

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 12, 2022 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on December 12, 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, Joseph Tadrick and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also present were Mayor Howard Burrell, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio and Township Attorney Josh Zielinski.

Council Member Lynch was not present.

**REVIEW OF BILLS LIST**

The Council reviewed the bills list.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

One of the standard operating procedures that have been established by this Mayor and Council, is the procedure of viewing every issue from the prospective of:

1. How can we save, and stretch the use, of those taxpayer dollars that's provided by our local taxpayers; and ...
2. How can we specifically do some of the things that we want and need to do for our town, while at the same time saving local taxpayer provided dollars.

Part of our answer has been to first focus on Moving Vernon Forward, by operating the most cost effective and efficient municipal government that we can. Another part of our answer has been to incorporate as a standard operating procedure the active looking and applying for as many grants as possible. Our efforts this year have yielded our town a total of 731K\$ in non-local taxpayer provided grant money. The latest grant that we have received is a small, but meaningful, grant of 44K\$ that we will use to purchase new, updated Turnout and Bail Out Harnesses for our four fire departments. This grant is the subject of Resolution # 22-293 on tonight's agenda. In addition, we are in the process of applying for a 1.6M\$ Lead Remediation & Abatement Grant to be used to educate Vernon Township residents of the hazards of lead paint, and to provide lead remediation or abatement services at no cost to Township individuals who qualify based on income requirements. Our application for this grant is the subject of Resolution # 22-294 on tonight's agenda. Lead remediation or abatement can be quite costly, with testing alone costing approximately 12K\$. Funds from this grant would be incredibly helpful to those who need these services, but do not have the funding. These grant funds can be used by both, homeowners and renters. My due diligence reveals that Vernon Township has approximately 6300 homes that were built before lead regulations took place in 1978, and could, therefore, be eligible for funds from this grant.

On tonight's agenda is a presentation by SUSSEX CULTIVATION LLC, an organization which has achieved 100% of the very rigorous requirements needed to earn a Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator License from the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. This is a significant and costly achievement. At this point in time, SUSSEX CULTIVATION is the first and only known organization that's interested in Vernon, and that has also (1) completed 100% of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission's requirements, and has (2) obtained access to a piece of Vernon property that's properly zoned for the type of cannabis business that they are licensed to operate. The Co-CEO's of SUSSEX CULTIVATION LLC are also owners and operators of a healthcare staffing firm known as Nurses 24/7. This is a highly regulated business that has provided services to almost all acute care facilities in the State of New Jersey for the past 15 plus years. This healthcare staffing firm is certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and my due diligence revealed that they routinely receive extremely high marks

in the area of compliance. In addition, SUSSEX CULTIVATION's Chief Financial Officer also owns and operates a well-managed and highly respected cannabis cultivation facility in Grants Pass, Oregon. On tonight, SUSSEX CULTIVATION is here to briefly share with our governing body and the public their plans for moving forward with the establishment of their cannabis cultivation facility in Vernon. I am eager to hear what they have to say, because the sooner that they can move forward with the establishment of their cultivation operation, the sooner we can take advantage of the opportunity to not only reap the benefit of the additional tax revenue that will come from the improvements that they will make to the property on which their operation will be established, but also the additional state mandated tax dollars that they are required to pay our town - - these are significant tax dollars, because they will equal a minimum of 2% of SUSSEX CULTIVATION's gross sales! These additional commercial tax dollars will be welcome additions to the Mayor and Council's efforts to provide a cost effective and efficient municipal government, while at the same time helping in our efforts to stabilize the municipal taxes that our homeowners are asked to contribute.

