

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Verona Township Council on Monday, April 17, 2017 beginning at 6:30 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey.

Call to Order:

Municipal Clerk reads notice of Open Public Meetings law.

Roll Call:

Mayor Kevin Ryan; Deputy Mayor Michael Nochimson; Councilman Jay Sniatkowski; Councilman Bob Manley and Councilman Alex Roman are present. Township Manager Matthew Cavallo, Township Attorney Brian Aloia and Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk are also present.

Mayor Ryan leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION No. 2017-67

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

PERMITTING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED 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 Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - a. Contract Negotiations pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)*
 - b. Pending Litigation pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)*
 - c. Personnel Matters pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)*
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when said subject has been fully discussed by the Council, and the attorney rules this matter may be brought before the public without jeopardizing any pending litigation.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

Council adjourns at 6:35 p.m. to go into Executive Session.

Council reconvenes at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ryan reads a proclamation for Distracted Driver Awareness Month. He then reads a proclamation for Arbor Day and reminds the public that the Environmental Commission is holding their sapling disbursement program on April 22nd. Mayor Ryan then calls Kathy Mortara and Linnea Mathers from the Woman's Club of Verona to the lectern and presents them with a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayor Ryan invites Essex County liaison, Julius Coltre to the lectern. Mr. Coltre states a meeting took place between the County Engineer with the Township Manager and Township Engineer to discuss traffic issues in town. This discussion will be ongoing and a plan formulated in the future. The County will host a Small Business Program at McCloone's Boathouse on Thursday, April 27, 2017. Hazardous Household Waste Drop Off will be held on May 6, 2017 at 125 Fairview Avenue.

Mayor Ryan states the Township has benefited from \$7.5 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) since 1979. He has written a letter to Congressman Frelinghuysen in regards to the President's desire to eliminate the CDBG in 2018. The Mayor states he sent letters to US Senator Menendez and US Senator Booker as well.

The Mayor received a letter from the State regarding initiating Safe Streets for cyclists. He passes the letter on to the Township Manager.

Mayor Ryan also states the Verona Park Conservancy held a Clean Up Day on April 7th which was very successful. He reminds the public that the Conservancy is looking for volunteers.

Manager's Report:

The 2017 Municipal Budget Documents is scheduled to be adopted at Monday's meeting.

We have received our approval from the Division of Local Government Services to adopt the budget. The Division required a minor change to account for the Pool Utility statutory payments. This change does not require delay of the budget adoption.

There are two ordinances with regard to the purchase of the 56 Grove Avenue property (currently Congregation Beth Ahm). The Township plans to purchase the property for use of Municipal Services. There is Council Discussion regarding the acquisition of the property and alternative ideas for use.

The Verona Environmental Commission in cooperation with the Cedar Grove Environmental Commission and the Essex County Environmental Center conducted a cleanup of the West Essex Trail on Sunday, April 2. About 70 volunteers worked all morning long removing over six (6) truck loads of trash, tires, metal fencing and pipes, cinder blocks, lawn chairs, metal drums, cardboard, bottles, cans, broken glass, car batteries and even school bus seats.

The Verona Environmental Commission will be distributing free Tree Seedlings at the Grove Park on Saturday, April 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Township Manager reports that he, Jim Helb and Chief Stern met with the County Executive, County Engineer and County Counsel regarding several traffic concerns in town including additional crosswalks, signage, and traffic signals. The meetings was successful. The Township is preparing a list of additional signage we are looking for along the Lakeside Avenue corridor including Speed Limit signage, reduced speed ahead, crosswalks markers, crosswalk ahead, etc. The County install the signage.

The Township will be renewing our Traffic Light Warrant for Personnette Avenue and Fairview Avenue. The County will be marking the crosswalk on Fairview Avenue at Linden Avenue. The County will be marking the crosswalk on Fairview Avenue at Sampson Drive once the sidewalks are installation on the west side of the roadway. This project will be awarded at tonight's Council meeting. County Counsel recommended that the Township work with NJ Transit & DeCamp to coordinate designated DeCamp Bus Stops town-wide and establish them by Ordinance.

At the next meeting there will be an ordinance to make several modifications to the Vehicles and Traffic section of the Township code to address parking concerns, additional stop signs and flow of traffic. This includes Personnette Avneue. The Ordinance with regard to traffic flow on Personnette Avenue that was tabled at the last meeting will remain tabled.

