

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 28, 2025 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on April 28, 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 Jessica DeBenedetto, Natalie Buccieri, William Higgins 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.

Council Member Sparta was not present.

**PRESENTATION**

Cody Jacobs – Eagle Scout

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Autism Month

Volunteer Month

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Rossi stated that this Friday evening May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be having our first lighting ceremony at the flats at approximately 6:30pm. We just invested in all new lighting. This is also the Little League's opening night, hope you all can attend. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 to 4 we will be having our bulky waste day.

Also, we finally have enough applications to form our beautification committee. I'd like to put the following names into the record for the beautification committee

Marissa Rossi

Heidi Lebris

Heather Flood

Keren Gonen

Meg Wahnon

Lastly, we have received two checks from Legends: one for \$100k towards the back taxes and the second for \$45k, which will be applied towards an escrow account to pay for all the professional services the township has used to assist with the Legends project.

**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.

Florence Kensek – expressed concern regarding a violation she received from Zoning Officer Mindy Martin.

Michelle Clark – expressed concern regarding a violation she received from Zoning Officer Mindy Martin.

Karina – commented on Autism.

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: DeBenedetto  
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

**REVIEW OF BILLS LIST**  
The Council reviewed the bills list.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**April 14, 2025- Regular Meeting**

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the April 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes with corrections.

MOVED: Buccieri  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve April 14, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

**2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

CFO Donelle Bright gave a Power Point Presentation on the 2025 Municipal Budget

**Resolution #25-118:** A Resolution to Read the 2025 Municipal Budget By Title Only

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-118.

MOVED: Buccieri  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-118.

**RESOLUTION #25-118**

**A RESOLUTION TO READ THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
BY TITLE ONLY**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, as well as posting of same; and

WHEREAS, the conditions required by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 have been satisfied for the 2025 Municipal Budget by Township Officials.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of Vernon, New Jersey that the 2025 Municipal Budget shall be read by title only at the Public Hearing (scheduled on April 28, 2025).

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

**PUBLIC HEARING 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments on the 2025 Municipal Budget.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to open the meeting to Public Comments on the 2025 Municipal Budget.

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: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to close the meeting to Public Comments on the 2025 Municipal Budget

**Resolution #25-119:** Resolution to Amend Introduced Budget

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-119.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-119.

**RESOLUTION #25-119**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND INTRODUCED BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the local municipal budget for the year 2025 was introduced on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March,

2025, and

**WHEREAS**, the public hearing on said budget was held as advertised on April 28, 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, it is required to amend said introduced budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendments contained herein do not add a new appropriation in excess of 1% of total appropriations, and

**WHEREAS**, the amendments contained herein do not increase or decrease any item of appropriation by more or less than 10%, and

**WHEREAS**, the amendments contained herein do not increase the amount to be raised by taxation by more than 5%,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, that the following amendments to the introduced budget of 2025 be made:

	<u>INTRODUCED</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>
<b>CURRENT FUND REVENUES:</b>		
General Revenues:		
1. Surplus Anticipated	1,250,000.00	1,650,000.00
Total Surplus Anticipated	1,250,000.00	1,650,000.00
Sheet 11 <i>Summary of Revenues</i>		
1. Surplus Anticipated (Sheet A, #1)	1,250,000.00	1,650,000.00
5. Subtotal General Revenues (Items 1,2,3 and 4)	11,860,516.18	12,260,516.18
6. Amount to be Raise by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	20,671,119.46	20,172,838.82
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	32,531,635.64	32,433,355.00
<b>CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATIONS:</b>		
8. General Appropriations		
(A) Operations- within “CAPS”		
General Government:		
Legal Services O/E	285,000.00	280,000.00
Finance O/E	20,800.00	19,800.00
Insurance:		
Health Benefit Waiver O/E	70,000.00	65,000.00
Volunteer Emergency Services O/E	362,000.00	357,000.00
Streets & Roads Maintenance O/E	869,500.00	829,500.00
Total Operations {Item 8(A)}- within “CAPS”	18,484,635.00	18,428,635.00
Total Operations Including Contingent – within “CAPS”	18,484,635.00	18,428,635.00
Detail:		
Other Expenses:	8,598,038.00	8,542,038.00
Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes within “CAPS”	21,314,844.00	21,258,844.00
(C) Capital Improvements – Excluded from “CAPS”		
Capital Improvement Fund	925,000.00	900,000.00
Total Capital Improvements Excluded from “CAPS”	1,764,050.00	1,739,050.00
(H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded	8,515,064.97	8,490,064.97
8. General Appropriations		
Summary of Appropriations		
(H-1) Total General Appropriations for		

Municipal within “CAPS”	21,314,844.00	21,258,844.00
(C) Capital Improvements	1,764,050.00	1,739,050.00
(M) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	2,701,726.67	2,684,446.03
TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	32,531,635.64	32,433,355.00

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** three certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for their certification of the local municipal budget so amended.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**Resolution #25-120:** Resolution to Adopt the 2025 Municipal Budget

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-120 and adopt the 2025 Municipal Budget.

