

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2025 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on August 11, 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 and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Kraus, Township Attorney Peter King and Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

Council Member Sparta was no present.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi's comments:

- Congratulations to Detective Sergeant Charles Reid who retired last week and also Derrick Scudieri and Stephen Rovetto were promoted to sergeants.
- August 14th the PBA Local 285 is having a fund raiser at Lake Hopatcong.
- August 23rd the Vernon EMS is having a blood drive from 9-3 at 164 Breakneck Road.
- The garbage survey is on the Vernon website and financials will be given to the Council.
- The Mayor is not sleeping on Legends and he will be providing an update soon.
- The SCUMA application has finally been approved.
- The clock is being installed soon.
- Saturday the Pochuck Fire Department had a wet down.
- The 911 Ceremony will be September 11th at 8:30 am.
- August 14th there will be a sidewalk chalk event and August 22nd there will be an adult field day event.

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: Higgins

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Peg Distasi – questioned several resolutions on the agenda.

Sally Rinker – commented on several items on the bills list and resolutions.

Concetto Formica - Franklin Borough, supports the ordinance for the gun fees.

Agostino Racanati – commented that he does not know of any other constitutional right that is paid for.

Bryan Jansen, Manager of Mastodon Ammo & Camo – thanked the Council for considering the gun fee ordinance.

Bryce Genello – is in favor of the gun fee ordinance.

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: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 23, 2025 – Executive Session

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the June 23, 2025 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve the June 23, 2025 executive session minutes.

June 23, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the June 23, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve June 23, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

July 14, 2025 – Regular Meeting

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

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #25-201: Approving a Peddler's License for Frank DiAngelo

Resolution #25-206: Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors Under T-3124

Resolution #25-207: Authorize a Date for Municipal Tax Sale

Resolution #25-209: Authorization to Endorse a Treatment Works Approval Application to the New Jersey Department of Environment Protection for Construction of an On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Alteration at Village Way Located at Block 451 Lot 12

Resolution #25-211: Authorizing the Use of Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Proposed Improvements to Various Streets-LK Conway

Resolution #25-212: Authorizing the Award of Contract for Proposed Improvements to Canistear Road

Resolution #25-213: Authorizing the Use of Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Proposed Improvements to Canistear Road

Resolution #25-214: Authorizing the Use of Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Proposed Improvements to Macpeek Road

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

MOVED: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #25-201

APPROVING A PEDDLER’S LICENSE FOR FRANK DiANGELO

WHEREAS, Frank DiAngelo has made application for a Peddler’s License for the sale of sporting goods (fishing equipment) within the Township of Vernon by an automobile; and

WHEREAS, Frank DiAngelo has been investigated by the Vernon Township Police Department and his application, photographs, and fingerprints were found to be in good order; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Peddler’s License application of Frank DiAngelo is hereby approved by the Township Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Peddler’s License to the aforesaid applicant for the sale of sporting goods (fishing equipment) during daytime hours only for the year of 2025 pursuant to Chapter 428 Article I of the Code of Vernon Township.

RESOLUTION #25-206

AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED STATE CONTRACT VENDORS UNDER T-3124

WHEREAS, as provided for within the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-1 et. Seq.,) the Township of Vernon may by resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, purchase any goods or services under the State Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Township has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing State contracts for salt conveyors and accessories through Kimco, 118 East Trefz Drive Marshall, TL 62441, holder of New Jersey State Contract T-3124; and

WHEREAS, Kimco has proposed a salt conveyor and accessories in the amount of \$93,235.96, acceptable to the Township.

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 Kimco, 118 East Trefz Drive Marshall, TL 62441, holder of New Jersey State Contract T-3124 pursuant to all conditions of the individual State contracts, for a salt conveyor and accessories in the amount of \$93,235.96

RESOLUTION #25-207

AUTHORIZING A DATE FOR MUNICIPAL TAX SALE

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, desires to collect all taxes, assessments and other municipal charges that are now delinquent; and

WHEREAS, The Tax Collector is directed to sell all municipal delinquencies through December 31, 2024 in a manner prescribed by N.J.S.A. 54:5-19, and as amended by Chapter 99, Public Laws of 1997.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to sell all municipal liens in accordance with New Jersey law, both as stated above, on Tuesday September 23, 2025 via Electronic Tax Sale.