You have heard me repeatedly express the desire to make Vernon an even better place to live and raise a family, and to do so for all of our residents. That desire, along with my firm belief that what we do simply for ourselves, dies with us when we transition from our life on this planet; but, what we do for others, remains and becomes a part of our legacy - - it becomes part of the record of how we used this earthly life that the Creator so graciously granted us. These core factors, have been ever present in my thoughts and actions during these almost three years that I have served the people of Vernon as their Mayor. And these core factors were the motivating force for my decision to have the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Team to join with the PAL and the Vernon Board of Recreation to host a Sensory Friendly Quiet Time with Santa in our Senior Center on December 2 - - an event that was specifically designed for children with special needs. And let me hasten to share with you, that our first Sensory Friendly Quiet Time with Santa was judged as an unqualified success by the 45-50 parents who brought their children to this event. I knew that we had done the right thing when one of those parents came up to me at this event and said, "I thank Vernon Township for not forgetting my special child". These core factors were also the motivating force in my decision to respond to the request from a significant number of our Vernon family members who have asked me to support their efforts to have the nine-day Hanukkah celebration acknowledged and recognized in our town. I believe such an acknowledgement would be another symbol to all of Sussex County and the rest of our state, that Vernon Township is a town where all residents are respected and appreciated as part of the municipal family. Because of this belief, I reached out to friends and members of the leadership of the Vernon Fire Department and asked them if they would support my family friendly effort by hosting a Menorah to be displayed on their Fire Department's lawn, next to the town Holiday Tree that they so kindly host on their lawn. And just as this outstanding Fire Department has responded every time that I have asked them to do something for our town, this time, they also responded in a positive, affirmative way - - they will host this Menorah! As with the Holiday Tree that we light each year, this Menorah will be donated and maintained by a group of volunteer Vernon residents. As Mayor, just as I did with the lighting of the Holiday Tree, I will proudly participate in the lighting of this Menorah at 7pm on December 18. This action represents another step in my efforts to make Vernon an even better place to live and raise a family, and to do so for all of our residents.

### **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: Buccieri

SECOND: Tadrick

All members were in favor.

Steve Dunlop – Vernon Township, expressed concern with resolution #22-289 in reference to the appointment of co-administrators.

Peter Knipe – Vernon Township, expressed concern that the bills list is not approved by the Township Council and he also descriptions of items on the bills list are lacking.

Mark Heftler – Vernon Township, spoke in regards to resolution #22-286 because he is eager to learn about the rational of this resolution.

Peg Distasi – Vernon Township, expressed concern about resolution #22-289 because she feels that the CFO has enough responsibility. Ms. Distasi spoke about resolution #22-288 saying that employees should be protected from being asked to do things for people. Ms. Distasi feels that we do not need a change of government but we do need qualified representation.

Sean Clarkin – Vernon Township, would like to see the town attorney working for all of the Council. Mr. Clarkin would like an audit of the pump track. Mr. Clarkin feels that we should focus on the 2023 budget that was approved.

Council President Rizzuto explained that the 2023 budget has not been approved yet.

Keren Gonen – Vernon Township, thanked the Mayor for allowing the Jewish community to observe their holiday publicly.

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: Buccieri  
SECOND: Tadrick

All members were in favor.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Sussex Cultivation**

Chris Dowling of Sussex Cultivation gave the Council an update on their accomplished steps on their adult-use cannabis site. They have had a conversion-to-annual license application approved by the State. They also moved the location of their site back over 1000 feet from the road, engaged a local engineer and project manager and hired staff. Mr. Dowling gave the Council an estimated timeline of their buildout as well as answered the questions the Council had in reference to the future cultivation site.

### **Township Purchasing Procedures**

CFO Donelle Bright gave the Council a short outline of the township purchasing procedures. Ms. Bright explained the type of accounting system that the town is required to have. She also explained the process of purchasing before any purchases happen, the process of purchasing after the purchase happens (how the bills are paid) and general requirements from the State of New Jersey as well as in Vernon Township.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Municipal Utilities Authority Update**

Paul Kearney, Chairman of the MUA and Donelle Bright. MUA Administrator gave an update to the Council on the MUA accomplishments in 2022 and their goals for 2023. The Council was also updated on the MUA infrastructure explaining that sewer expansion would allow for development of vacant lots that are in town center but this is all depending on funding.

### **Tax Assessment Policy**

Kristen Umansky, Tax Assessor explained to the Council the process for the reassessment. She pointed out that a lot of the questions relate to what it means to have 20% of properties inspected and who is getting reassessed (valued) and when. The answer to this is that 100% of the town is reassessed every year regardless of if they were inspected that year or not. The 20% that is the cause of a lot of confusion relating to the reassessment is for inspections only. This process always needs to start with a full revaluation where every property in town is inspected. In Vernon, those inspections were done in 2019 for the 2020 tax year revaluation. Then every year after that the NJ Division of Taxation requires that in a 5-year reassessment cycle 20% are inspected each year for the purposes of maintaining accurate records.

