

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2022 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on October 13, 2022 via Zoom Webinar and in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Council President Patrick Rizzuto presiding.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press on January 14, 2022 and on July 29, 2022 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Council President Rizzuto led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council Members Natalie Buccieri, Michael Furrey, Brian Lynch, and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also present were Mayor Howard Burrell, Business Administrator Charles Voelker, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio and Township Attorney Marlin Townes.

Council Member Shortway was not present.

Council Member Furrey read a statement from Council Member Shortway:

Dear Marcy, Mayor, Councilpersons, and Vernon Residents,
Thoreau wrote, "The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it."
Governing in our Township is a difficult task and can cause anyone to lose perspective on what is really important in life.
During my 2015 mayoral campaign I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Surgery was performed and for seven years we believed I was rid of this menace. Last June, it was suspected my cancer had returned and it has. My family and I have concluded it is best to leave public office at this time. This decision will provide more time for family and disease management.
Therefore, I tender my resignation from the Township Council effective immediately.
Your anticipated understanding is appreciated.
Sincerely, Harry J. Shortway

The Council wished Harry and his family well and gave positive thoughts to him.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council Reviewed the Bills List

DISCUSSION ITEM

VTMUA Chairman Comments

The Council discussed the VTMUA Chairman Paul Kearney's recent comments that were sent to them as well as a recent meeting that the subcommittee had. Some key issues that were discussed were:

Pros and cons of elevating issues.
Future ordinance for having septic pumps on a regular basis.
Moving forward with a transfer station.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Burrell stated that for over a decade - - since 2009 - - Vernon Township has had the good fortune of having an outstanding public servant as its Municipal Court Judge. That outstanding public servant is the Honorable James Devine, who will be retiring at the end of 2022. During these almost three years that I have had the honor of serving as Vernon's Mayor, I have considered Judge Devine not simply as our Municipal Court Judge, but as a vital, contributing part of our municipal team. He has been very instrumental in leading the type of sound, common sense and creative changes that are essential to enabling the Vernon Township Municipal Court to not only operate in an effective and efficient manner in the face of the many judicial changes that have taken place over the past decade plus, but to also finding solutions to getting our court through the turbulent period created by the COVID epidemic. Under Judge Devine's leadership, he and the Vernon Township Municipal Court staff worked together to make our municipal court the first court in Sussex County to install a video link to our county's jail where defendants are held, thereby permitting defendants to appear in court virtually. This one creative initiative by Judge Devine and the Vernon Township Municipal Court staff eliminated the costly and

time-consuming requirement that two Vernon Police Officers make four trips to and from the county jail in Newton, just to pick up and return a defendant for court appearances. This creative initiative has saved Vernon's taxpayers approximately \$80,000 each year. Thank you, Judge Devine, for the service that you have given Vernon Township; and best wishes in your well-deserved retirement!

Mayor Burrell commented that it is with a strong sense of accomplishment that I formally announce that on this Saturday, October 15, at 10am, the Municipality will host its Grand Opening of its new Town Center Municipal Park - - a Park that contains a beautiful new Pump Track, plus an almost one-mile Walking & Biking Trail! In addition, our creative Beautification Committee and our outstanding Department of Public Works have already brought the same collaborative park appearance improvement efforts to the new Town Center Municipal Park, that they have repeatedly applied at our other municipal parks. I have already invited members of the Council to this Grand Opening, and I hereby do so again. I also invite all of Vernon Township to come out and join in the launching of this outstanding, new Town Center Municipal Park, with two great amenities!

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 12, 2022 – Executive Session

September 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting

September 26, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the September 12, 2022 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Lynch

SECOND: Furrey

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to approve the September 12, 2022 executive session minutes.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the September 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Furrey

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to approve the September 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the September 26, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Lynch

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to approve the September 26, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (For Current Agenda Items Only, Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Lynch

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Mike Chirichiello – Vernon Township, gave good wishes to Council Member Shortway. Mr. Chirichiello is concerned about a cannabis retail store going in Vernon because he feels that it is too premature.

Council Vice President Buccieri commented that she agrees with Mr. Chirichiello. She explained that the previous Council voted to allow three retail cannabis stores in Vernon and one has already been approved.

Council President Rizzuto echoes Council Vice Presidents comments.

Council Member Lynch explained that minors are not allowed to buy in retail stores or even enter the store with an adult.

Mark Heftler – Highland Lakes, wished Council Member Shortway well. Mr. Heftler is in support of hybrid meetings and hopes the Council votes accordingly.

Ann Larson – Vernon Township, wished Council Member Shortway well. Ms. Larson is in support of hybrid meetings and feels that shutting down Zoom is a form of censorship.

Jessica Paladini – Vernon Township wished Council Member Shortway well. Ms. Paladini is in support of hybrid meetings especially because covid is still around.

Sean Clarkin – Vernon Township, feels that the board is limiting the advertising of meetings and they should be getting more citizens involved.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to come forward, Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #22-241: Resolution Designating Block 525, Lot 19, 161 NJSH Route 94 as a Non-Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment Pursuant to the New Jersey Local Development and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ.)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to take resolution #22-241 from the table.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Furrey

The Council discussed resolution #22-241 and the owners of the property.