MOVED: Buccieri  
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-120 and adopt the 2025 Municipal Budget.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution #25-121:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 202 Lot 39 – (Schwind)

**Resolution #25-122:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 458 Lot 53 – (VonEssen)

**Resolution #25-123:** (Block 458 Lot 53 (VonEssen) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #25-124:** Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association (Rivera)

**Resolution #25-125:** Authorize the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with “Firefighter One” for Purchase of Volunteer Fire Department Gear Maintenance Tools

**Resolution #25-126:** Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the FY2025 Transportation Alternatives Program

**Resolution #25-127:** Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 153 Lot 2 (McCullough)

**Resolution #25-128:** (Block 153 Lot 2 (McCullough) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #25-129:** (Block 210 Lot 7 (Barrett) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

**Resolution #25-130:** Refund Overpayment (Block 571 Lot 8 – Mendoza)

**Resolution #25-131:** Refund Overpayment (Block 608 Lot 10 – (Cicerale)

**Resolution #25-132:** Refund Overpayment (Block 527 Lot 479 – Turek)

**Resolution #25-133:** Refund Overpayment (Block 350 Lot 5 – Jenkins)

**Resolution #25-134:** Chapter 159 Resolution Requesting Approval of Revenue and Appropriation Amending the 2025 Budget as a Revenue and Appropriation of \$12,337.00

**Resolution #25-135:** Chapter 159 Resolution Requesting Approval of Revenue and Appropriation Amending the 2025 Budget as a Revenue and Appropriation of \$2,563.50

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

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: DeBenedetto, Buccieri, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the consent.

**RESOLUTION #25-121**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 202 Lot 39 (Schwind)**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Awarded Reno Schwind 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 \$1,571.14 to Reno Schwind.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-122**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 458 Lot 53 (VonEssen))**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Awarded Matthew VonEssen 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 \$1,410.29 to Matthew VonEssen.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-123**

**(Block 458 Lot 53 (VonEssen))  
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
awarded Matthew VonEssen 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 \$1,410.29.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-124**

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

**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**, Mason G Rivera, an active firefighter and member of the Pochuck Valley 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 Mason G Rivera for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

**RESOLUTION #25-125**

**Authorize the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with “Firefighter One”  
for Purchase of Volunteer Fire Department Gear Maintenance Tools**

**WHEREAS**, the Township has a need to purchase Gear Maintenance Tools and Equipment for Vernon Township’s Volunteer Fire Departments for continuation of public safety, health and welfare of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, FireFighter One can provide for said items per Quote # SQ-00233334 at a cost of \$18,927.85; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount as proposed is in excess of the pay to play threshold of \$17,500; and,

**WHEREAS**, FireFighter One has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and a Personal Contribution Disclosure form which certifies that FireFighter One 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 FireFighter One from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds NOT TO EXCEED \$18,927.85 are available as follows:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with FireFighter One, not to exceed \$18,927.85 for purchase of Gear Maintenance Tools and Equipment for Vernon Township’s Volunteer Fire Departments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Personal Contribution Disclosure form, Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

**RESOLUTION #25-126**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2025  
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the FY2025 Transportation Alternatives Program (the “Program”) provides federal funds for community based “non-traditional” projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation’s intermodal system; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY2025 Program is being administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum amount of grant funds available is \$1.5 million, and no municipal matching funds are required; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached grant application describes the terms and conditions of applying for the grant funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration wishes to apply for these grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million for the “Connecting the Trail Dots” project,

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

- A. The Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby accepts the terms of the grant funding and authorizes the electronic submission of the grant application identified as [TA-2025-Vernon Township-00061 Connecting the Trail Dots](#) to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Vernon; and,
- B. The Township of Vernon will assume maintenance responsibility over all improvements completed with grant funding awarded under the FY2025 Transportation Alternatives Program; and,



- C. In accordance with 23 CFR 635.105(a) (4) the Township of Vernon is designating Mishelle Downtain as the responsible charge for this program. Ms. Downtain is a full-time employee of the Township of Vernon in the role of Director of Recreation and Community Affairs and will be responsible charge for the proposed Federal-aid construction project.
- D. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

**RESOLUTION #25-127**

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN  
(Block 153 Lot 2 (McCullough))**

**WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Awarded Kyle Mc Cullough 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 \$1,074.45 to Kyle Mc Cullough.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-128**

**(Block 153 Lot 2 (Mc Cullough))  
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
awarded Kyle Mc Cullough 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 \$3,223.34.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-129**

**(Block 210 Lot 7 (Barrett))  
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

**WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
awarded Timothy Barrett 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 \$2,102.92.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-130**