In response to concerns from the residents of Dodd Terrace at the Planning Board hearings from the High School field construction and increased parking at the high school sporting events, Chief Stern and Jennifer Kiernan on my behalf met with the residents of Dodd Terrace to discuss options going forward. A No-Right-Turn restriction is being planned and implemented from Sampson Drive onto Dodd Terrace to avoid traffic going East on Dodd Terrace from Sampson.

Future items that will be presented to the governing body include no parking extended 75 feet on Fairview Avenue, across from Sampson Road to accommodate line of sight for the intersection. A No Left Turn from the loop of VHS onto Fairview will be implemented. One handicap parking spot on the west side of South Prospect will be removed and 2 hour parking implemented. A stop sign will be placed at the bottom of Chestnut Road where it meets Oakridge Road. Claremont Avenue will be designated as a through street with stop signs placed at all intersections and no left turns out of streets that run into Lakeside Avenue.

A resolution is on tonight's agenda in support of Assemblywoman Holly Shepisi's two bills currently in the Assembly with regard to Affordable Housing legislation. Please refer to the articles emails on April 12th.

PSE&G will be performing a large gas main replacement program in the area of FN Brown school starting tomorrow. Upgrades to gas lines and replacement of 100 year old pipes will be performed. This program is spearheaded by the Board of Utilities and allows for homeowners to put natural gas generators in their homes. Residents will be notified ahead of time by placement of door hangers.

Mr. Cavallo reports the Township has been ordered by the Board of Taxation to perform a revaluation of the Township in 2019. An RFP will be released within two weeks and awarded sometime in June with inspections occurring in late August, early September. The last inspection has to be completed and filed with the Department of Taxation by October 1, 2018. Mr. Cavallo explains that in most municipalities that go through mandated revaluations, in terms of increases and decreases, one-third of the properties goes up, one-third goes down, one-third stays the same.

Councilmembers' Reports:

Deputy Mayor Nochimson requests the status of open fields this spring. The Township Manager states once all sports programs have been finalized, open field times will be released.

Councilman Sniatkowski has no report this evening.

Councilman Manley commends Rich Williamson of the VBSL, their coaches and staff on a great parade. He thanks the Police Department and DPW for creating a safe route.

Councilman Roman has no report this evening.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-08

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2017-08 by title into record.

Township Manager Matthew Cavallo explains this ordinance must be introduced with the Municipal Budget and allows the Township to bank unused tax levy funds in forthcoming years. Even if the Township does not obtain unused funds, the ordinance must be adopted.

Motion for adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-08 is moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Councilman Roman.

Public Participation: None.

Council Discussion: None.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2017-08 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-09

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PHASE II OF THE LIBRARY
RENOVATIONS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$3,600,000
THEREFOR, INCLUDING A \$326,214 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED, AND AUTHORIZING
THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,428,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.**

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2017-09 by title into record.

Motion for adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-09 is moved by Councilman Manley; seconded by Councilman Sniatkowski.

Public Participation: None.

Council Discussion: Deputy Mayor Nochimson presents a concept created to expand the café space of the library. There is Council discussion on this topic. Upon conclusion of the discussion Mayor Ryan states that this topic is not related to the ordinance that was just adopted in that the ordinance simply allows the Township to bond for the funding of the project.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2017-09 is adopted 5-0 and will be published according to law.

At this time Township Manager Matthew Cavallo recommends pulling item J-3 from the agenda as it pertains to the Library.

RESOLUTION No. 2017-70

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

AWARDING CONTRACT No. 17-07 VERONA PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVING SERVICES

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2017 the Township of Verona received bids for Contract 17-07 – Verona Public Library Moving Services; and

WHEREAS, one (1) responsive and responsible bid was received for Contract No. 17-07; and

WHEREAS, American Interfile and Library Services, Inc., 84-D Horseblock Road, Yaphank, New York 11980 was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for Contract No. 17-07, in a required contract amount of \$64,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposals and recommends the Contract award be made to American Interfile and Library Services, Inc.

WHEREAS, this contract shall be charged to Account No. C-53-45-002-000, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee, and these funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the bid of American Interfile and Library Services, Inc., 84-D Horseblock Road, Yaphank, New York 11980, for Contract No. 17-07, be accepted and it be awarded the contract, in the required amount of \$64,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expenditure shall be charged to Account No. C-53-45-002-000, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

ORDINANCE # 2017-10

AN ORDINANCE TO PURCHASE 56 GROVE AVENUE, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, BLOCK 1605, LOT 20 (the "Property")

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2017-10 by title into record.