### **Ad Hoc Charter Study Committee – Resolution #22-286: Resolution Establishing an Ad Hoc Charter Study Committee to Investigate Possible Changes to the Township of Vernon’s Form of Government**

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to bring resolution #22-286 to the floor for discussion.

MOVED: Buccieri  
SECOND: Tadrick

All members were in favor.

Council President explained the reason this resolution is on the agenda because in or about November 2010, a referendum was passed by the voters to change the Township of Vernon Township’s form of government

from a Council-Manager Plan to the Mayor-Council Plan under the Optional Municipal Charter Law. A determination has been made that it would be in the best interests of the Township to form an ad hoc charter study committee to study the feasibility of changing the Township's form of government.

## **MINUTES**

### **November 21, 2022 – Special Executive Session**

#### **November 21, 2022 – Special Meeting Minutes**

#### **November 28, 2022 – Regular Meeting**

### **November 21, 2022 – Special Executive Session**

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the November 21, 2022 special executive session minutes.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Tadrick

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to approve the November 21, 2022 special executive session minutes

### **November 21, 2022 – Special Meeting**

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the November 21, 2022 special meeting minutes.

MOVED: Tadrick

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to approve the November 21, 2022 special meeting minutes

### **November 28, 2022 – Regular Meeting**

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve the November 28, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Tadrick

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Tadrick, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN: Sparta

ABSENT: Lynch

Motion carries to approve the November 28, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution #22-286:** Resolution Establishing an Ad Hoc Charter Study to Investigate Possible Changes to the Township of Vernon's Form of Government

**Resolution #22-287:** Renew of the Chief of Police's, Daniel B. Young, Employee Contract

**Resolution #22-288:** Reappointment of Township Clerk

**Resolution #22-290:** Refund Overpayments (Various Block and Lots Corelogic)

**Resolution #22-292:** Chapter 159 Resolution Requesting Approval of Revenue and Appropriation Amending the 2022 Budget as a Revenue and Appropriation of \$1,000.00

**Resolution #22-293:** Chapter 159 Resolution Requesting Approval of Revenue and Appropriation Amending the 2022 Budget as a Revenue and Appropriation of \$44,000.00

**Resolution #22-294:** Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the Lead Remediation and Abatement Grant Program

**Resolution #22-295:** Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Firearms No Longer Needed to a Licensed Firearms Dealer for Private Sale

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve resolutions #22-286, #22-287, #22-288, #22-290, #22-291, #22-292, #22-293, 22-294, #22-295.

MOVED: Tadrick  
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Sparta, Tadrick, Rizzuto  
NAYES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT: Lynch

Motion carries to approve resolutions #22-286, #22-287, #22-288, #22-290, #22-292, #22-293, 22-294, #22-295.

### **RESOLUTION #22-286**

#### **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC CHARTER STUDY COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

**WHEREAS**, in or about November 2010, a referendum was passed by the voters to change the Township of Vernon's ("Township") form of government from a Council-Manager Plan to the Mayor-Council Plan under the Optional Municipal Charter Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township subsequently adopted the Mayor-Council Plan and has been operating under this form of government; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-36 (h), the Township Council is authorized to create ad hoc committees; and

**WHEREAS**, a determination has been made that it would be in the best interests of the Township to form an ad hoc charter study committee to study the feasibility of changing the Township's form of government.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby establishes an ad hoc charter study committee to consist of the following members to investigate the feasibility of changing the Township's form of government and report on the matter to the Township Council as a whole, no later than 120 days from the date hereof:

1. 1 or 2 members of the Township Council;
- 2.
- 3.