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 571 Lot 8 – Mendoza)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Sharon Mendoza in the amount of \$2594.70 representing refund for overpayment of 3rd qtr. 2024 property taxes for Block 571 Lot 8.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Mendoza	571	8	\$2594.70
		TOTAL:	\$2594.70

**RESOLUTION #25-131**

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 608 Lot 10 – Cicerale)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Michael Cicerale in the amount of \$2084.79 representing refund for overpayment of 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. 2024 property taxes for Block 608 Lot 10.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Cicerale	608	10	\$2084.79
		TOTAL:	\$2084.79

**RESOLUTION #25-132**

**REFUND OVERPAYMENT  
(Block 527 Lot 479 – Turek)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Austin Turek in the total amount of \$1844.15 representing refund for overpayment of 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. 2024 \$938.91 and 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. 2024 \$905.24 property taxes for Block 527 Lot 479.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Turek	527	479	\$1844.15
		TOTAL:	\$1844.15

**RESOLUTION #25-133**

**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 \$93.47 representing refund for overpayment of 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. 2025 property taxes for Block 350 Lot 5.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Jenkins	350	5	\$93.47
		TOTAL:	\$93.47

**RESOLUTION #25-134**

**CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF  
REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET  
AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$12,337.00**

**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 \$12,337.00 Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Grant and wishes to amend its 2025 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 2025 in the sum of \$12,337.00 which is now available as a revenue,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$12,337.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Grant.

**RESOLUTION #25-135**

**CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF  
REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET  
AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$2,563.50**

**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 \$2,563.50 Opioid Settlements Funds and wishes to amend its 2025 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 2025 in the sum of \$2,563.50 which is now available as a revenue,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$2,563.50 is hereby appropriated under the caption Opioid Settlements Funds.

**RESOLUTION**

**Resolution #25-113:** Side Bar Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and U.A.W. Local No. 2326

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-113.

MOVED: Buccieri  
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to table resolution #25-113.

MOVED: Buccieri

There was no second. Motion fails.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

**Ordinance #25-05:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 374 of the Township Code Entitled “Nuisances, Public Health” to Prohibit Intrusive Outdoor Lighting

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #25-05.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-05.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #25-05.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-05.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #25-05.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #25-05.

#### **ORDINANCE #25-05**

##### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 374 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “NUISANCES, PUBLIC HEALTH” TO PROHIBIT INTRUSIVE OUTDOOR LIGHTING**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Nuisances Ordinance, Chapter 374 of the Code of the Township of Vernon, seeks to protect and promote the public health through the control, abatement and prevention of conditions injurious to the public health and safety;

**WHEREAS**, the Nuisance Ordinance prohibits conditions and activities deemed to be detrimental or a threat to the public health or environment or an annoyance interfering with the comfort and well-being of the residents of the Township;

**WHEREAS**, Township Council finds and determines that outdoor lighting fixtures that illuminate beyond the property on which they are installed, when left on during the late night and early morning hours, unreasonably disrupt the peace and privacy of neighboring residents and endanger public health;

**WHEREAS**, amending the Nuisance Ordinance to prohibit these conditions will provide a mechanism for abatement as well as enforcement when appropriate;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, that Chapter 374 of the Code of the Township of Vernon, at Section 374-5, is hereby amended to include the following prohibitions:

“374-5. Exterior Lighting standards.

- A. Outdoor lighting fixtures that are not shielded and constructed to prevent illumination beyond the property on which they are installed, including lights controlled by motion detectors, shall be turned off between 10 P.M. and sunrise. Lighting shall be presumed to prevent illumination beyond the property if it is shielded and directed downward and no direct light is emitted above a plane extending outward from the base of the light source parallel to the ground. Illumination beyond the property between 10:00 P.M. and sunrise is prohibited.”
- B. All lighting fixtures shall conform with all applicable state and federal requirements and industry standards, including, but not limited to, International Building Code/2021. NJ Edition, International Energy Conservation Code/2021, ASHRAE 90.1-2019, National Electrical Code 2020.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall be effective upon its passage and publication as provided by 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: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public.

John Espinosa – questioned resolution #25-113.

Karina – questioned resolution #25-113. Karina questioned the budget.

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: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Higgins had no comments.

Council Member DeBenedetto feels that the meeting started off pleasant. She never felt so bad about a vote and she felt backed up into a corner. Council Member DeBenedetto regrets her vote but did not see another way except reducing the fund balance which would put us in the same position next year. She feels that people need to attend school board meetings.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Council President Rizzuto would like the Council to pursuit a committee to meet with the Board of Education several times before the end of the year to stress any problems that may be applicable to the board and the township. Council President Rizzuto appointed himself and Council Member Buccieri to the committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:56 pm Council Member DeBenedetto 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

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