A Motion was made by Council Member Lynch to approve resolution #22-241. Seconded by Council Member Buccieri.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES: Furrey
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to approve resolution #22-241.

RESOLUTION #22-241

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING BLOCK 525, LOT 19, 161 NJSH ROUTE 94 AS A NON-CONDEMNATION AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ.)

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq.* (The “Redevelopment Law”) authorizes municipalities to determine pursuant to subsection b of section 6 of *N.J.S.A.*

40A:12A-6 that an area is in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted Resolution #22-159 on June 13, 2022 authorizing the Township Land Use Board to undertake a preliminary investigation of property located at 161 NJSH Route 94 and known as Block 525, Lot 19 (the “Study Area”), to determine whether that parcel constitutes a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township Land Use Board authorized Jessica Caldwell, PP, AICP of J. Caldwell & Associates, LLC (the “Planning Consultant”), to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether the Study Area should be designated as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Caldwell, PP, AICP prepared an investigative report dated August 4, 2022, and entitled “Area in Need of Redevelopment Study for 161 New Jersey Route 94, Block 525, Lot 19 in the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey”; and

WHEREAS, after complying with all the procedural requirements of the Redevelopment Law, the Land Use Board conducted a public hearing on August 24, 2022 to determine whether the proposed area qualified as a non-condemnation redevelopment area meeting the criteria set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5; and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Board accepted the findings of the Planning Consultant that 161 NJSH Route 94, Block 525, Lot 19 should be designated as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, after conducting the public hearing described above, the Land Use Board adopted a Resolution entitled, “Resolution, Township of Vernon Land Use Board, decided on August 24, 2022, Memorialized on September 14, 2022, Non-Condensation Area in Need of Redevelopment Preliminary Investigation and Recommendation,” memorializing the conclusions set forth above and recommending that 161 NJSH Route 94, Block 525, Lot 19 be designated as a non-condemnation redevelopment area; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council agrees with the conclusions of the Land Use Board for the reasons set forth in the Board’s September 14, 2022 resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Based upon the findings and recommendations of the Land Use Board, the Study Area is hereby designated as an area in need of redevelopment without the power of eminent domain (the “Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area”), pursuant to the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 of the Redevelopment Law.
2. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for review pursuant to Section 6B(5)(c) of the Redevelopment Law.
3. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to serve within ten (10) days hereof a copy of this Resolution upon (i) all record owners of property located within the non-condemnation redevelopment area, as

reflected on the Tax Assessor's records and (ii) each person who filed a written objection prior to the hearing held by the Land Use Board, service to be in the manner provided by Section 6 of the Redevelopment Law.

4. Township Planner Jessica Caldwell is hereby authorized and directed to draft a redevelopment plan for the Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area and to submit her plan to the Township Council pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7f.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #22-242 Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved Educational Services Commission of the New Jersey Cooperative Contract Vendor In-Line Heating and Air Conditioning for Boiler Replacement

Resolution #22-243: A Resolution of the Township Council of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey in Opposition to the Reassignment by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection of All Municipalities Currently Designated Tier B Under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit Program to Tier A Designation

Resolution #22-244: Authorizing the Mayor to Continue the Incentive to Employees who Enroll in An Alternate Health or Prescription Plan

Resolution #22-245: Resolution Authorizing the Option for Employees of the Township of Vernon to Waive Health Insurance Benefits

Resolution #22-246: Resolution – Authorizing the Cancellation of Appropriation Reserve Balances

Resolution #22-247: Resolution Authorizing Leasing of Certain Vehicles Through Sourcewell National Cooperative #030122-EFM Through Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. (Quote No. 6598202 3 x Color Oxford White)

Resolution #22-248: Refund Overpayment (Various Block and Lots CORELOGIC)

Resolution #22-249: Refund Overpayment (Block 347 Lot 31-National Link)

Resolution #22-250: Refund Overpayment (Various Block and Lots CORELOGIC)

Resolution #22-251: Refund Overpayment (Block 527 Lot 242-Kathleen Gardenier)

Resolution #22-252: Refund Overpayment (Block 48 and Lot 12 Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Services

Council President Rizzuto asked to place resolutions #22-242 #22-243, #22-244, #22-245, #22-246, #22-247, #22-248, #22-249, #22-250, #22-251, and #22-252 on the floor.

MOVED: Furrey
SECOND: Lynch

Council Member Buccieri is happy to see resolutions #22-244 and #22-245 on the agenda with the State Health Plan going up 21%. She hopes employees will take advantage of the other plans.

Council Member Lynch said thank you for moving this along and helping the employees.

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to pass resolutions #22-242 #22-243, #22-244, #22-245, #22-246, #22-247, #22-248, #22-249, #22-250, #22-251, and #22-252.

