

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 28, 2022 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:20 p.m. on November 28, 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, Brian Lynch, Joseph Tadrack and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also present were Mayor Howard Burrell, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio and Township Attorney Josh Zielinski.

Council Member Sparta was not present.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

MAYOR COMMENTS

At our October 13 Council meeting, I announced that our Municipal Judge, the Honorable James Devine, had provided me his letter of resignation, effective at the end of this year. Judge Devine will be resigning, and moving on to a well-deserved retirement, one year before his latest three-year term ends. I requested that the Council approve my appointment of a new judge to serve Vernon for the one-year period of Judge Devine's unexpired term, and I thank them for approving my request. The Council approved my nomination of the Honorable Judge JAMES P. SLOAN to be the Vernon Municipal Court Judge for the period January 1 – December 31, 2023 - - that is, for the unexpired term of Judge Devine.

I thank the Council for its approval for me to execute a shared services agreement between the Township of Vernon and the Vernon Township School District. This shared services agreement will enable our School District to directly source all of the gasoline and diesel fuel that they need for their vehicles, from the municipality's new state-of-the-art fueling station. In addition to providing School District vehicles 24/7 access to needed fuel, this agreement will result in our School District being able to significantly save on the cost of fuel.

One of the things of which I am very proud, is the way in which the Office of the Mayor has worked close with our Mayor's Wellness Campaign Team to reach out and serve all segments of the Vernon family. Vernon's Mayor's Wellness Campaign Team is headed by our Director of Recreation & Community Affairs, Ms. Mishelle Downtain, with the very capable and ever-present support of her Assistant, Ms. Meg Wahnon. The Mayor's Wellness Campaign Team and I have committed ourselves to ensuring that Vernon does not leave any member of the Vernon family behind; and this year, we are launching a new program during this holiday season to reach out and meet the needs of our Vernon family members who process sensory information in a different manner than their neurotypical peers. Specifically, this year, just before the larger, louder, and activity filled 6pm lighting of the Municipal Holiday Tree on the lawn of the Vernon Fire Department Building, we will join with the PAL and the Vernon Board of Recreation to host a 5pm Sensory Friendly Quiet Time with Santa in the Municipal Senior Center.

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.

Jessi Paladini – Vernon Township, commented on the bills list and the procedure to approve it.

Ann Larsen – Vernon Township, expressed concern about the bills list and the information that is on it.

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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2022 Best Practices Inventory

CFO Donelle Bright explained that the Division of Local Government Services has promulgated an updated Best Practices Inventory to all municipalities, through which the State obtains vital information about the status of municipal government practices in New Jersey. Each municipality must receive a minimum score of 24 on the Inventory to receive its full Final Aid payment. Vernon Township far exceeds what is required to receive State aid.

2022 NJ League of Municipalities Conference – Clerk/Assistant

Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio gave a brief description of the eleven seminars she and Clerk Assistant Lauren Shaw attended at the 2022 NJLM conference. They both received needed continuing education units for their registered municipal clerk licenses as well as their certified municipal registrar licenses.

MINUTES

October 13, 2022 – Executive Session

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the October 13, 2022 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Lynch

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Tadrick
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the October 13, 2022 executive session minutes

October 13, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the October 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Tadrick
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the October 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes

October 24, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the October 24, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Tadrick
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the October 24, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

November 10, 2022 – Special Meeting 5:00pm

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the November 10, 2022 5:00pm special meeting minutes.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Tadrick, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the November 10, 2022 5:00pm special meeting minutes.

November 10, 2022 – Special Meeting 6:00pm

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the November 10, 2022 6:00pm special meeting minutes.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Tadrick, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the November 10, 2022 6:00pm special meeting minutes.

November 10, 2022 – Special Meeting 7:00pm

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the November 10, 2022 7:00pm special meeting minutes.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Tadrick, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the November 10, 2022 7:00pm special meeting minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #22-269: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, In the County of Sussex, New Jersey Directing the Township Land Use Board to Review an Amendment to the Town Center Redevelopment Plan Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law

Resolution #22-270: Refund Overpayment (Multiple Block and Lots CORELOGIC)

Resolution #22-271: Refund Overpayment (Block 46 Lot 5-Titlevest Agency, LLC)

Resolution #22-272: Refund Overpayment (Block 527-Lot 286 Builders Title Agency)

Resolution #22-273: Refund Overpayment (Block 512 Lot 125-A Absolute Escrow Settlement Co., Inc.)