RESOLUTION #25-209

AUTHORIZATION TO ENDORSE A TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM ALTERATION AT VILLAGE WAY LOCATED AT BLOCK 451 LOT 12

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) is responsible for administering the Treatment Works Approval (“TWA”) program, which establishes and implements minimum standards for building, installing, modifying, and operating treatment works; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-22.2 and 22.3 requires the filing of a TWA permit application with the NJDEP for building or modifying a sewer connection or extension; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 58:10A-1 et seq., a municipality must endorse such application for review by the NJDEP; and

WHEREAS, Hidden Village Condo Association is requesting approval to construct an On-site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System alteration at System located at Block 451 Lot 12 per plans submitted by Houser Engineering, LLC, dated 06/12/2025.

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed the plans submitted and recommends the Township Council endorse the submission per letter dated August 5, 2025.

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 will endorse the submission of the TWA application for the aforesaid project.
2. The Township Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the TWA on behalf of the Township.
3. This Resolution shall be made a part of the application submitted to the NJDEP.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #25-211

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS STREETS-LK CONWAY

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need for contracting services for Proposed Improvements to Various Streets within Lake Conway including Rebecca Drive, Meadow Lane, Trefoil Lane, Sudan Lane, Timothy Lane, Clover Lane, Conway Drive, and Alsike Lane; and

WHEREAS, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council advertised and received bids for Milling & Paving through Contract #6; and

WHEREAS, the bids received allowed for vendors to extend their pricing to municipalities who are a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, a State regulated County Contract Purchasing System; and

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Engineer recommends the Township Council award a contract through the use of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council to the following contractors:

- 1) Milling & Paving: Tilcon New York, Inc. (Contract # 6) in an amount of **\$248,527.50**;

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer of the Township of Vernon has certified that the funds for these contracts are available in Line Item: C-04-25-06-00 Road Improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the vendor Tilcon New York, Inc., be utilized for Proposed Improvements to Various Streets - Lake Conway through the respective Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council contracts at the amount not to exceed listed herewith.

This Resolution shall take effect according to law.

RESOLUTION #25-212

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO CANISTEAR ROAD

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need for contracting services for Proposed Line Striping Improvements to Canistear Road; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has received three (3) quotes for the proposed improvements of line striping for Canistear Road; and

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Engineer has reviewed the quotes received and recommends the Township Council award a contract for Line Striping to Denville Line Painting, Inc. in an amount of \$13,765.07, per quote dated July 10, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer of the Township of Vernon has certified that the funds for this contract are available in Account #C-04-25-06-00 Road Improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the contract for the Line Striping Improvements to Canistear Road be awarded to Denville Line Painting, Inc., at the amount not to exceed listed herewith.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately according to law.

RESOLUTION #25-213

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO CANISTEAR ROAD

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need for contracting services for Proposed Improvements to Canistear Road; and

WHEREAS, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council advertised and received bids for Milling & Paving; and

WHEREAS, the bids received allowed for vendors to extend their pricing to municipalities who are a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, a State regulated County Contract Purchasing System; and

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Engineer recommends the Township Council award a contract for Milling & Paving, through the use of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council to the following contractor:

- 1) Milling & Paving: Tilcon New York, Inc (Contract # 6) in an amount of **\$490,501.75**

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer of the Township of Vernon has certified that the funds for these contracts are available in Account #C-04-25-06-00 Road Improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the vendor Tilcon New York, LLC. be utilized for the Improvements to Canistear Road through the respective Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council contract at the amount not to exceed listed herewith.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately according to law.