RESOLUTION #22-242

AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS
WITH CERTAIN APPROVED EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY
COOPERATIVE CONTRACT VENDOR IN-LINE HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING FOR
BOILER REPLACEMENT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH ESCNJ CONTRACT 19/20-
13

WHEREAS the Township of Vernon may by resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, purchase any goods or services as per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11, under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System; and

WHEREAS, the Township has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing Educational Service Commission of New Jersey Contracts, duly authorized under law to extend contract pricing to local units, per N.J.A.C. 5:34-7 et. Seq.; and

WHEREAS In-Line Hating and Air Conditioning Company, 85 East 21st St., Bayonne, N.J. 07002, currently holds the ESCNJ contract 19/20-13, HVAC - Time and Material contract; and

WHEREAS the Township intends to enter into contract for procurement and installation of a boiler at the Vernon Police Department in the amount of \$78,169.00 through In-Line Hating and Air Conditioning Company, 85 East 21st St., Bayonne, N.J. 07002; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds in the amount of \$78,169.00 are available in line-item C-04-22-009 Capital Ordinance22-09.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract for procurement and installation of boiler at the Vernon Police Department in the amount of \$78,169.00 through In-Line Hating and Air Conditioning Company, 85 East 21st St., Bayonne, N.J. 07002, through ESCNJ 19/20-13

RESOLUTION #22-243

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON,
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN OPPOSITION TO THE
REASSIGNMENT BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION OF ALL MUNICIPALITIES CURRENTLY DESIGNATED TIER B
UNDER THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM PERMIT PROGRAM
TO TIER A DESIGNATION**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ('NJDEP') intends to reassign to 'Tier A' designation under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit program ('Permit Program') all New Jersey municipalities currently designated 'Tier B' ('Reassignment Plan'); and

WHEREAS, compliance with the Permit Program for a municipality designated 'Tier A' ('Tier A') is far costlier and more onerous than compliance for a municipality designated 'Tier B' ('Tier B'); and

WHEREAS, under the existing designation system ('Existing Designation System'), the Tier B designation was specifically created for municipalities that are located in more rural areas and non-coastal regions, while the Tier A designation was created for municipalities that are located within the more densely populated regions of the state or along or near the coast; and

WHEREAS, the Existing Designation System makes logical sense, as the costly and onerous compliance required for municipalities designated Tier A is necessitated by the population densities and environmental concerns of Tier A municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Existing Designation System makes logical sense also for municipalities designated Tier B, as Tier B municipalities generally do not have the population densities and environmental concerns of their Tier A counterparts; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities designated Tier B under the Existing Designation System simply do not have the resources to comply with Tier A designation, unlike their Tier A counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the Reassignment Plan on the Township of Vernon will be especially burdensome, with approximately 75% percent of the Township's lands under either State or Federal ownership, without the potential for development and accordingly without the potential for significant tax revenue generation; and

WHEREAS, the State, however well-intentioned in its actions, continues to saddle municipalities with additional responsibilities via its unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, reassignment by the NJDEP to Tier A designation for all New Jersey municipalities currently designated Tier B under the Existing Designation System will result in a redistribution of these municipalities' limited resources, away from their crucial government functions; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon wholeheartedly supports taking action to better protect and improve the quality of its own waterways, as well as waterways throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon simply views the NJDEP's Reassignment Plan as a costly, unfair, and ineffectual approach to improving the well being of the State's waterways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Vernon hereby urges members of the New Jersey Assembly and Senate to support, co-sponsor, and adopt legislation that would prevent the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ('NJDEP') from reassigning to 'Tier A' designation under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit program New Jersey municipalities that are currently designated 'Tier B.'
2. The Township of Vernon hereby urges the Governor of the State of New Jersey to sign any legislation adopted by the State Assembly and Senate which legislation would prevent the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ('NJDEP') from reassigning to 'Tier A' designation under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit program New Jersey municipalities that are currently designated 'Tier B.'
3. A certified true copy of this Resolution upon its adoption shall be furnished to State Senator Steven V. Oroho, State Assemblyman Parker Space, Governor Phil Murphy, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
4. All municipal officials are hereby authorized to take whatever actions may be necessary to implement the terms of this Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately

RESOLUTION #22-244

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONTINUE THE INCENTIVE TO EMPLOYEES WHO ENROLL IN AN ALTERNATE HEALTH OR PRESCRIPTION PLAN

WHEREAS, Health and Prescription Costs for employees and retirees are rising year after year and account for approximately 11% of the municipal budget; and

WHEREAS, the Township is offering multiple alternative health insurance and prescription plans for its employees; and

WHEREAS, the Township and employee will see a savings for switching to the optional plan; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2017 the Township offered an incentive of 1/3 of the Township's net savings for each employee who elects to switch to an alternate health or prescription plan for the plan year and it is the wish of the Township to continue that program for the plan year January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

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

1. The Mayor of the Township of Vernon is hereby authorized to continue the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding with the UAW Local 2326 which created the mechanism of which to allow the incentive to be paid.
2. The change to the Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual adding the addendum to offer this incentive to non-union employees is also continued.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage in accordance with law