Resolution #22-274: Refund Overpayment (Block 470 Lot 18-Title on Demand Settlement Services)

Resolution #22-275: Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between Township of Vernon and UAW Local 2326 for 2021-2024

Resolution #22-278: Resolution Authorizing Fireworks to be Displayed on December 31, 2022 Within the Township of Vernon

Resolution #22-279: Transfer Resolution-Balance Transfers

Resolution #22-280: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Shared Services Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and the Township of Hardyston for Animal Control Services

Resolution #22-281: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and the Borough of Hamburg for Animal Control Services

Resolution #22-282: Resolution Authorizing a Sidebar Agreement Between Township of Vernon and AFSCME Local 3181 (Rank and File Unit)

Resolution #22-284: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Awarding Bid # 10-2022 Pump Station No. 2 Replacement, To Coppola Services Inc.

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve resolutions #22-269, #22-270, #22-271, #22-272, #22-273, #22-274, #22-275, 22-278, #22-279, #22-280, #22-281, #22-282, #22-284.

MOVED: Lynch

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Tadrick, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve resolutions #22-269, #22-270, #22-271, #22-272, #22-273, #22-274, #22-275, 22-278, #22-279, #22-280, #22-281, #22-282, #22-284.

RESOLUTION #22-269

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY DIRECTING THE TOWNSHIP LAND USE BOARD TO REVIEW AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN CENTER REDEVELOPMENT PLAN PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. (the "Act"), authorizes municipalities to determine whether certain parcels of land in the municipality constitute areas in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon adopted a resolution (#R17-169) on August 28, 2017 authorizing and directing the Vernon Township Land Use Board (hereinafter "Land Use Board") to undertake a preliminary investigation to determine whether properties in a proposed redevelopment area, a portion of the area which is commonly referred to as the Town Center Zone (hereinafter "TC Zone") and adjacent parcels was a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon adopted a resolution (#R18-35) on April 13, 2018 designating various lots in the TC Zone and adjacent parcels as non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 18-35 was transmitted to the Commissioner of the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, and the area in need of redevelopment designation became effective on or about May 10, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council adopted the Redevelopment Plan as Ordinance 21-10 on April 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a property within the TC Redevelopment Plan Area requested amendments to the Redevelopment Plan to assist in their operations and future expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Local Housing and Redevelopment Law permits amendments to Redevelopment Plans over time to meet the demands of the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to utilize the experience and expertise of the Land Use Board to review and provide comments on the proposed amendments as well as review the amendments for consistency with the Master Plan;

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

I. GENERAL

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

II. LAND USE BOARD DIRECTED TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE ATTACHED DRAFT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT INCLUDING A REVIEW OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE MASTER PLAN.

III. SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Resolution shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereby shall not affect the remaining parts of this Resolution.

IV. AVAILABILITY OF THE RESOLUTION

A copy of this Resolution shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Town.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

RESOLUTION #22-270

**REFUND OVERPAYMENTS
(Multiple 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 \$1399.93 representing refund for overpayment for the following properties:

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Haloom	587	3	\$1099.93
Fessel	526	190	\$300.00
		TOTAL:	\$1399.93

Haloom - refund for overpayment totaling \$1099.93 for 4th qtr. 2021 property taxes for Block 587 Lot 3 also known as [REDACTED]

Fessel- refund for overpayment totaling \$300.00 for 3rd qtr. 2021 property taxes for Block 526 Lot 190 also known as [REDACTED]

RESOLUTION #22-271

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 46 Lot 5 – Titlevest Agency, LLC)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Titlevest Agency, LLC in the amount of \$2007.86 representing refund for overpayment of 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 46 Lot 5 also known as [REDACTED]

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Treweeke	46	5	\$2007.86
		TOTAL:	\$2007.86

RESOLUTION #22-272

**REFUND OVERPAYMENTS
(Block 527- Lot 286 Builders Title Agency)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Builders Title Agency in the amount of \$1,004.15 representing refund for overpayment for the following property:

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Rogalle	527	286	\$1004.15
		TOTAL:	\$1004.15

Rogalle - refund for overpayment totaling \$1004.15 for 3rd qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 527 Lot 286 also known as [REDACTED]

RESOLUTION #22-273

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 512 Lot 125 – A Absolute Escrow Settlement Co., Inc.)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to A Absolute Escrow Settlement Co., LLC in the amount of \$1996.77 representing refund for overpayment of 2nd qtr. 2017 property taxes for Block 512 Lot 125 also known as [REDACTED] e [REDACTED]

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Brandt	512	125	\$1996.77
		TOTAL:	\$1996.77