Motion for introduction of Ordinance No. 2017-10 is moved by Councilman Manley; seconded by Mayor Ryan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2017-10 is approved 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 1, 2017.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-11

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF 56 GROVE AVENUE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$990,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$942,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

The Municipal Clerk reads Ordinance No. 2017-11 by title into record.

Motion for introduction of Ordinance No. 2017-11 is moved by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Councilman Manley.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

Ordinance No. 2017-11 is approved 5-0 and will be published according to law and a public hearing will be held on May 1, 2017.

Minutes are approved 5-0.

RESOLUTION No. 2017-68

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

AWARDING CONTRACT No. 17-04 - WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHEMICAL FEED SYSTEM

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2017 the Township of Verona received bids for Contract No. 17-04 -Wastewater Treatment Plant Chemical Feed System; and

WHEREAS, five (5) responsive and responsible bids were received for Contract No. 17-04; and

WHEREAS, Coppola Services, Inc., 28 Executive Drive, Ringwood, New Jersey 07456 was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for Contract No. 17-04, in a required contract amount of \$348,975.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposals and recommends the Contract award be made to Coppola Services, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, this contract shall be charged to Account Nos. C-51-44-952-000, C-51-44-56-546, C-51-44-987-002, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee, and these funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the bid of Coppola Services, Inc., 28 Executive Drive, Ringwood, New Jersey 07456, for Contract No. 17-04, be accepted and it be awarded the contract, in the required amount of \$ 348,975.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expenditure shall be charged to Account Nos. C-51-44-952-000, C-51-44-56-546, C-51-44-987-002, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2017-69

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

**AWARDING CONTRACT No. 17-05
FAIRVIEW AVENUE STREETSCAPE**

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2017 the Township of Verona received bids for Contract No. 17-05 – Fairview Avenue Streetscape; and

WHEREAS, eight (8) responsive and responsible bids were received for Contract 17-05; and

WHEREAS, Abraham General Construction, LLC, 39 Condit Terrace, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for Contract No. 17-05, in a required contract amount of \$119,975.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposals and recommends the Contract be award be made to Abraham General Construction, LLC.; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received a grant from the County of Essex Community Development Block Grant for the 2015 program year in the amount of \$108,738 for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, this contract shall be charged to Account Nos. C-53-44-987-939, C-53-44-997-003, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex New Jersey that the bid of Abraham General Construction, LLC, 39 Condit Terrace, West Orange, New Jersey 07052, for Contract No. 17-05, be accepted and it be awarded the contract, in the required contract amount of \$119,975.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this award is subject to the approval of the contract bid documents by the County of Essex Division of Housing and Community Development, and that no amount of this contract shall be chargeable until such time as the certification of available funds from the County of Essex Community Development Block Grant, Capital Ordinance Account Nos. C-53-44-987-939, C-53-44-997-003 or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2017-70

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

**AWARDING CONTRACT No. 17-07
VERONA PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2017 the Township of Verona received bids for Contract 17-07 – Verona Public Library Moving Services; and

WHEREAS, one (1) responsive and responsible bid was received for Contract No. 17-07; and

WHEREAS, American Interfile and Library Services, Inc., 84-D Horseblock Road, Yaphank, New York 11980 was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for Contract No. 17-07, in a required contract amount of \$64,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposals and recommends the Contract award be made to American Interfile and Library Services, Inc.

WHEREAS, this contract shall be charged to Account No. C-53-45-002-000, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee, and these funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the bid of American Interfile and Library Services, Inc., 84-D Horseblock Road, Yaphank, New York 11980, for Contract No. 17-07, be accepted and it be awarded the contract, in the required amount of \$64,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expenditure shall be charged to Account No. C-53-45-002-000, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2017-71

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

**AWARDING A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT FOR AMBULANCE
STRETCHER AND LOADING SYSTEM – CONTRACT No. 16-07**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has solicited bids on two separate occasions for an Ambulance Stretcher and Loading System - Contract No. 16-07; and

WHEREAS, no bids were received on either occasion; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager, as the Qualified Purchasing Agent, has negotiated a contract with New Jersey Emergency Vehicles – PL Customs, 2201 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 2, Manasquan, New Jersey 08736, to purchase and install the required equipment in a required contract amount of \$41,410.00; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in Account Nos. C-53-44-994-955, C-53-44-999-000 and have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the negotiated contract, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(3) for an Ambulance Stretcher and Loading System is hereby awarded to New Jersey Emergency Vehicles – PL Customs, 2201 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 2, Manasquan, New Jersey 08736, in a required contract amount of \$41,410.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expenditure shall be charged to Account Nos. C-53-44-994-955, C-53-44-999-000, or any other account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee and the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer; and