RESOLUTION #22-245

**Resolution Authorizing the Option for Employees
of the Township of Vernon to Waive Health Insurance Benefits**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (hereinafter "Township") is continually seeking to reduce expenditures where appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Township provides health benefit coverage to all regular full-time employees; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1 authorizes municipalities to permit employees to waive health care coverage when such employees are covered for health care under the coverage of a spouse; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to statute, the Township may pay to the waiving employee an amount equal to not more than 25% or \$5,000.00, whichever is less, of the amount saved by the Township when coverage is waived; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to implement such a cost efficiency measure for the year 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby implements the following provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1:

1. Any employee who elects to waive health care coverage pursuant to this Resolution shall be paid a sum equal to 25% or \$5,000.00, whichever is less, of the health care premium savings received by the Township. Payment of sums required under this Resolution shall be made to the Employee on a monthly basis, each payment being one twelfth of the total sum due.
2. An employee shall be eligible for such waiver and payment only upon compliance with, and under the terms of, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1.
3. An employee shall be eligible to, or required to, resume coverage pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:10-17.1.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #22-246

**RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION
OF APPROPRIATION RESERVE BALANCES**

WHEREAS, certain 2021 Appropriation Reserve Balances remain that are no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, a STORM RECOVERY RESERVE TRUST FUND was established by Resolution #07-68 and approved by the Division of Local Government Services on April 17, 2007; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances from appropriation reserves and fund the Snow Removal Trust Fund,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the following unexpended balances of the Appropriations Reserves be cancelled:

1-01-26-290-20 – (2021) Road Repairs & Maintenance O/E	\$50,000.00
1-01-25-240-00 – (2021) Police Department- S&W	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$100,000.00</u>

RESOLUTION #22-247

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES THROUGH SOURCEWELL
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #030122-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES
INC.**

(Quote No. 6598202 3 x Color Oxford White)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, State of New Jersey as follows:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law P.L. 2011, C.139 (the “Law” or “Chapter 139” and N.J.S.A.52:34-6.2 the regulations promulgated there under in Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10, the following purchase without competitive bids from vendor with a National Cooperative Contract is hereby approved for municipalities, and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has the need to procure certain vehicles through lease program for Township services in accord with the Local Publics Contract Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. Seq., and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has previously acted in accord with New Jersey public procurement statutes and regulations as promulgated by formally joining a recognized and compliant national cooperative, being the Sourcewell National Cooperative, and;

WHEREAS, the regulations as set forth within Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10 have been fully complied with, and;

WHEREAS, the equipment and corresponding Sourcewell National Cooperative contract is #030122-EFM for Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the cost savings determination as required under LFN 2012-10 is the cost of contract as there is currently no cooperative lease program in effect under the New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property; and

WHEREAS, the quoted cost under the Sourcewell Cooperative contract is \$76,118.40 lease price of \$1,268.64 per month per Ford F550 (total contracted amount to be \$228,355.20); and

WHEREAS, that the governing body of Vernon Township pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.5(b) (the certification of available funds), states that the Chief Finance Officer shall either certify the full maximum amount against the budget at the time the contract is awarded, or no contract amount shall be chargeable or certified until such time as the goods or services are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order, and a certification of availability of funds is made by the Chief Finance Officer; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mayor is authorized to effectuate the contract with Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. under Sourcewell contract #030122-EFM for a lease price of \$76,118.40 lease price of \$1,268.64 per month per Ford F550 in accord with the provisions of the tenets as established within 40A:11-1 et. Seq.,

RESOLUTION #22-248

**REFUND OVERPAYMENTS
(Various Block and Lots CORELOGIC)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Corelogic in the amount of representing refund for overpayment for the following properties:

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Sgouros	531	132	\$755.29
Begley	523	5	\$2,514.95
		TOTAL:	\$3,270.24

Sgouros- refund for overpayment totaling \$755.29 of 3rd qtr. 2021 property taxes for Block 531 Lot 132 also known as [REDACTED]

Begley- refund for overpayment totaling \$2,514.95 of the 2nd qtr. 2021 property taxes for Block 523 Lot 5 also known as [REDACTED]

RESOLUTION #22-249

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 347 Lot 31-National Link)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to National Link in the amount of \$4,071.67 representing refund for overpayment of 4th qtr. 2021 property taxes for Block 347 Lot 31 also known as [REDACTED]

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Devineni	347	31	\$4,071.67
		TOTAL:	\$4,071.67

RESOLUTION #22-250

**REFUND OVERPAYMENTS
(Various Block and Lots CORELOGIC)**

BE IT

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Sgouros	531	132	\$738.61
Sherman	453	25	\$1274.43
Koburov	453	16	\$1896.43
Rosendall	451	105	\$875.71
Bauer	379	10	\$872.71
		TOTAL:	\$5657.89

RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Corelogic in the amount of \$5,657.89 representing refund for overpayment for the following properties:

Sgouros- refund for overpayment totaling \$738.61 of 1st qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 531 Lot 132 also known as [REDACTED]

Sherman- refund for overpayment totaling \$1274.43 of the 3rd qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 453 Lot 25 also known as [REDACTED]

Koburov- refund for overpayment totaling \$1896.43 of the 3rd qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 453 Lot 16 also known as [REDACTED].