RESOLUTION #22-274

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 470 Lot 18 – Title on Demand Settlement Services)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Title on Demand Settlement Services in the amount of \$4,150.18 representing refund for overpayment of 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 470 Lot 18 also known as [REDACTED]

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Stoeckel	470	18	\$4150.18
		TOTAL:	\$4150.18

RESOLUTION #22-275

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN
TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND UAW LOCAL 2326 FOR 2021-2024**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon and UAW Local 2326 ("Union") are parties to a collective negotiations agreement covering the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the parties have engaged in good faith collective negotiations in an effort to reach agreement or otherwise resolve terms and conditions for a new labor agreement, and have reached an understanding on terms and conditions for a new agreement subject to ratification by the Union and the Township; and

WHEREAS, the negotiating committee for the Township has recommended the terms of the attached collective negotiations agreement dated November 15, 2022 for ratification and approval as a full collective negotiations agreement for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024.

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

1. The Township Council hereby approves the terms of the attached Collective Negotiations Agreement between the Township of Vernon and UAW Local 2326 for the period covering from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024, as ratified by the UAW Local 2326 membership on November 15, 2022
2. The Mayor is authorized to execute the attached collective negotiations agreement.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A copy of this Resolution will be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

RESOLUTION #22-278

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FIREWORKS TO BE DISPLAYED
ON DECEMBER 31, 2022 WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.21:3-1et seq. Explosive and Fireworks, provides that a Municipal Governing Body must authorize the display of fireworks within its boundaries as a pre-condition to such display in accordance with the New Jersey Fire Prevention Code; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Creek Resort Inc., has submitted an application to Vernon Township to conduct fireworks display on December 31, 2022 to be held at Mountain Creek Resort, 200 RT 94; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fireworks display location will be on the Mountain Creek Matchmaker Trail, Block 531 Lot 3 as noted on application Site Map; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Creek Resort has engaged in a contract with Garden State Fireworks, Millington, NJ, to perform the public fireworks and special effects display and has provided the required certificate of liability insurance to the Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, hereby authorizes the firework display, performed by Garden State Fireworks Inc. on December 31, 2022 at Mountain Creek Resort, located at 200 Route 94, Vernon, upon satisfaction of all statutory and departmental requirements.

RESOLUTION #22-279

TRANSFER RESOLUTION- BALANCE TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon Municipal Budget requires certain modifications to cover potential expenses that may occur in excess of the original budget;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the following Transfer of Appropriations (2022 Municipal Budget) in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A-58/59 are hereby approved.

ACCOUNT	TRANSFER OUT	TRANSFER IN
FROM CURRENT FUND:		
POLICE DEPARTMENT – S&W	70,000.00	
TO: CURRENT FUND		
ADMINISTRATION – S&W		48,000.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – O/E		16,000.00
RECYCLING - O/E		1,000.00
MAINTENANCE OF PARKS – O/E		5,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	70,000.00	70,000.00

RESOLUTION #22-280

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Hardyston has requested that the Township of Vernon (“Township”) provide animal control services whenever there is a need for an animal control officer in the Township of Hardyston; and

WHEREAS, the request has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate Township officials; and

WHEREAS, the Township is willing to provide animal control services to the Township of Hardyston and this is deemed in the best interest of the Township; and

WHEREAS, such agreements are authorized pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, a shared services agreement has been negotiated by and between the parties and that establishes the terms and conditions thereof.

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

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to execute the attached shared services agreement between the Township of Vernon and the Township of Hardyston for animal control services.
2. A copy of said agreement will be attached to this resolution and held on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.
3. A certified copy this resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Clerk of the Township of Hardyston.

RESOLUTION #22-281

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND THE BOROUGH OF HAMBURG FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hamburg has requested that the Township of Vernon (“Township”) provide animal control services whenever there is a need for an animal control officer in the Borough of Hamburg; and

WHEREAS, the request has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate Township officials; and

WHEREAS, the Township is willing to provide animal control services to the Borough of Hamburg and this is deemed in the best interest of the Township; and

WHEREAS, such agreements are authorized pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, a shared services agreement has been negotiated by and between the parties and that establishes the terms and conditions thereof.

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

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to execute the attached shared services agreement between the Township of Vernon and the Borough of Hamburg for animal control services.
2. A copy of said agreement will be attached to this resolution and held on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.
3. A certified copy this resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Hamburg.