### **RESOLUTION #22-287**

#### **RENEWAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE'S, DANIEL B. YOUNG, EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

**WHEREAS**, Daniel B. Young currently serves as the Chief of Police for the Township of Vernon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township and Young wish for him to continue to serve as the Chief of Police; and

**WHEREAS**, Young's terms and conditions of employment are governed by his employment agreement with the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township and Young have engaged in negotiations for a successor agreement establishing salary and other conditions of employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township have agreed to terms for his continued employment as the Chief of Police.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, that the Mayor is authorized and empowered to execute the attached agreement between the Township and Young providing for salaries and terms of employment for a five year term from 2023 through 2027.

**RESOLUTION #22-288**

**REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**WHEREAS**, Marcy Gianattasio was appointed as Township Clerk for the Township of Vernon effective December 26, 2019 for a term of three (3) years pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133; and

**WHEREAS**, Marcy Gianattasio will have served as Township Clerk and performed the duties of the Township Clerk for not less than three (3) consecutive years as of December 26, 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Township of Vernon that Marcy Gianattasio is hereby reappointed as Township Clerk for the Township of Vernon effective December 26, 2022 and upon such reappointment shall have acquired tenure and shall hold office during good behavior and efficiency and compliance with the continuing education requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133.10.

**RESOLUTION #22-290**

**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 **\$7,418.79** representing refund for overpayment for the following properties:

<b>OWNER</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>REFUND AMOUNT</b>
Sharan	<b>531</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>\$581.46</b>
Mulvihill	<b>527</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>\$272.67</b>
DVPRE, LLC	<b>457</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$1395.30</b>
Koburov	<b>453</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$1926.08</b>
Mc Cabe	<b>324</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$53.56</b>
Deprospo	<b>160</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>\$1774.97</b>
Russi	<b>99</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$1414.75</b>
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$7418.79</b>

Sharan- refund for overpayment totaling \$581.46 of 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 531 Lot 90 also known as [REDACTED]

Mulvihill- refund for overpayment totaling \$272.67 of the 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 527 Lot 94 also known as [REDACTED]

DVPRE, LLC - refund for overpayment totaling \$1395.30 of the 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 457 Lot 17 also known as [REDACTED]

Koburov- refund for overpayment totaling \$1926.08 of the 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 453 Lot 16 also known as [REDACTED]

Mc Cabe- refund for overpayment totaling \$53.56 of the 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 324 Lot 3 also known as [REDACTED]

Deprosposo- refund for overpayment totaling \$1774.97 of the 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 160 Lot 111 also known as [REDACTED]

Russi- refund for overpayment totaling \$1414.75 of the 4th qtr. 2022 property taxes for Block 99 Lot 2 also known as [REDACTED]

**RESOLUTION #22-292**

**CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF  
REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2022 BUDGET  
AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000.00**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has been awarded a \$1,000.00 Local LEAD Supplies Grant; and wishes to amend its 2022 budget for the difference of the awarded amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$1,000.00 which is now available as a revenue,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$1,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Local LEAD Supplies Grant.

**RESOLUTION #22-293**

**CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF  
REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2022 BUDGET  
AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$44,000.00**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has been awarded a \$44,000.00 American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant; and wishes to amend its 2022 budget for the difference of the awarded amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$44,000.00 which is now available as a revenue,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$44,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant.

**RESOLUTION #22-294**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE LEAD REMEDIATION AND  
ABATEMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, there are several health risks associated with lead and there is a need to increase awareness of those risks and to remediate and abate structures containing lead; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has recognized these needs; and

**WHEREAS**, in the SFY23 budget, the Murphy-Oliver Administration has allocated \$180 million to address the ongoing threat of childhood lead poisoning. These funds will be used to fund community-based organizations to conduct lead-safe repairs and energy efficiency improvements in residential units and to build capacity within the Department of Community Affairs and throughout New Jersey to address these hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs has issued a Request for Proposals to solicit applicants for the Lead Remediation and Abatement Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, a determination has been made that it would be in the best interests of the Township of Vernon to apply for grant funding.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and/or Business Administrator and the Clerk are hereby authorized to execute and submit a grant application to the Department of Community Affairs for the Lead Remediation and Abatement Grant Program.

