

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2025 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on March 24, 2025, in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Council President Rizzuto presiding.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press on January 19, 2025, 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, Jessica DeBenedetto, William Higgins, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Krause, CFO Donelle Bright, Township Attorney Peter King and Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Cell Service at Maple Grange Park
Mayor's Salary

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi expressed concern that the Council did not increase the Mayor's salary. Mayor Rossi informed the Council that the clock was ordered and will be installed into the town center shortly.

Mayor Rossi told the Council that Mindy Martin is the Township's new Zoning Officer and Code Official Officer. Mayor Rossi appointed Debra Chase to the Economic Development Committee for a one year-term.

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

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

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Heidi LeBris – feels that the Mayor should get an increase in salary.

Sally Rinker – feels that the Mayor should not get an increase in salary.

Steve Dunlop – feels that the Mayor should not get an increase in salary.

Marissa Simeone – feels that the Mayor should get an increase in salary.

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

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the February 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes with corrections.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Buccieri
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve February 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

March 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the March 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes with corrections.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Higgins, Sparta
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve March 10, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #25-99: (Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton) - Revised Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #25-100: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton) – Revised Refund to Cancel Taxes

Resolution #25-101: (Block 596 Lot 6 (Sims) – Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #25-102: Resolution to Award HVAC Maintenance Services Bid to Air Group LLC for Bid 1-2025

Resolution #25-103: Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association (Curatolo)

Resolution #25-104: Refund Overpayment (Block 350 Lot 5 – Jenkins)

Resolution #25-105: Refund Overpayment (Block 527 Lot 303 – Sokolowski)

Resolution #25-106: Refund Overpayment (Block 457 Lot 8 – Christiana Trust As Cust.)

Resolution #25-107: Emergency Temporary Appropriations

Resolution #25-110: Resolution of the Township of Vernon Appointing a Municipal Prosecutor

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve the consent.

RESOLUTION #25-99

**(Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton) - Revised
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Michael Scott Gatton a 100% permanent and total disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, as of said date 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 2025 in the amount of \$3,856.78.

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

RESOLUTION #25-100

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 576 Lot 87 (Gatton) – Revised Refund to Cancel Taxes**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Awarded Michael Scott Gatton 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 2025 property tax in the amount of \$1,928.39 to Michael Scott Gatton.

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

RESOLUTION #25-101

**(Block 596 Lot 6 (Sims)
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Derrick Sims a 100% permanent and total disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, as of said date 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 2025 in the amount of \$3,201.37

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

RESOLUTION #25-102

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD HVAC MAINTENANCE SERVICES BID TO AIR GROUP LLC
FOR BID 1-2025**

WHEREAS the Township of Vernon has a need for HVAC Maintenance Services for the daily operations of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township received bids in a public fair and open manner in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 on March 13, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Township received four (4) bids to wit:

| | TM Brennan Service Inc | Pow/R/Sav Inc | AirGroup LLC | McCloskey Mechanical |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| YEAR 1 LUMP | \$42,000.00 | \$25,250.00 | \$15,675.00 | \$34,400.00 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SUM | | | | |
| YEAR 2 LUMP SUM | \$48,000.00 | \$26,960.00 | \$16,458.00 | \$36,200.00 |
| TOTAL | \$90,000.00 | \$52,210.00 | \$32,133.00 | \$70,600.00 |

WHEREAS, AirGroup LLC, 1 Prince Road, Whippany NJ 07981 was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A:11-4A; and

WHEREAS subject to the approval of future budgets the Chief Financial Officer certifies funding is available from line items 5-01-26-310-20 and 6-01-26-310-20 Buildings and Grounds O/E.

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

AirGroup LLC, 1 Prince Road, Whippany NJ 07981 is hereby awarded the contract to provide for HVAC Maintenance services for a period of two (2) years in the amount of:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Year 1 | \$15,675.00 |
| Year 2 | \$16,458.00 |
| Total | \$32,133.00 |

in accord with the tenets as contained within bids 1-2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Mayor is authorized to executive contract of award.