Rosendall- refund for overpayment totaling \$874.71 of the 3rd qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 451 Lot 105 also known as [REDACTED].

Bauer- refund for overpayment totaling \$872.71 of the 3rd qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 379 Lot 10 also known as [REDACTED].

RESOLUTION #22-251

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 527 Lot 242- Kathleen Gardenier)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Kathleen Gardenier in the amount of \$829.74 representing refund for overpayment of 2nd qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 527 Lot 242 also known as [REDACTED].

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Gardenier	527	242	\$829.74
		TOTAL:	\$829.74

RESOLUTION #22-252

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 48 and Lot12 Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Services)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Services in the amount of \$2,161.90 representing refund for overpayment of the following property taxes:

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Schrek	48	12	\$2161.90
		TOTAL:	\$2161.90

Schrek- refund for overpayment totaling \$2,161.90 of 4th qtr. 2021 property taxes for Block 48 Lot 12 also known as [REDACTED].

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #22-22 – An Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 5 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Vernon Entitled “Administration of Government” to Further Amend the Rules of Order and Procedure Governing Council Meetings

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #22-22.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Rizzuto

Council Member Furrey commented saying he does not know why we are doing this. One of the results of the pandemic that the township benefited from was the increased public participation. He said the town spent a significant amount of money on all of the technology to have hybrid meetings.

Council Member Lynch explained that he is all in favor of public participation and keeping Zoom. He is concerned about the mechanics of running Zoom.

Township Attorney Townes feels that it would be problematic if the meeting was noticed with the Zoom option and people were not being able to use it.

Council Member Buccieri asked if we had to advertise the Zoom option?

Mr. Townes feels that we would have to advertise all of the avenues where the public could appear. He said other towns adjourn if the Zoom option fails.

Council Member Lynch would like to know if the Council could continue with their business if the internet is unavailable due to technical difficulties.

Council Member Lynch made a motion to table ordinance #22-22 until there is an answer to his question. Seconded by Council Member Furrey.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Furrey

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to table ordinance #22-22.

Ordinance #22-23 – Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 509, Article II Entitled “Cannabis Tax” to Dedicate Cannabis Transfer Tax Proceeds for the Repair and Maintenance of Township Roadways

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #22-23

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Furrey

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #22-23.

13. PUBLIC HEARING/2ND READING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #22-19 – Ordinance Extending Lease Agreement Between the Vernon Township Board of Education and the Township of Vernon, and Sub-Lease Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and the Dog Owners Gathering Society of Vernon Township, Inc., for Certain Unimproved Real Property Identified on the Official Tax Maps of the Township of Vernon as Block 308 Lot 2 (Old Block 133, Lot 2.05)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to place ordinance #22-19 on the floor.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Lynch

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public comment.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Natalie

AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

Jessica Paladini – Vernon Township, feels that the dog park and the community garden costs the taxpayers plenty to maintain and it was not supposed to cost the taxpayers anything.

See no other members of the public wishing to speak Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

A roll call vote was taken to approve ordinance #22-19:

AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN: Furrey

ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to approve ordinance #22-19.

ORDINANCE #22-19

ORDINANCE EXTENDING LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, AND SUB-LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND THE DOG OWNERS GATHERING SOCIETY OF VERNON TOWNSHIP, INC., FOR CERTAIN UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAPS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AS BLOCK 308 Lot 2 (old Block 133, Lot 2.05)

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Board of Education (“BOE”) is the owner of certain unimproved real property located at 669 Route 517, identified further on the official tax maps of the Township of Vernon (“Township”) as Block 308 Lot 2 (old Block 133, Lot 2.05) (the “Premises”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:20-8.2(a), the BOE previously determined that the Premises is not necessary for school purposes but may, at some future time, be required for said purposes; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2009 the BOE and Township entered into a five (5) year lease agreement (“Lease”) for the Premises for the sole purpose of allowing the Township to sublet said Premises to the Dog Owners Gathering Society of Vernon Township, Inc. (“DOGS”); and

WHEREAS, DOGS is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, having a postal address of P.O. Box 221, Vernon, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2009 the Township and DOGS entered into a five (5) year sublease agreement (“Sublease”) for the Premises for use as a free, open-to-the-public, off-leash dog park operated and maintained by DOGS; and

WHEREAS, consideration for the Lease and Sublease was limited to the mutual promises and obligations contained in said Lease and Sublease, without additional monetary compensation; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 9, 2012 the Lease and Sublease were amended to allow the Township to use a portion of the Premises as a community garden available to Township residents on a first come, first served basis; and

WHEREAS, the Lease and Sublease, as amended, expired on October 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the parties extended the terms of the Lease and Sublease, as amended, for an additional five (5) year period through October 31, 2019; and additional one (1) year periods through October 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS the parties desire to extend the terms of the Lease and Sublease, as amended, for an additional three (3) year period ending on October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing and continuous need for a dog park within the Township due to the increased number of dogs and dog owners residing within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that having a free, open-to-the-public, off-leash dog park will continue to benefit the residents of Vernon in that dog parks, in general, promote responsible pet ownership, give dogs a place to exercise safely thereby reducing barking and other problem behaviors, provide seniors and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise their companions, and provide an area for community-building and socializing; and

