VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 7:00 PM

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on September 14, 2026 in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey with Council President Higgins presiding.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE
Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press on January 22, 2026, 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 Higgins led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL
Present were Council Members, Carl Contino, Sandra Ooms, Patrick Rizzuto, Bradley Sparta and Council President William Higgins. Also present were Business Administrator Tina Kraus, Township Attorney Peter King and Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

Mayor Rossi entered the meeting at 7:23 pm.

DEMONSTRATION
CYVL

PRESENTATION
Economic Development Advisory Committee - Film Ready Community

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

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

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

Patricia Seger – commented on the CYVL presentation. Ms. Seger feels that the roads in High Ridge are in bad shape and she asked how roads are determined to be paved and what the ten-year program is.

Doreen Edwards – questioned items on the bills list.

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

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 13, 2026 - Executive Session Minutes

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the July 13, 2026 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Ooms

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved July 13, 2026 executive session minutes.

July 13, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the July 13, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Contino

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved July 13, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

August 10, 2026 – Executive Session Minutes
Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the August 10, 2026 executive session minutes.

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved August 10, 2026 executive session minutes.

August 10, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the August 10, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approved August 10, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #26-273: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROCUREMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE THROUGH SOURCEWELL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #020625-ZET -SPECTRUM COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH ZETRON AWARDED CONTRACT

Council Member Ooms made a motion to pull resolution #26-273 from the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Contino

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to pull resolution #26-273 from the agenda.

Resolution #26-246: AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF A REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONTRACT WITH CYYL INC. FOR PURCHASE OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTUCTURE PLATFORM

Council Member Sparta made a motion to table resolution #26-246. Seconded by Council Member Ooms.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to table resolution #26-246.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #26-256: CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF $3,089.54

Resolution #26-257: CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF $25,000.00

Resolution #26-258: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS THROUGH SOURCEWELL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #112025-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. (Quote No. 10262692)

Resolution #26-259: REFUND OVERPAYMENT (Block 326 Lot 7)

Resolution #26-260: AUTHORIZING NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT 23-FOOD-47764 FLOORING SERVICES

Resolution #26-261: REFUND OVERPAYMENT (Block 527 Lot 453 – Del Purgatorio)

Resolution #26-262: AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF AN ELECTRICAL SERVICES BID #26-08 TO JEM ELECTRIC

Resolution #26-263: REFUND OVERPAYMENT (Block 528 Lot 11 – Thompson)

Resolution #26-264: REFUND OVERPAYMENT (Block 472 Lot 67 – Folb)

Resolution #26-265: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, SCAROLA

Resolution #26-266: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, EHMAN
Resolution #26-267: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, BENANTI

Resolution #26-268: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, COLIANNI

Resolution #26-269: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, FERRARA

Resolution #26-270: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, ZOSCHE

Resolution #26-271: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, THOMA

Resolution #26-272: REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, ROARK

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #26-256

CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF $3,089.54

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 $3,089.54 National Opioid Settlement; and wishes to amend its 2026 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 2026 in the sum of $3,089.54 which is now available as a revenue,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of $3,089.54 is hereby appropriated under the caption National Opioid Settlement.

RESOLUTION #26-257

CHAPTER 159 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET AS A REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION OF $25,000.00

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 $25,000.00 County of Sussex FY2026 Trails Grant for Maple Grange Loop: Trail Restoration, Hazard Mitigation and Forest Stewardship Project; and wishes to amend its 2026 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 2026 in the sum of $25,000.00 which is now available as a revenue,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of $25,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Sussex County Grant FY2026.