RESOLUTION #25-214

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL
FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO MACPEEK ROAD**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need for contracting services for Proposed Improvements to MacPeek; and

WHEREAS, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council advertised and received bids for Milling & Paving, Line Striping, Guide Rails and Drainage Inlet Accessories; and

WHEREAS, the bids received allowed for vendors to extend their pricing to municipalities who are a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, a State regulated County Contract Purchasing System; and

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Engineer recommends the Township Council award contracts for Milling & Paving, Line Striping, Guide Rails, and Drainage Inlet Accessories (subject to final approvals from the New Jersey Department of Transportation) through the use of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council to the following contractors:

- 1) Milling & Paving: Tilcon New York, Inc. (Contract # 6) in an amount of **\$207,165.50**;
- 2) Line Striping: Dan Swayze & Son Inc. (Contract #36) in an amount of **\$6,830.50**;
- 3) Guide Rails: Road Safety Systems, LLC (Contract #26) in an amount of **\$96,916.00**;
- 4) Drainage Inlet Accessories Campbell Foundry Co. (Contract #14) in an amount of **\$887.80**

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer of the Township of Vernon has certified that the funds for these contracts are available in Account #C-04-25-06-00 Road Improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that the vendors Tilcon New York, Inc., Dan Swayze & Son Inc, Road Safety Systems, and Campbell Foundry Co. be utilized for the Improvements to MacPeek Road through the respective Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council contracts at the amounts not to exceed listed herewith, subject to the final approval from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately according to law.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #25-202: Resolution Awarding CC# 6-2025 to Lew Environmental in a Fair and Open Award for Lead Paint Inspection Consultant

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-202.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto
NAYES:

ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta,

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-202.

RESOLUTION #25-202

**Resolution Awarding CC# 6-2025
To Lew Environmental in a Fair and Open Award
for Lead Paint Inspection Consultant**

WHEREAS, there is a need for a lead paint inspection consultant to accomplish the daily service requirements of various departments within the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1et seq.) allows the use of competitive contracts and approved by council resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Township duly advertised for public receipt of competitive contracts providing the required 20 days prior to receipt for CC# 6-2025 in a fair and open manner, consistent with N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.5 et. Seq., and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received competitive contracts for lead paint inspection consultant, on July 22, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the rating committee has reviewed the submittals and rated according to the direction under competitive contracts as required within N.J.A.C. 5:34-4 et. Seq., and

WHEREAS, Lew Environmental Services LLC, 181 US Highway 46, Mine Hill, N.J. has provided the response most advantageous to the Township of Vernon under the demands of price and other factors found within statute; and

WHEREAS, the process was administered as required by law by the Qualified Purchasing Agent who has concurred with the legality of the purchase in accord with the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the term of contract is allowable for up to five (5) years as authorized under N.J.S.A.40A:11-4.1 et. Seq., and

WHEREAS, the subject to future budget approvals in the yearly budget as approved by the governing body the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds are available:

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

1. The contract for CC#6-2025 for Lead paint Inspection Consultant Services, is hereby awarded to Lew Environmental Services LLC, 181 US Highway 46, Mine Hill, N.J. for a five (5) year contract.
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Lew Environmental Services LLC, 181 US Highway 46, Mine Hill, N.J., as provided for in resolution and payment proposal as found within CC#6-2025.

Resolution #25-203: Resolution Rejecting Bid Submittals for Bid # 5R-2025 1st Responders Memorial Bid

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-203.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto

NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta,

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-203.

RESOLUTION #25-203

**RESOLUTION REJECTING BID SUBMITTALS FOR
BID # 5R-2025 1st RESPONDERS MEMORIAL BID**

WHEREAS, the Township duly advertised and received responses for Bid 5R-2025. First Responders Memorial Bid, on July 22, 2025, in a fair and open manner, consistent with N.J.S.A 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Township received one (1) bid, from Robbie Lane Enterprises, 38 Jacksonville Rd., Towaco, New Jersey, 07082, in the amount of \$275,000.00, substantially above the budgetary estimates; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2(a) allows for a Township to reject bids when:

“40A:11-13.2. Rejection of bids; reasons

A contracting unit may reject all bids for any of the following reasons:

- a. The lowest bid substantially exceeds the cost estimates for the goods or services”; and

WHEREAS, the bid as submitted exceed the estimated costs of the project and it is recommended that the Township Committee authorize rejecting all bids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the bid in response to Bid 5R-2025 First Responders Memorial Bid, is hereby rejected in accord with N.J.S.A.40A:11-13.2(a).

