE TO PERMIT ON-LINE NEWS PLATFORMS TO QUALIFY AS LEGAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MUNICIPALITIES PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES

WHEREAS, various statutes require municipalities to publish legal notices in an official newspaper for numerous governmental actions such as meeting notices, ordinances, resolutions, municipal land use actions, or public bidding; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 35:1-2 requires that in order for a newspaper to qualify as a legal newspaper for the publication of official advertisements it must be printed and published in the English language within the state at least once a week for at least one year continuously; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 35:1-2.2 establishes the following qualifications for newspapers publishing official notices: newspapers must be printed entirely in the English language, be printed and published within the State, have a general paid circulation in the municipality where their publication office is

situated for not less than two years and have been entered for two years as second class mail under US postal laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, as technology has advanced, news publication has changed from voluminous newsprint to greater on-line reporting with fewer print pages; and

WHEREAS, this change has impacted municipalities, ranging from difficulties in having public notices printed, even though meeting print newspapers' deadlines, to fewer reporters covering local meetings and community events; and

WHEREAS, to fill the void, online news platforms have evolved to become the local source of news for many municipalities, however, they do not meet the statutory definition of legal newspapers and are unable to publish official notices; and

WHEREAS, at the same time a recent PEW Research Center survey on the news habits and attitudes of U.S. adults ages 18 and older, conducted in association with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, found that 81% get some of their news through websites, apps, or social media, in fact, about four in ten often get their news online.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, New Jersey urges the State legislature to amend the various statutes to permit municipalities to use qualified on-line news platforms to publish official notices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded be the members of New Jersey District 40, Assemblyman Al Barlas, Assemblyman Christopher P. DePhillips and State Senator Kristin M. Corrado.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

New Business:

Council discusses an ordinance to establish a new chapter 173 for business licensing and its fees.

Public Comment:

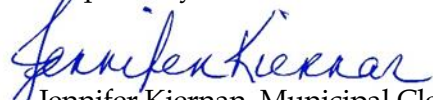
None.

Council goes into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. and returns to the public session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. is made by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilwoman McGrath.

The next meeting is Monday, December 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk


Christopher Tamburro, Mayor

APPROVED: December 2, 2024