### **RESOLUTION #22-295**

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FIREARMS NO LONGER NEEDED TO A LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER FOR PRIVATE SALE**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) has determined that the following list of Glock Model G22, Generation 4, 0.40 Caliber firearms are no longer needed for public use by the Vernon Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has requested and obtained an estimate as to fair market value of the weapon from Tri State Firearms Exchange, an authorized firearms dealer located at 280 State Route 94, Vernon, NJ 07462; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36 permits a municipality to sell, by private sale, personal property no longer needed for public use, when the fair value of the property to be sold does not exceed the applicable bid threshold; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 2C:58-2 regulates the sale of the firearms within the State of New Jersey and requires that firearms be sold exclusively through a licensed gun dealer; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to facilitate the sale of the following list of Glock Model G22, Generation 4, 0.40 Caliber firearms to various Vernon Police Officers for the estimated value of two-hundred dollars (\$200.00) each, the firearm will be transferred to Tri State Firearms Exchange and the Township will receive two-hundred dollars (\$200.00) per firearm;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the transfer of the firearm identified herein to Tri State Firearms Exchange, and the sale of the firearms identified by the following list of serial numbers to various Vernon Police Officers for the amount of two-hundred dollars (\$200.00) per firearm, to be received prior to transfer by each officer is hereby authorized.

**Resolution #22-289:** Resolution Approving the Appointment of Donelle Bright and Daniel Young as Acting Co-Business Administrators

Council President Rizzuto ask for a motion to approve resolution #22-289 as amended.

MOVED: Tadrick

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Sparta, Tadrick, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Lynch



Motion carries to approve resolution #22-289 as amended.

**RESOLUTION #22-289**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF DONELLE BRIGHT AND DANIEL YOUNG AS ACTING CO-BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-43 provides that each municipal department shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the municipal council and shall serve during the term of office of the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, there currently exists a vacancy in the position of Business Administrator in the Township of Vernon (“Township”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to § 5-3 (C) (5) of the Township Code, the Mayor may appoint an Acting Director for up to 90 days; and

**WHEREAS**, a determination has been made that it would be in the best interests of the Township to appoint Donelle Bright and Daniel Young as Acting Co-Business Administrators;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor has appointed Donelle Bright and Daniel Young as Acting Co-Business Administrators to temporarily fill the existing vacancy; and

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

1. The Township Council hereby approves the appointment of Donelle Bright and Daniel Young as Acting Co-Business Administrators for 90 Days effective from December 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023 unless a permanent appointment is made prior to the expiration of this period.
2. Effective December 1, 2022, the Township Council further approves the payment of a weekly stipend of \$750.00 to Donelle Bright and the payment of a weekly stipend of \$750.00 to Daniel Young while they serve as Co-Business Administrators.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)**

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

MOVED: Tadrick  
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Peter Knipe – Vernon Township, thanked Donelle for explaining the procurement process. Mr. Knipe voiced concern that the Municipal Clerk questioned his residency.

Sally Rinker – Vernon Township, feels that the Council can and should vote on the bills list. Ms. Rinker also feels that perhaps the revaluation should be done every five years rather than every year or every ten years. Ms. Rinker feels that the Council needs to proceed with caution on changing the form of government.

Ann Larsen – Vernon Township, expressed a great deal of concern about the yearly reevaluations. Ms. Larsen feels that the marijuana cultivator is going to bring people’s property values down.

Peg Distasi – Vernon Township, feels that having the menorah in Vernon is right. Ms. Distasi feel that the assessors should pick out select houses in each area instead of just one area.

Elaine Alvarey – Vernon Township, is interested in operating a class 5 retail cannabis establishment in Vernon Township.

Sean Clarkin – Vernon Township, explained that in regards to reevaluating there are two tasks that everyone is confusing. The first task is to inspect 20% of homes to see if you

changed the house. The second task is that 100% of houses have their taxes adjusted annually based on how much your neighbors house sold for.

Maria Brock – Vernon Township, feels that the tree lighting was poorly run and can be better run next year.

Jessica Paladini – Vernon Township, feels that any one can call into a meeting and speak about whatever they want and should not be interrogated.

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: Buccieri  
SECOND: Tadrick

All members were in favor.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

The Council had no comments

### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Council President Rizzuto had no comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:02pm Council Member Buccieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Tadrick.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk

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Brian Lynch  
Council President

Minutes approved: January 9, 2023