RESOLUTION #25-103

APPROVING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION (Curatolo)

WHEREAS, the Township Council recognizes the extraordinary contributions made by volunteer firefighters to our community and seeks to encourage their full participation in professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, Michael J Curatolo, an active firefighter and member of the Vernon Fire Department, is requesting approval to submit an application for membership to the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey hereby approves Michael J Curatolo for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

RESOLUTION #25-104

REFUND OVERPAYMENT (Block 350 Lot 5 – Jenkins)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Don Jenkins in the amount of \$2490.94 representing refund for overpayment of 4th qtr. 2024 property taxes for Block 350 Lot 5.

| OWNER | BLOCK | LOT | REFUND AMOUNT |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Jenkins | 350 | 5 | \$2490.94 |
| | | TOTAL: | \$2490.94 |

RESOLUTION #25-105

REFUND OVERPAYMENT (Block 527 Lot 303 – Sokolowski)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Steven Sokolowski in the amount of \$1254.68 representing refund for overpayment of 1st qtr. 2025 property taxes for Block 527 Lot 303.

| OWNER | BLOCK | LOT | REFUND AMOUNT |
|------------|-------|---------------|------------------|
| Sokolowski | 527 | 303 | \$1254.68 |
| | | TOTAL: | \$1254.68 |

RESOLUTION #25-106

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 457 Lot 8 –CHRISTIANA TRUST AS CUST.)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Christiana Trust As Cust. in the amount of \$5902.83 representing refund for overpayment of 1st-4th qtr. 2024 property taxes for Block 457 Lot 8.

| OWNER | BLOCK | LOT | QUARTER- 2024 | REFUND AMOUNT |
|-----------|-------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Burrafato | 457 | 8 | 1st | \$1485.02 |
| Burrafato | 457 | 8 | 2nd | \$1485.00 |
| Burrafato | 457 | 8 | 3rd | \$1528.53 |
| Burrafato | 457 | 8 | 4th | \$1404.28 |
| | | TOTAL: | | \$5902.83 |

RESOLUTION #25-107

Emergency Temporary Appropriations

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen in that the Township is expected to enter in contracts, commitments or payments prior to the 2025 budget and no adequate provision has been made in the 2024 temporary budget for the aforesaid purposes, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose, and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolutions adopted in the year 2025 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total:

Current Fund: \$6,405,627.02

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made in the amount of:

Current Fund

| Description | Temporary Emergency Appropriations |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - S&W | \$ 30,800.00 |
| GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - O/E | \$ 26,500.00 |
| MAYOR & COUNCIL - S&W | \$ 7,500.00 |
| MAYOR & COUNCIL - O/E | \$ 1,050.00 |
| CLERK - S&W | \$ 33,700.00 |
| CLERK - O/E | \$ 7,400.00 |
| FINANCE - S&W | \$ 44,200.00 |
| FINANCE - O/E | \$ 5,400.00 |
| TECHNOLOGY - O/E | \$ 6,400.00 |
| COLLECTION OF TAXES - S&W | \$ 30,500.00 |
| COLLECTION OF TAXES - O/E | \$ 4,400.00 |
| ASSESSMENT OF TAXES - S&W | \$ 37,400.00 |
| ASSESSMENT OF TAXES - O/E | \$ 23,500.00 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| LEGAL SERVICES - O/E | \$ | 47,500.00 |
| ENGINEERING SERVICES - O/E | \$ | 5,000.00 |
| HISTORIC PRES. COMMISSION - S&W | \$ | 500.00 |
| BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE - O/E | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| LAND USE BOARD - S & W | \$ | 31,700.00 |
| LAND USE BOARD - O/E | \$ | 8,750.00 |
| BUILDING DEPARTMENT - S&W | \$ | 87,000.00 |
| BUILDING DEPARTMENT - O/E | \$ | 7,000.00 |
| WORKERS COMP. INSURANCE - O/E | \$ | 128,800.00 |
| GROUP INSURANCE - O/E | \$ | 750,000.00 |
| GROUP INS. - HEALTH BENEFIT | \$ | 8,000.00 |
| WAIVERS | | |
| OTHER INSURANCE - O/E | \$ | 165,000.00 |
| POLICE DEPARTMENT - S&W | \$ | 735,000.00 |
| POLICE DEPARTMENT - O/E | \$ | 28,000.00 |
| RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - S&W | \$ | 70,350.00 |
| RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - O/E | \$ | 1,500.00 |
| 911 COMM. - S&W SHARED SRVC | \$ | 2,500.00 |
| OEM DEPARTMENT - O/E | \$ | 3,100.00 |
| VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES | \$ | 57,500.00 |
| FIRE PREVENTION - S&W | \$ | 35,200.00 |
| FIRE PREVENTION - O/E | \$ | 3,000.00 |
| TWP. PROSECUTOR - O&E | \$ | 8,500.00 |
| ROAD REPAIRS & MAINT. - S&W | \$ | 268,000.00 |
| ROAD REPAIRS & MAINT. - O/E | \$ | 150,000.00 |
| RECYCLING S&W | \$ | 5,000.00 |
| RECYCLING - O/E | \$ | 5,000.00 |
| BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - S&W | \$ | 9,500.00 |
| BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - O/E | \$ | 24,750.00 |
| FLEET MANAGEMENT - S&W | \$ | 50,000.00 |
| FLEET MANAGEMENT - O/E | \$ | 70,000.00 |
| ANIMAL CONTROL - S&W | \$ | 15,700.00 |
| ANIMAL CONTROL - O/E | \$ | 5,000.00 |
| SEN CITIZENS - S&W | \$ | 15,000.00 |
| SEN. CITIZENS - ACTIVITIES -O/E | \$ | 11,500.00 |
| RECREATION - S&W | \$ | 15,350.00 |
| RECREATION - O/E | \$ | 12,500.00 |
| MAINTENANCE OF PARKS - S&W | \$ | 52,000.00 |
| MAINTENANCE OF PARKS - O/E | \$ | 7,500.00 |
| MUNICIPAL COURT - S&W | \$ | 33,500.00 |
| MUNICIPAL COURT - O/E | \$ | 1,300.00 |
| UTILITIES O/E | \$ | 92,500.00 |
| SEWER UTILITY-SCMUA | \$ | 705,000.00 |
| SOCIAL SECURITY - O/E | \$ | 120,000.00 |
| DEFINED CONTRIB RETIRE | \$ | 1,200.00 |
| PROGRAM | | |
| MUNICIPAL SERVICES ACT O/E | \$ | 60,000.00 |
| SHARED SERVICE - ANIMAL | \$ | 14,500.00 |
| CONTROL | | |
| SHARED SERVICE - FINANCIAL | \$ | 16,500.00 |
| ADMIN. | | |
| SHARED SERVICES - SENIOR | \$ | 4,650.00 |
| CITIZENS | | |
| 2025 TEMP BUDGET IN CAP | \$ | 4,209,600.00 |
| APPROPRIATIONS | | |
| | | |
| CAPITAL PURCHASE OF VEHICLES | \$ | 80,000.00 |
| 2025 TEMP BUDGET O/S CAP | | 80,000.00 |
| APPROPRIATIONS | | |
| | | |
| 2025 TEMP BUDGET TOTAL | | 4,289,600.00 |
| APPROPRIATIONS | | |

2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2025 budget.
3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director, Division of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION #25-110

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON
APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon ("Township") has a need for a Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27, a municipality may employ an attorney-at-law as the Municipal Prosecutor under the supervision of the County Prosecutor and that attorney may represent the municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the central municipal court and any other municipal court; and

WHEREAS, Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. has the necessary experience and qualifications to perform the duties of Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provision of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township deems it in the best interests of the Township to appoint Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. as the Municipal Prosecutor and to enter a non-fair and open contract to provide said services pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. will complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair and Open Contract which certifies that Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds available.

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

1. Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. is hereby appointed as Municipal Prosecutor until January 14, 2026 and the Mayor is authorized to execute a non-fair and open contract with Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. to provide these services.
2. The required Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be provided before execution of the contract and be placed on file with the resolution
3. A copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk's Office.

INTRODUCTION OF 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution #25-108: Introduction of the 2025 Budget

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce the 2025 Municipal Budget.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to introduce the 2025 Municipal Budget.