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2017-72

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

RESOLUTION REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Planning Board, were received from East Gate Sushi NJ Corp., for property located at 144 Bloomfield Avenue, Block 202 Lot 27, and the fees have been held in Trust, and

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

<u>ESCROW</u> <u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ENGINEER'S</u> <u>FEE</u>	<u>CONS. CODE</u> <u>OFFICIAL'S FEE</u>
\$1,000.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
 <u>AMOUNT TO BE</u> <u>REFUNDED</u> \$750.00		

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer and the Tax Collector be hereby authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$750.00 to East Gate Sushi NJ Corp., 144 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey 07044

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2017-73

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

RESOLUTION REFUNDING ESCROW PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Escrow fees, for the Planning Board, were received from Roger Colonna, for property located at 280 Bloomfield Avenue, Block 705 Lot 17, and the fees have been held in Trust, and

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

ESCROW <u>AMOUNT</u>	ENGINEER'S <u>FEE</u>	CONS. CODE <u>OFFICIAL'S FEE</u>
\$1,000.00	\$600.00	\$150.00
AMOUNT TO BE <u>REFUNDED</u>		
\$250.00		

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector be authorized to refund, from the Trust Account, \$250.00 to Roger Colonna, 24 Basswood Drive, Denville, New Jersey 07834

ROLL CALL:
 AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan
 NAYS:

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-74

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND APPROVED BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Local Municipal Budget for the Year 2017 was approved on the 20th day of March, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said Budget has been held as advertised, and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved Budget, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the following amendments to the approved Budget of 2017 be made:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
11. Appropriations for Swimming Pool Utility		
Operating:		
Other Expenses	\$ 200,250.00	\$ 200,092.00
Debt Service		
Interest on Notes	\$ 3,420.00	\$ 3,578.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for his certification of the 2017 Local Municipal Budget, so amended.

ROLL CALL:
 AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan
 NAYS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-75

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

PERMITTING 2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona in the County of Essex did in accordance with the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5* introduced and approved the annual budget for the Township at a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council on March 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-6*, the annual budget as introduced and approved was published by summary in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times, a newspaper circulated within the Township of Verona at least 10 days prior to April 17, 2017 the date set forth in the advertisement for public hearing to be held at the Municipal Building of the Township of Verona at 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Sections 1(a) and 1(b) of *N.J.S.A.40A:4-8* have been met by making for available for public inspection a complete copy of the approved budget at least one week prior to the date of the hearing and by making copies of said approved budget available to each person requesting the same during the said week and during the public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that pursuant with the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8*, the Mayor and Council hereby determines that the Municipal Budget for the year 2017 shall be read by its title and it is further declared that the conditions as set forth in Sections 1(a) and 1(b) of *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8* have been met.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2017-76

A motion was made by Councilman Sniatkowski; seconded by Councilman Manley that the following resolution be adopted:

ADOPTION OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget of the Township of Verona for the 2017 calendar year;

General Appropriations:	<u>Year 2017</u>
1. Appropriations within “CAPS” (H-1 Sheet 19)	\$ 17,305,850.00
2. Appropriations excluded from “CAPS” (H-2 Sheet 28)	\$ 4,575,260.13
	<u>\$ 1,427,853.00</u>
3. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (M-Sheet 29)	\$ 23,308,963.13
4. Total General Appropriations (Item 9, Sheet 29)	<u>\$ (7,423,778.07)</u>
5. Less: Anticipated Revenues Other than Current Property Tax (Item 5, Sheet 11)	

6. Difference: Amount to be raised by Taxes for support of the Municipal Budget (as follows) (a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	\$ 15,885,185.06
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget was published in the Verona-Cedar Times in the March 30, 2017 edition of the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution was held at the Municipal Building on April 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at which time and place discussions to said Budget and Tax Resolution for 2017 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Copies of the budget were available in the office of the Municipal Clerk, Township of Verona, at the Municipal Building, 600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, New Jersey 07044 during the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The budget was also posted on the Township’s webpage at www.veronanj.org. All persons interested in the proposed budget had an opportunity to address the Mayor and Council during the aforementioned public hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona does hereby adopt the preceding as the Budget for the 2017 year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action was published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Ryan
NAYS: Nochimson

