

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, February 20, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey.

Call to Order:

Municipal Clerk reads notice of Open Public Meetings law. The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting; specifically, the time, date and location were included in the annual notice of meetings adopted by the governing body, posted in the Municipal Building, and sent to the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger. Additionally, the agenda for this meeting was posted in the Municipal Building and sent to the two newspapers before 4:30 p.m. on the Friday preceding this meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Kevin Ryan; Deputy Mayor Michael Nochimson; Councilman Alex Roman; Councilman Ted Giblin and Councilman Jack McEvoy are present. Township Manager Matthew Cavallo, Township Attorney Brian Aloia, and Municipal Clerk Jennifer Kiernan are also present.

Mayor Ryan leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ryan invites Essex County liaison Jay Coltre to the lectern. Mr. Coltre reports the County is in the final week of its deer management. Essex County will hold a job fair at the Turtle Back Zoo for seasonal employees on February 24 from 8:30 – 11:30 am, March 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm and March 10 from 9am – Noon. Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo will present his State of the County address on February 26 and the Hospital Center in Cedar Grove.

Mayor Ryan states he attended a meeting of Essex County Mayors with Governor Murphy last Friday in Newark. He reports the Governor showed a commitment to staffing a government office liaison to interface more with local government officials. Mayor Ryan states he brought up the issue of Affordable Housing citing the diversity of Essex County and that Verona does not have much space left. He also commented that Affordable Housing creates a greater demand on all services.

Manager's Report:

Open Gym is held every Sunday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. from now until April. Grades 4 & Under 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Grades 5-12 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday, February 21 the property appraisers for the revaluation of the Township will host a public information session in the ballroom of the Community Center at 6:30 p.m. The cell tower lease ends this year. The Township is currently working to put together a bid.

Councilmembers' Reports:

Deputy Mayor Nochimson requests an update on the shed at Linn Drive. The Township Manager states that the cost would be \$70,000 to upgrade. The Deputy Mayor urges the Township Manager to look for something more affordable. The Township Manager states that in 2010 the Council authorized the building to be demolished after the completion of the Hilltop Fields. The Township Manager states he is currently working with Building and Grounds to come up with a scope of work, which will need to go out to bid. The Township Manager states he will report back at the next regular meeting.

Councilman Roman comments that the overtime in the budget is not at the level of success he hoped it would be at this point. He requests a status update on the library. The Township Manager reports that he will be bringing 1 or 2 change orders to the governing body from the architect regarding structural issues. The top round window has been installed. Interior work continues as exterior work is almost complete.

Councilman McEvoy reports that in regards to overtime, the last ordinance passed will reduce overtime payments for a lot of employees. He states that later in the meeting the council will appoint members to the newly reconstructed Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Board of Adjustment. He thanks all the residents who applied. He reports that he attended the NJ Cannibusiness Seminar in Trenton with Steve Neale, which he found to be quite educational. He comments that many doctors, ex-law enforcement officials and business owners joined in the conversation about the question of the difference between medical and recreational marijuana. A large portion of the discussion revolved around the medical reasoning for the legalization as well as the topic that the addiction of marijuana is less than opioids and provides for better pain relief. Of course, the biggest worry, he commented, is that kids may get hold of it is a problem, as with any drug. He pointed out that medical marijuana is not laced and controlled. He sums up his report by stating he came away from the seminar thinking it is foolish for towns to jump ahead and be against the legalization 100% understanding the facts as they appear.

Councilman Giblin also thanks the Michael Zichelli and Edward Conlon, two long time members of the Board of Adjustment who recently resigned their positions. Councilman Giblin reports that he met with George Dredde III, Assembly DeCrocce's Chief of Staff, reporting that the Assemblywoman desires to be more involved in Verona. Mr. Giblin also reports that the local chapter of Moms Demand Action, met over the weekend. There had been a resurgence of membership for the group, who is pushing for common sense gun laws. The Councilman urges all residents to ask candidates where they stand on gun issues before they cast their vote at the polls. Councilman Giblin attended an event last Friday held by the Essex County Democratic Committee, where lifelong Verona resident John LoCrasto, who served in Vietnam with his two brothers, was honored by the Committee. Mr. LoCrasto is a member of Operating Engineers #825.