WHEREAS, there is also an ongoing and continuous need for a public facility where gardeners may share and exchange ideas while producing healthy food for friends and family; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that having a community garden will continue to benefit the residents of Vernon in that it will provide a suitable gardening area to residents who do not have any at home, provide an area capable of growing healthy produce which can combat adult obesity and chronic illnesses, allow residents to connect with nature, create intergenerational connections between seniors and youths, foster community spirit and civic mindedness, and reduce costs otherwise spent on groceries; and

WHEREAS, the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14(c) allows a municipality to lease property to a nonprofit corporation for a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township is hereby authorized to extend the term of its November 1, 2009 Lease, as extended and amended, with the Vernon Township Board of Education for an additional three (3) year term ending on October 31, 2025 subject to the remaining terms and conditions set forth in the Lease, as amended, which shall remain in full force and effect.

2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Amendment to Lease with the Vernon Township Board of Education, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Attachment A**.

3. The Township is hereby authorized to extend the term of its November 1, 2009 Sublease, as extended and amended, with the Dog Owners Gathering Society of Vernon Township, Inc. for an additional three (3) year term ending on October 31, 2025 subject to the remaining terms and conditions set forth in the Sublease, as amended, which shall remain in full force and effect.

4. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Amendment to Sublease with the Dog Owners Gathering Society of Vernon Township, Inc., a copy of which is attached hereto as **Attachment B**.

5. Consideration for the extended terms shall be limited to the continuation of the mutual promises and obligations contained in the Lease and Sublease, as amended, without monetary compensation; and

6. The Township shall not be responsible for the operation and/or maintenance of the dog park or any costs associated therewith during the extended terms of the Lease and Sublease.

7. The Mayor and Business Administrator are hereby designated as the Township Officials responsible for the supervision of the Lease and Sublease, as amended.

8. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14(c), The Dog Owners Gathering Society of Vernon Township, Inc. shall submit an annual report to the Mayor or Business Administrator which describes or contains the following:

- (i) the use to which the Premises was put during each year;
- (ii) the activities performed in furtherance of the public purpose for which the Sublease was granted;
- (iii) the approximate value or cost, if any, of such activities in furtherance of the such purpose; and
- (iv) an affirmation of the continued tax-exempt status of the nonprofit corporation or association pursuant to both State and federal law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication pursuant to law.

Ordinance #22-20 – An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Code of the Township of Vernon, Chapter 350, “Long-Term Rentals”

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to place ordinance #22-20 on the floor.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Furrey

A roll call vote was taken to place ordinance #22-20 on the floor:
AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to place ordinance #22-20 on the floor.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public comment.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Lynch

All members were in favor.
See no members of the public wishing to speak Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Lynch

All members were in favor.

A roll call vote was taken to approve ordinance #22-20:
AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to approve ordinance #22-20.

ORDINANCE #22-20
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON,
CHAPTER 350, "LONG-TERM RENTALS"

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2022, the State Legislature passed P.L. 2022, c. 92, which imposes insurance requirements for owners of a rental unit or units and allows municipalities to enact registration programs; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon ("Township") previously enacted a registration program for long-term rentals within the Township; and

WHEREAS, a determination has been made that there is a need to update the Township code concerning long-term rentals to comply with P.L. 2022, c. 92.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that Chapter 350 of the Municipal Code is amended and supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1.

§ 350-7. Filing and contents of registration forms.

Every owner shall file with the Township Clerk or designee of the Township of Vernon a registration form for each long-term rental unit which shall include the following information:

- A. The name, address and phone number of the record owner or owners of the premises and the record owner or owners of the rental business if not the same persons. In the case of a partnership, the names and addresses of all general partners shall be provided, together with the phone numbers for each of such individuals indicating where such individual may be reached both during the day and evening hours. If the record owner is a corporation, the name and address of the registered agent and corporate officers of said corporation shall be provided, together with the phone numbers for each of such individuals indicating where such individuals may be reached both during the day and evening hours.
- B. If the address of any record owner is not located in the State of New Jersey, the name and address of a person who resides in the State of New Jersey and who is authorized to accept notices from a tenant and

to issue receipts therefor and to accept service of process on behalf of the record owner.