RESOLUTION #22-282

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SIDEBAR AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND AFSCME LOCAL 3181
(RANK AND FILE UNIT)**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon and AFSCME Council 63, Local 3181 (Rank and File Unit) (“Union”) are parties to a collective negotiation’s agreement covering the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, AFSCME filed a grievance claiming that some of its members should have been compensated for a minimum of three hours of recall/call-in pay for work performed on June 7, 2022, for setting up and breaking down election equipment for the State Primary Election; and

WHEREAS, the parties have determined that a sidebar agreement clarifying the terms for payment for Election Day (General and Primary) set up and breakdown of equipment will foster a harmonious labor relationship and is in the parties’ best interest; and

WHEREAS, the negotiating committee for the Township has recommended the terms of the attached Sidebar Agreement addressing Election Day compensation to be entered by the Township and the Union.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Township Council hereby ratifies the Sidebar Agreement and authorizes the Administrator to enter the attached Sidebar Agreement with the Union.

A copy of this Resolution will be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

RESOLUTION #22-284

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, AWARDDING BID# 10-2022 PUMP STATION NO. 2 REPLACEMENT, TO
COPPOLA SERVICES INC.**

WHEREAS, the Township public advertised and sought bids for Bid# 10-2022, “Pump Station No. 2 Replacement” in a fair and open manner, consistent with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township received and opened bids on November 10, 2022 at 9:00A.M. wherein the Township received six (6) bidders, to wit:

	CMS Construction	Coppola Services	Demaio Electrical Inc	Dulaine Contracting Inc	Ferraro Construction	TAM Enterprises Inc
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					Corp	
Mobilization	\$81,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$90,000.00
Base Bid	\$1,600,000.00	\$1,524,890.00	\$1,534,000.00	\$1,598,488.00	\$1,878,380.00	\$2,451,000.00
Lump Sum Total	\$1,681,000.00	\$1,584,890.00	\$1,594,000.00	\$1,658,488.00	\$1,938,380.00	\$2,541,000.00

;and

WHEREAS the lowest apparent bidder, Coppola Services Inc. 28 Executive Parkway Ringwood, New Jersey, 07456, was determined by the Qualified Purchasing Agent and design Engineer to be the lowest responsible bidder in accord with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4a with a bid, in the amount of \$1,584,890.00; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies that funding in the amount of \$1,584,890.00 is available from:

Line Item: C-04-22-005 Sand Hill Pump Station Replacement

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Vernon Township Council, that:

The Township hereby awards Bid# 10-2022, “Pump Station No. 2 Replacement”, to Coppola Services Inc. 28 Executive Parkway, Ringwood, New Jersey, 07456, in the amount of \$1,584,890.00 consistent with all the tenets as described further within Bid# 10-2022.

The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all contracts and agreements in furtherance of Bid #10-2022 “Pump Station No. 2 Replacement”.

Resolution #22-268: Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors AAA Emergency Supply Co. Inc. for Purchase for Volunteer Fire Department Gear

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve resolution #22-268.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Tadrick

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Tadrick, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN: Lynch

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve resolution #22-268.

RESOLUTION #22-268

AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED STATE CONTRACT VENDORS AAA EMERGENCY SUPPLY CO. INC. FOR PURCHASE OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT GEAR

WHEREAS, as provided for within the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-12 et. Seq.,) the Township of Vernon may by resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, purchase any goods or services under State Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Township has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing State contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Township intends to enter into contract with AAA Emergency Supply Co. Inc. 635 North Broadway, White Plains, N.Y. 10603, for the procurement of firefighter boots, helmets and accessories at a cost of \$42,248.00 and firematic garments and pants in the amount of \$23,460.00, under New Jersey State Contract 17-FLEET-00805; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies funding is available in the amount of \$65,708.00 from: Line Items: C-04-21-012; C-04-22-009; C-04-22-010.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, authorizes the Qualified Purchasing Agent to purchase certain goods and services from AAA Emergency

Supply Co. Inc. 635 North Broadway, White Plains, N.Y. 10603, through New Jersey State Contract 17-FLEET-00805 in the amount of \$65,708.00, pursuant to all conditions of the individual State contracts.

Resolution #22-276: Canceling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran (Block 355 Lot 10-Tadrick)

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve resolution #22-276.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Lynch

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Tadrick
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve resolution #22-276.

RESOLUTION #22-276

**CANCELING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 355 Lot 10 - Tadrick)**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Joseph Tadrick a 100% permanent and total disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, the law exempts said property from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Tax Collector to cancel the taxes for 2022 in the amount of \$3,232.13.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Township Tax Collector.

Resolution #22-277: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 355 Lot 10-Tadrick)

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve resolution #22-277.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Lynch

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Tadrick
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve resolution #22-277.