Resolution #25-204: Resolution Authorizing Negotiations for Receipt of Bids for 1st Responders Memorial Project Under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(3)

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-204.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-204.

RESOLUTION #25-204

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATIONS
FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR 1st RESPONDERS MEMORIAL PROJECT UNDER N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(3)**

WHEREAS the Township publicly advertised and sought receipt of public bids on: July 1, 2025, and July 22, 2025, where no bids were received; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Local Publics Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(3) allows for negotiations subsequent to two (2) rejected or non-received bids; and,

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Township to authorize the Qualified Purchasing Agent to conduct the negotiations process; and

WHEREAS the desire of the Township of Vernon remains to secure a contract with a vendor to provide for a design and installation of the 1st Responders Memorial Project, and possessing the tenets as found within bids as advertised and received; and

WHEREAS relief is available through the New Jersey Local Public Contract Law N.J.S.A.40A:11-5(3) and the Township desires to avail itself of this remedy through negotiations

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, Sussex, County, that the Borough's Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to enter into negotiations with contractors under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11- 5(3) which correspond to available funding.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #25-205: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of ALTEC AT40G 4x4 Bucket Truck and Accessories Through Sourcewell National Cooperative 040924-ALT Global Rental Inc.

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-205.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A motion was made by Council Member Higgins to table resolution #25-205 and seconded by Council Member DeBenedetto.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to table resolution #25-205.

Resolution #25-208: Loan Agreement Between Mountain Creek Resort and the State of New Jersey By and For The Department of Environment Protection

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-208.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-208.

RESOLUTION #25-208

**LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOUNTAIN CREEK RESORT AND
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY AND FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Vernon desires to further the public interest by co-signing for a Loan from the State of New Jersey to the Mountain Creek Resort in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) to fund the rehabilitation of the Mountain Creek Dam.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the governing body authorizes the Mayor or Township Administrator or the successor to the office of the Mayor or Township Administrator is authorized (a) to execute a Loan Agreement as the Co-borrower with the State for a Loan in an amount not more than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) to be made to the Mountain Creek Resort and (b) to execute any amendments thereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Township Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes and hereby agrees to complete the dam restoration project and to reimburse the State in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement in the event of a default on the part of the Mountain Creek Resort. The Township of Vernon agrees to comply with all applicable federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the Loan Agreement.

Resolution #25-210: Resolution Appointing Thomas Van Leuven as Fire Official for the Township of Vernon

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-210.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-210.

RESOLUTION #25-210

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT
OF THOMAS VAN LEUVEN AS FIRE OFFICIAL
FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is in need of appointing a Fire Official; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Van Leuven is currently serving as the Provisional Fire Official for the Township of Vernon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, authorizes the appointment of Thomas Van Leuven as Fire Official for the Township of Vernon.

Resolution #25-215: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Reduction of the Municipal Portion of Gun and Carry Permit Fee Effective January 1, 2026

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-215.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto
NAYES:

ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-215.

RESOLUTION #25-215
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE
OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION OF THE MUNICIPAL
PORTION OF GUN AND CARRY PERMIT FEE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4, applicants for permits to carry a handgun are required to pay an application fee in the amount of \$200, of which \$150 is paid to the municipality and \$50 is paid directly to the Superintendent of the State Police; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township recognizes that the statutory fee structure imposes financial burdens on applicants and wishes to ease that burden for residents by offering refunds of Vernon Township’s portion of the application fee; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township recognizes that the United States Supreme Court has long held that taxes on fundamental rights are unconstitutional and that the statutory fee prescribed by N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4 is more than a mere processing fee and is therefore a tax on a core constitutional right; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township has determined that it is in the public interest to establish an administrative process for reducing the \$150 municipal portion of the application fee for a carry permit which will be in effect on January 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Vernon Township, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, amend Chapter 250, “Fees and Escrows”, Article II, “Fees and Escrows Enumerated”, § 250-11, Police, to reduce the fees associated with gun permits and carry permits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be made available to the public and posted in accordance with the law and on the Vernon Township website for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #25-11: An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 5, Entitled, “Administration of Government” of the Code of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #25-11.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #25-11.