Council Appointments:

Appointments to the Board of Adjustment are as follows: Patrick Liska, Regular Member to fill unexpired term ending 6/30/2021; Scott Weston, Regular Member to fill unexpired term ending 6/30/2018 and Christy DiBartolo, Alternate #1 Member to fill unexpired term ending 6/30/2018.

Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Councilman Roman.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Roman, Giblin, McEvoy, Nochimson, Ryan.

NAYS:

Appointments to the Board of Adjustment are approved 5-0.

Names are drawn from a hat by the Municipal Clerk. The first two names drawn will have terms expiring in 2021, the next two drawn will have terms expiring in 2020 and the last two will have terms expiring in 2019. All appointed are for three years. Appointments to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee are as follows: Pratiksha Chesney, Regular Member, Term Expires 6/30/2020; Steve Farrell, Regular Member, Term Expires 6/30/2021; Peggy Kenrick, Regular Member, Term Expires 6/30/2020; Michael Passero, Regular Member, Term Expires 6/30/2019; Kieran Quinn, Regular Member, Term Expires 6/30/2021; Dana DeMars, Regular Member, Term Expires 6/30/2019. The Municipal Clerk draws Councilperson names from a hat. The first name drawn will nominate a Councilperson to serve on the committee. Mayor Ryan is drawn

first, he nominates Deputy Mayor Nochimson; Councilman McEvoy nominates Deputy Mayor Nochimson; Councilman Giblin nominates Deputy Mayor Nochimson and Councilman Roman nominates Deputy Mayor Nochimson. Deputy Mayor Nochimson is appointed to the Committee with a term expiring 6/30/2019 .

Moved by Mayor Ryan; seconded by Deputy Mayor Nochimson.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Roman, Giblin, McEvoy, Nochimson, Ryan.

NAYS:

Appointments to the Parks and Recreation Committee are approved 5-0.

RESOLUTION No. 2018-46

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

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON PARK AT VERONA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

WHEREAS, the Huntington Park at Verona Condominium Association, Inc. was created in accordance with N.J.S.A. 46:8B-1 et seq. to be responsible for the administration and management of the condominium and condominium property known as Huntington Park at Verona, a residential condominium which is located within the Township of Verona; and

WHEREAS, the Association consists exclusively of unit owners of the Condominium; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-23.1 et seq., the Township is required either to perform certain specified services on public roads and streets in the Condominium, which is a qualified private community, or to reimburse said Condominium to the extent specified in that statute for the actual costs to the Association of providing said specified services; and

WHEREAS, the Association has executed the attached Municipal Services Agreement outlining the statutorily required reimbursement payment to the Association for costs incurred for those required services not provided by the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement has been reviewed by the Township Attorney and the Township Manager recommends that the Township enter into the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-23.1 et seq., the parties hereby covenant and agree to enter into the attached Municipal Services Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-47

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

AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-19

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognize that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Essex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Verona Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2018-19 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$42,716.00
Cash Match	\$10,684.00
In-Kind	\$32,032.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2018-48

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

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH LaGUARDIA ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township annually holds its Summer Concert Series in the Verona Civic Center and several other civic events requiring live/musical entertainment; and

WHEREAS, LaGuardia Associates, 388 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 has submitted a proposal to provide the aforementioned services; and

WHEREAS, LaGuardia Associates has extensive experience with similar projects throughout the area and has previously provided these services to the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has recommended that the Solutions LaGuardia Associates be awarded a contract to provide the aforementioned services; and

WHEREAS, the award of the contract to LaGuardia Associates is being made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the cost for said professional services not to exceed \$25,000 as outlined in the proposal without further authorization by the Mayor and Council; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that LaGuardia Associates is hereby awarded a contract for organizing the 2018 Summer Concert Series.

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 a notice of this action shall be published once in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times; and

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: Giblin, McEvoy, Roman, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

Public Participation:

Gerry Simonaski, 33 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey

Al DeOld, 15 Howard Street, Verona, New Jersey

Carol Thomas, 9 Balston Drive, Verona, New Jersey

Council goes into Executive Session at 8:49.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:56 is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Councilman McEvoy. Vote: 5 ayes.

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan

Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Kevin Ryan

Kevin Ryan, Mayor

APPROVED: March 19, 2018