RESOLUTION #25-108

INTRODUCTION OF 2025 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Municipal budget of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, New Jersey for the fiscal year 2025 be approved by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, and the Clerk is hereby instructed to advertise in the New Jersey Herald on April 4, 2025 and that a final public hearing before passage will be held on April 28, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building 21 Church Street, Vernon and via Zoom Webinar, that said budget shall authorize total general appropriations of \$32,531,635.64 and the anticipated revenues of \$11,860,516.18 leaving an amount to be raised by taxes for municipal purposes of \$20,671,119.46.

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #25-03: Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 330, “Nonconforming Buildings and Uses” of the Code of the Township of Vernon to Allow for the Reconstruction of Existing Dwellings within the Existing Footprint

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #25-03.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-03.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #25-03.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-03.
President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #25-03.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #25-03.

ORDINANCE #25-03

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 330, “NONCONFORMING BUILDINGS AND USES” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON TO ALLOW FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING DWELLINGS WITHIN THE EXISTING FOOTPRINT

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon (“Township”) has reviewed the existing language of the Township Code regarding pre-existing, non-conforming uses, specifically, residences that were constructed prior to the adoption of the Township Code; and

WHEREAS, The Township Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the Township to permit the demolition and reconstruction of certain residential structures without the need for a variance application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the code of the Township of Vernon is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Article XI, "Zoning," is hereby supplemented as follows:

§ 330-181 Nonconforming buildings and uses.

[no changes to Subsections A through E]

F. A principal building, accessory building or structure and/or deck including its foundation, which is conforming in use but violates the yard, coverage, setback, and/or height requirements of this article may not be extended, expanded, or enlarged within any required yard or setback area nor extended above the height limits of this article be demolished and reconstructed provided that the following standards are met:

(1) Any lawfully pre-existing, non-conforming residence constructed prior to 9-26-2005, may have constructed upon it a new dwelling, including a new foundation, and/or construction of an accessory building pursuant to subsection (2), below, without an appeal for variance relief and provided that:

- i. The existing uses on the lot conform to the permitted uses in that zone; and
- ii. The new building footprint is identical to or smaller than the existing building footprint; and
- iii. The new building does not exceed the permitted height in the zone.

(2) Any lawfully pre-existing, non-conforming accessory building or structure constructed prior to 9-26-2005 may be reconstructed provided that:

- i. The new accessory building or structure footprint is identical to or smaller than the existing building footprint; and
- ii. The new accessory building or structure does not exceed the maximum permitted height in the zone; and
- iii. Any accessory building or structure shall not, for any length of time, exist on the property without the presence of a principal structure that has been issued a Certificate of Occupancy.

(3) Any lawfully pre-existing, non-conforming residential deck or porch constructed prior to 9-26-2005 may be reconstructed provided that:

- i. The new deck or porch footprint is identical to or smaller than the pre-existing porch or deck footprint.

[no changes to Subsections G through K]

SECTION 2. Severability.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to the portion the Ordinance actually adjudged invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Repealer.

All ordinances and resolutions, and parts of ordinances and resolutions which are inconsistent with provisions of this ordinance shall be, and are hereby, repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication in accordance with law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

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

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to open the floor to the public.

Steve Dunlop – expressed concern with the trucks going down the road in front of the Daily Bean. Mr. Dunlop complained about the speakers not working in the courtroom.

Scott Cassell – feels that the Mayor’s salary should be on the ballot but would like to offset the cost of an increase. Mr. Cassell asked about the CFO’s position.

Sally Rinker – spoke about the Mayor and Business Administrator’s statutory requirements.

Marissa Simeone – feels that the Mayor should receive an increase in salary.

Karina Espinosa – expressed concern with water runoff on her property.

Heidi LeBris – questioned Vernon’s form of government.

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

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins asked questions about the township employees and salaries. Council Member Higgins asked about new hired employees.

Council Member DeBenedetto would like to incentivize people who would like to be Mayor.

Council Member Sparta had no comments.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto commented that there are many seminars and webinars that the Council can attend to learn more about the local government.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 pm Council Member Higgins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Buccieri.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto
Council President

Minutes approved: April 14, 2025