Ordinance #25-12: An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 250, Entitled, “Fees and Escrows” of the Code of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #25-12.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, DeBenedetto, Higgins, Rizzuto
NAYES:

ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Sparta

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #25-12.

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #25-10: An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 409, Parking for Gold Star Families, of the Code of the Township of Vernon

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #25-10.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri
All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #25-10.

Sally Rinker – feels that the bills list should be voted on before money is spent.

Peg Distasi – commented that this was done before it was approved.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #25-10.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor for public comment.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #25-10.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #25-10.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-10

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 409, PARKING FOR GOLD STAR FAMILIES, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON.

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon would like to acknowledge the significant sacrifices that the families of those who have served in our armed forces and gave their lives for our country, not go unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:3-10(f)(6) and N.J.S.A. 39:3-27-141, any verified “Gold Star Family Member”, which means a spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the United States, with a Gold Star license plate or a placard issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, may park in designated spaces for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to honor those men and woman who served in our armed forces and Gold Star families whose loved one gave their lives for this country, the Township Council of the Township of

Vernon finds that it is appropriate to establish a parking program to reserve certain public parking spaces for the exclusive use of these families.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 409, Parking for Gold Star Families, is hereby enacted as follows:

“409-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following term shall have the meanings indicated:

- A. “Gold Star Family member” means a spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the United States.”

409-2. Courtesy parking spaces for Gold Star Family Members.

Courtesy parking spaces for Gold Star Family members displaying Gold Star license plates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-27.141, or license indicating Gold Star Family member pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:3-10(f)(6):

- A. Parking spaces shall be designated for Gold Star Family members at the following parking lots in Vernon Township:

- 1) One (1) parking space in the Township Municipal Complex;
- 2) One (1) parking space in the Maple Gange Park; and
- 3) Two (2) parking spaces in the Veterans Memorial Park.

409-3. Violations and Penalties.

Any person without the appropriate designated Gold Star Family member license plate or placard violating or failing to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be punishable by a fine of not more than \$200 for a first offense, and a fine of \$300 for a second and/or subsequent violation.”

SECTION 2. All other Ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication according to 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.

Sally Rinker – expressed concern about spending money in the town. Ms. Rinker feels that her civil rights have been violated.

Peg Distasi – feels that the Council could have saved tax dollars.

Tim McQuade – is in favor of lowering the gun fees. Mr. McQuade does not understand how Vernon does not have a bucket truck. Mr. McQuade commented on the Civil Service timelines.

Bryan Jansen – commented on the process for firearm fees. Mr. Jansen also commented on the bucket truck.

Bryce Genello – commented on resolution #25-202. Mr. Genello feels that the town needs a bucket truck. Mr. Genello commented on the gun fees.

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

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: DeBenedetto

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member DeBenedetto commented that she will not be running for Council in November.

Council Member Higgins commented on SCUMA and he feels that because of Pat Rizzuto knowing how to negotiate and his experience, saved the town the town a lot of money.

Council Member Buccieri commented that there is no way the police officer was doing background checks full-time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto reminded everyone that the kids are going back to school and will be on school buses. Council President Rizzuto invited the public to any open houses that the schools are conducting to attend and see what is going on in the schools. He will also be sending a welcome letter to the new Superintendent welcoming her to the community and inviting her to speak to the Council. Finally, Council President Rizzuto reminded everyone about the event coming up in November celebrating the 50th anniversary of the high school.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:49 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: September 8, 2025