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-77

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

RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO REDUCE LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING BURDENS AND PROVIDE DEFINED RULES AND RELIEF IN PROVIDING THEREOF

WHEREAS, New Jersey municipalities do not have the resources to provide court mandated housing to comply with the Mount Laurel doctrine without proper funding; and

WHEREAS, lawsuits increase housing four-fold through court mandates and without an affirmative defense municipalities can do nothing to stop growth and sprawl, costing millions of dollars outside of local budgets; and

WHEREAS, property taxes must be raised exponentially to pay the costs associated with court mandates and, therefore, population, further overburdening taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of unfunded court mandates has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, expected state population growth of 0.3 percent does not provide sufficient demand to justify court-mandated 30 percent housing supply increase; further congesting our state; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is already the most densely populated state in the country with 1,195 persons per square mile; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life and public welfare in this municipality will be reduced, negatively impacting infrastructure, water and sewer capacities; school class sizes and school services; municipal services such as volunteer and staffed ambulatory services and fire departments, police departments, public transportation and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing and rentals is not due to a lack of units, rather it stems from residents paying property taxes that are unaffordable and increasing by roughly \$700 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Jersey should relieve the burden of unfunded court mandates and provide statewide parity and predictability in regard to municipal affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly is urged to pass Assembly Bill No. 4666 imposing an end-of-year moratorium on all affordable housing litigation; and Assembly Bill No. 4667 establishing the “Affordable Housing Obligation Study Commission” to assist in finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis foisted upon municipalities by the end of the year; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state and the legislature to assist municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to reasonably address affordable housing needs in New Jersey to preserve the integrity of the state and its quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey urges the State and the legislature to aid municipalities over-burdened by court-mandated affordable housing; and be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we enthusiastically must reach a solution to affordable housing in New Jersey; and be it finally

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Township Clerk is hereby directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution Governor Chris Christie, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Charles A. Richman, New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., New Jersey Assembly Speaker Vincent Pietro, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, State Senator Joseph Pennacchio, Assemblywoman Bettylou DeCroce, Assemblyman Jay Webber, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

RESOLUTION No. 2017-78

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

**AUTHORIZING A TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO PROCEED WITH DUE
DILIGENCE RELATED TO PURCHASE 56 GROVE AVENUE, IN THE
TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, NEW JERSEY, BLOCK 1605, LOT 20**

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona is desirous of purchasing the real property located at 56 Grove Avenue, in the Township of Verona, New Jersey, Block 1605, Lot 20, for a purchase price of \$900,000 to use for municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, subject to a bond ordinance being approved by the Council funds will be available to make said purchase; and

WHEREAS, assuming the Council affirmatively votes to approve the ordinance to purchase the property, and bond ordinance to fund the purchase, the closing is scheduled to take place on or about May 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, in order to close on or about May 31, 2017, the Township must proceed with its due diligence pending the consideration and passage of the ordinance to authorize the purchase and the bond ordinance to fund the purchase.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Verona, in the County of Essex, New Jersey that the Township Manager is hereby authorized to proceed with due diligence and order an appraisal, title search, inspection of the property, and take any other steps to complete this purchase pending the passage of the appropriate ordinances.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Manley, Roman, Sniatkowski, Nochimson, Ryan

NAYS:

Councilman Manley leaves Council Chambers at 8:52 p.m.

Public Participation:

Clayton Rice	50 Oakridge Road, Verona, New Jersey
Richard Aloia	37 Malvern Place, Verona, New Jersey
Kathy Mortara	28 Derwent Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
Gerry Shimonaski	33 Kenwood Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
Phil Kirsch	93 Cedar Street, Millburn, New Jersey
Nicola Sampers	24 South Prospect Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
Jack McEvoy	20 Montclair Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
Gordon Marshall	42 Oakridge Road, Verona, New Jersey
Michael Vasalani	124 Personette Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
John Verzella	130 Personette Avenue, Verona, New Jersey
Al DeOld	15 Howard Street, Verona, New Jersey

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the public meeting at 9:42 p.m. is moved by Councilman Roman; seconded by Mayor Ryan. Vote: 4 ayes.

The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kiernan

Jennifer Kiernan, Municipal Clerk

Kevin Ryan

Kevin Ryan, Mayor