RESOLUTION #22-277

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 355 Lot 10 - Tadrick)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Joseph Tadrick a 100% permanent and totally disabled veteran: and,

WHEREAS, the law exempts said property from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Tax Collector to refund 4th quarter 2022 property tax in the amount of \$3,232.13 to Wells Fargo.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Township Tax Collector.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #22-24 – Ordinance Approving Town Center Redevelopment Plan Amendment to Add Block 391, Lot 11 to the TCLI Overlay Zone and to Permit Outdoor Storage with Buffering in the TCI

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #22-24.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:
AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Tadrick, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #22-24.

PUBLIC HEARING/2ND READING OF ORDINANCE

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 read by title Ordinance #22-23.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to place Ordinance #22-23 on the floor for consideration.

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Tadrick

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open Public Hearing for Ordinance #22-23.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Lynch

All members were in Favor.

Seeing no one wishing to come forward, Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close Public Hearing for Ordinance #22-23

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in Favor.

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

MOVED: Lynch
SECOND: Tadrick

A roll call vote was taken to adopt ordinance #22-23

AYES: Buccieri, Lynch, Tadrick, Rizzuto

NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion passed to adopt Ordinance #22-23.

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

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2021, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon (“Township Council”) passed ordinance No. 21-16 which authorized cannabis cultivation, cannabis delivery, cannabis manufacturing, cannabis wholesaling, and cannabis distribution in the Township of Vernon (“Township”)

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2021, the Township Council passed ordinance No. 21-24 which imposed a transfer tax of 2% on receipts from the sale of cannabis by a cannabis cultivator to another cannabis cultivator; receipts from the sale of cannabis items from one cannabis manufacturer to another cannabis establishment; and receipts from the retail sales of cannabis items by a cannabis retailer to retail consumers who are 21 years of age or older; and a tax of 1% of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis wholesaler; and

WHEREAS, the Township is always seeking new ways to improve its infrastructure and to reduce the tax burden on its residents; and

WHEREAS, a determination has been made that it is in the best interests of the Township to dedicate a portion of the transfer tax proceeds to pay for repair and maintenance of the Township’s roadways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, that Chapter 509 is amended and supplemented as follows:

SECTION 1

§ 509-11.1. Dedication of Transfer Tax Funds for Roadway Repair and Maintenance.

50% of all cannabis transfer tax funds imposed in § 509-11 and received by the Township shall be dedicated in a separate account to be used for roadway repair and maintenance costs in the Township.

SECTION 2

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

Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

SECTION 4

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: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Ken Marsh – Lake Wanda, Owner of Lake Wanda Store, spoke for a group of concerned Lake Wanda residents that are looking for some direction and help from the township for the dam that has been damaged by Hurricane Ida a few years back. There is unrepairable damage to the dam causing the lake to be drained substantially.

Liz Gates - Lake Wanda, also spoke in reference to Lake Wanda and the problems Hurricane Ida caused to the dam and the lake.

Steve Dunlop – Williamsville Estates, hopes that the Council and Mayor can work together. He is concerned about Mr. Voelker’s contract because of the number of sick days he was given.

Shawn Mazur – Vernon Township, commented on a letter he received from Attorney Zielinski because he feels the letter is harassment.

Jessica Paladini – Vernon Township, agrees with Steve Dunlop in reference to Mr. Voelker’s contract. She welcomed Joe Tadrack to the Council. Ms. Paladini received a letter from an elderly woman who needed help because no one from the township helped her in the past.

Ann Larsen – Vernon Township, agrees with Mr. Voelker’s contract and she hopes the new business administrator will have grant writing experience. Ms. Larsen feels that we should be asking Josh Gottheimer for assistance as well as other representatives.

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: Tadrack

All members were in favor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Tadrack had no comments.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

Council Member Lynch questioned if the Township is taking advantage of broadband grants.

Mayor Burrell answered saying the township is taking advantage of every broadband grant that they can.

Council Member Lynch thanked the Mayor for offering to have quiet sensory for children who are on the spectrum.

Council Member Lynch would like to see money in 2023 budget to fix roads.

Council Member Lynch thanked the Municipal Clerk and the Clerk Assistant for going to the NJLM Conference and coming back with information to do their jobs.

Council Member Lynch welcomed Council Member Tadrack to the Council and thanked him for his service to our Country.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto wanted the DPW workers to know that the community does appreciate the work that they do and thanked them for their time and their effort.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00pm Council Member Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Tadrack.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto,
Council President

Minutes approved: December 12, 2022