- C. The name, address and phone number of the managing agent of the premises, if any.
- D. The name, address and phone number, including the dwelling unit number of the superintendent, janitor, custodian or other individual employed by the owner or agent to provide regular maintenance service, if any.
- E. The name, address and phone number of an individual representative of the owner or agent who may be reached or contacted at any time in the event of an emergency affecting the premises or any unit of dwelling space therein, including such emergencies as the failure of any essential service or system, and who has the authority to make emergency decisions concerning the building and any repair thereto or expenditure in connection therewith.
- F. The name and address of every holder of a recorded mortgage on the premises.
- G. If fuel oil is used to heat the building and the landlord furnishes the heat in the building, the name, address and phone number of the fuel oil dealer servicing the building and the grade of fuel used.
- H. As to each long-term rental unit, a specification of the exact number of sleeping rooms and kitchen facilities contained in the rental unit. In order to satisfy the requirement of this provision, an owner shall submit a floor plan, which shall become part of the application and which shall be attached to the registration form when filed by the Township Clerk or designee.
- I. All addresses must include the full accurate street address; P.O. box and like information does not satisfy this requirement.
- J. The name of each tenant of record, including the total number of occupants of each long-term rental unit designated by adults and children.
- K. An acceptable affidavit of fire alarm system inspection and test for all premises where a common area automatic fire alarm is required.
- L. An acceptable affidavit of fire sprinkler system inspection and test for all premises where a fire sprinkler system is required.
- M. ~~Such other information as may be required by the Township.~~ Effective August 1, 2023, owners of rental units and multifamily homes that are four or fewer units, one of which is owner-occupied, shall also provide a copy of a certificate of insurance showing that minimum liability insurance for negligent acts and omissions has been obtained as required by P.L. 2022, c. 92 (C. 40A:10A-1). A policy with a minimum of \$500,000.00 for combined property damage and bodily injury to or death of one or more persons in any one accident or occurrence is required for owners of rental units. Except that a policy with a minimum of \$300,000.00 for combined property damage and bodily injury to or death of one or more persons in any one accident or occurrence is required for owners of multifamily homes that are four or fewer units, one of which is owner-occupied.
- N. Such other information as may be required by the Township.

§ 350-21. Violations and penalties.

- A. Any landlord or occupant who violates any provision of this chapter, except for § 350-7 (M), will be liable for a fine of \$100 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense, and \$500 for a third or subsequent offense and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 30 days. Each day that a violation occurs shall be deemed a separate and distinct violation and subject to penalty provisions of this chapter.
- B. In accordance with P.L. 2022, c. 92 (C. 40A:10A-2), any property owner that violates § 350-7 (M) will be liable for a fine of not less than \$500 but no more than \$5,000.00.

SECTION 2. Severability of Ordinance Provisions

Each section of this ordinance is an independent section, and the holding of any section or part thereof to be unconstitutional, void or ineffective for any cause shall not be deemed to affect the validity of constitutionality of any other sections or parts thereof.

SECTION 3. Conflict of Other Ordinance Provisions

That all ordinances and parts of ordinances and conflicts that are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed but only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 4. Effective Date of Ordinance Provisions

That this ordinance shall take effect upon final passage upon expiration of twenty (20) days following publication unless otherwise provided.

Ordinance #22-21 – An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Code of the Township of Vernon, to Create Chapter 167 Entitled “Business Insurance Registration

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to place ordinance #22-21 on the floor.

MOVED: Furrey
SECOND: Lynch

All members were in favor.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public comment.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Furrey

Sean Clarkin – Vernon Township, is concerned that the agenda came out early but there is no information on this ordinance.

Township Attorney Townes explained that ordinance #22-20 and #22-21 are both in response to recently passed State statutes which impose minimum liability insurance requirements for rental unites as well as private businesses. Ordinance #22-21 creates a local registration program to make sure that business owners are compliant with the statutory requirements to obtain minimum liability insurance.

A roll call vote was taken to approve ordinance #22-21:
AYES: Buccieri, Furrey, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Shortway

Motion carries to approve ordinance #22-21.

ORDINANCE #22-21

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, TO CREATE CHAPTER 167 ENTITLED “BUSINESS INSURANCE REGISTRATION”

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2022, the State Legislature passed P.L. 2022, c. 92, which imposes insurance requirements for owners of businesses allows municipalities to enact registration programs; and

WHEREAS, a determination has been made that it is in the best interests of the Township of Vernon (“Township”) to create a business insurance registration program in accordance with P.L. 2022, c. 92.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that hereby creates Chapter 167 of the Municipal Code as follows:

SECTION 1.

CHAPTER 167 BUSINESS INSURANCE REGISTRATION

§ 167-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Business Insurance Registration Ordinance of the Township of Vernon."

§ 167-2. Purpose and findings.

The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that the businesses in the Township of Vernon have obtained liability insurance as required by state law.

§ 167-3. Definitions.

Unless the context clearly indicates a different meeting, the following words or phrases when used in this chapter shall have the following meaning:

LICENSE - The license issued by the Township Clerk or designee attesting that the business has been properly registered in accordance with this chapter.

OWNER - Any person or group of persons, firm, corporation, or officer thereof, partnership association, or trust, who owns, operates, exercises control over or is in charge of a business located in the Township.

MINIMUM LIABILITY INSURANCE – means a policy with a minimum of \$500,000.00 for combined property damage and bodily injury to or death of one or more persons in any one accident or occurrence for owners of rental units and a policy with a minimum of \$300,000.00 for combined property damage and bodily injury to or death of one or more persons in any one accident or occurrence for owners of multifamily homes that are four or fewer units, one of which is owner-occupied.

TOWNSHIP - The Township of Vernon.

§ 167-4. Annual Registration Required.

All businesses located in the Township of Vernon shall be registered with the Township Clerk or such other person as designated by the Mayor on forms which shall be provided for that purpose and which shall be obtained from the Township Clerk or designee. Such registration shall occur on an annual basis as provided herein.

§ 167-5. Registration; term; initial registration.

The license term shall commence on August 1 and shall be valid until July 31 of the following calendar year, at which time it shall expire and a new registration shall be required. The initial registration shall occur by August 1, 2023.

§ 167-6. Filing and contents of registration forms.

Every owner shall file with the Township Clerk or designee of the Township of Vernon a registration form for each business located in the Township which shall include the following information:

- A. The name, address, and phone number of the business located in the Township.
- B. The name, address and phone number of the owner(s) of the business. In the case of a partnership, the names and addresses of all general partners shall be provided, together with the phone numbers for each of such individuals indicating where such individual may be reached.
- C. A copy of a certificate of insurance showing that minimum liability insurance for negligent acts and omissions has been obtained as required by P.L. 2022, c. 92 (C. 40A:10A-1).

§ 167-7. Indexing and filing of forms.

The Township Clerk or designee shall index and file the registration forms.

§ 167-8. Filing of amended form.

Every person required to file a registration form pursuant to this chapter shall file an amended registration form within 45 days after any change in the information required to be included thereon.

§ 167-9. Fee.

- A. At the time of the filing of the registration form and prior to the issuance of a license, the owner of the business must pay an annual registration fee of \$75 per year.
- B. If any fee is not paid within 30 days of its due date, a late fee surcharge of \$30 will be assessed.

§ 167-10. Violations and penalties.

In accordance with P.L. 2022, c. 92 (C. 40A:10A-2), any business owner that violates this Chapter will be liable for a fine of not less than \$500 but no more than \$5,000.00.

SECTION 2. Severability of Ordinance Provisions

Each section of this ordinance is an independent section, and the holding of any section or part thereof to be unconstitutional, void or ineffective for any cause shall not be deemed to affect the validity of constitutionality of any other sections or parts thereof.

SECTION 3. Conflict of Other Ordinance Provisions

That all ordinances and parts of ordinances and conflicts that are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed but only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 4. Effective Date of Ordinance Provisions

That this ordinance shall take effect upon final passage upon expiration of twenty (20) days following publication unless otherwise provided.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (For Current Agenda Items Only, Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting for public comment.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Furrey

All members were in favor.

Patrick Curreri – Woodland Hills – expressed well wished to Harry Shortway and his family. Mr. Curreri feels that it okay to holding everyone to an equal standard whether a business of regular tax payer. Mr. Curreri commented on the firefighter t-shirts saying that it used to be from the FP&S Grant and that is for education. Mr. Curreri asked the Council to review the towns chicken ordinance to allow residents to have more chickens.

Sean Clarkin – Vernon Township, feels that there was very little information regarding the long-term rental ordinance. Mr. Clarkin said that there is no reason to stop a meeting because of the internet. Mr. Clarkin said that there is a number of properties in the town center that are available. Mr. Clarkin feels that Vernon should take the covid money that the MUA has and give it to Ryan Homes on the condition that they run the piping and the water to the MUA.

Jessica Paladini – Vernon Township, is concerned about the official meeting minutes of the Council because she feels that there are inappropriate comments in the minutes. (Ms. Paladini's internet went down therefore she could not continue with her comments)

Ann Larson – Vernon Township, thanked Council Member Buccieri for speaking up for business owners.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to speak, Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the meeting for Public Comments.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Furrey

All members were in favor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Furrey reiterated what Mayor Burrell said about October 15, 2022 being the grand opening of the pump track and walking trail. He recognized the Greenway Action Advisory Committee and everyone who helped make this a reality.

Council Member Furrey is disappointed in the vote today and he still wants to look into the Legends property and see how we can move this along.

Council Furrey said that the MUA meetings have been very productive and he feels that it is a positive step in the right direction on really looking at the issues. He thanked the MUA for putting out the bid for pump station 2.

Council Member Furrey recognized Council Member Harry Shortway for his credible contribution to the Township of Vernon and he was honored to work with him.

Council Member Lynch offered Judge Devine a happy and healthy retirement.

Council Member Lynch wished good luck and health to Harry Shortway saying he served the town well.

Council Member Lynch commented that it is fire prevention day every day. He reminded everyone to check their fire and CO detectors. Also, practice EDITH: exits directed in the home.

Council Vice President Buccieri explained that the school board has on their agenda the shared services agreement between the municipality and the BOE. Hopefully in the future there will be some other shared services agreements between both organizations which will benefit the taxpayers.

Council Member Buccieri wish Harry Shortway and his family the best.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto extended best wishes to Harry Shortway.

Council President Rizzuto explained that it is required that Council Member Shortway send formal written notice of his resignation to the Municipal Clerk before the Council can take action to fill the vacant seat.

Council President Rizzuto extended best wishes to the Mayor and everyone who is putting the program together for the grand opening of the pump track on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:46pm Council Member Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Furrey.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto,
Council President

Minutes approved: November 28, 2022