RESOLUTION #26-258

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS THROUGH SOURCEWELL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE #112025-EFM THROUGH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.
(Quote No. 10262692)

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

WHEREAS, the governing body of Vernon Township approved in Resolution 19-164 authorizing leasing of certain vehicles through Sourcewell National Cooperative #112025-EFM through Enterprise Fleet Management Services, Inc., and this is an extension of that resolution; and

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WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contract Law P.L. 2011, C.139 (the "Law" or "Chapter 139" and N.J.S.A.52:34-6.2 the regulations promulgated there under in Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10, the following purchase without competitive bids from vendor with a National Cooperative Contract is hereby approved for municipalities, and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has the need to procure certain vehicles through lease program for Township services in accord with the Local Publics Contract Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. Seq., and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has previously acted in accord with New Jersey public procurement statutes and regulations as promulgated by formally joining a recognized and compliant national cooperative, being the Sourcewell National Cooperative, and;

WHEREAS, the regulations as set forth within Local Finance Notice LFN 2012-10 have been fully complied with, and;

WHEREAS, the equipment and corresponding Sourcewell National Cooperative contract is #112025-EFM for Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the cost savings determination as required under LFN 2012-10 is the cost of contract as there is currently no cooperative lease program in effect under the New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property; and

WHEREAS, the quoted cost under the Sourcewell National contract is $74,530.00 (Quote No. 10262692); and

WHEREAS, that the governing body of Vernon Township pursuant to NJAC 5:30-5.5(b) (the certification of available funds), states that the Chief Finance Officer shall either certify the full maximum amount against the budget at the time the contract is awarded, or no contract amount shall be chargeable or certified until such time as the goods or services are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order, and a certification of availability of funds is made by the Chief Finance Officer; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Business Administrator is hereby directed to effectuate the contract with Enterprise Fleet Management Services Inc. under Sourcewell contract #112025-EFM in accord with the provisions of the tenets as established within 40A:11-1 et. Seq.

RESOLUTION #26-259

REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 326 Lot 7)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to Donald and Michelle Matus, in the amount of $2,113.95 representing refund for overpayment of 3rd qtr. 2026 property taxes for Block 326 Lot 7.

RESOLUTION #26-260

AUTHORIZING NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT
23-FOOD-47764
FLOORING SERVICES

WHEREAS a need exists for a flooring solution for the offices within the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS the Township of Vernon may, without advertising for bids, purchase such materials through the New Jersey State Purchase and Property State Contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 et. Seq., and

WHEREAS, under the state contract award, the following vendor holds New Jersey State Purchase and Property State Contract 23-FOOD-47764, for flooring services:

Flooring Foundation, 5 Garner Road, Bloomsbury, N.J.

WHEREAS, Flooring Foundation has proposed service consistent with New Jersey State Contract 23-FOOD-47764 in the amount of $68,500.00; and

WHEREAS the Chief Financial Officer certifies funds in the amount not to exceed $68,500.00 in the following accounts are available:

C-04-26-014-10

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:11-12 & N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 that it authorizes the use of state contract number 23-FOOD-47764, for flooring services from Flooring Foundation, 5 Garner Road, Bloomsbury, N.J. in the amount of $68,500.00.

RESOLUTION #26-261

REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 527 Lot 453 – Del Purgatorio)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to in the amount of $2658.06 representing refunds for overpayments for both 1st and 2nd qtrs. 2026 property taxes for Block 527 Lot 453.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Del Purgatorio	**527**	**453**	**$2658.06**
		TOTAL:	**$2658.06**

RESOLUTION #26-262

Authorize the Award of an Electrical Services Bid # 26-08 to JEM Electric

WHEREAS, there is a need for electrical services contractor in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received bids in a fair and open manner (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5), for electrical services under bid 26-08, on August 12, 2026, at 12:00P.M., to wit:

	Magic Touch Construction Co., Inc.	Avatar Tech LLC	Sal Electric Co., Inc.	JEM Electric	Kieffer Electric, Inc.
Foreman					

Standard Hourly Rate	$150.00	$156.62	$145.00	$135.00	$165.00
Overtime Rate	$225.00	$234.93	$190.00	$195.00	$245.00
Weekend/ Holiday Rate	$300.00	$313.24	$250.00	$270.00	$325.00
Helper					
Standard Hourly Rate	$125.00	$69.77	$65.00	$60.00	$75.00
Overtime Rate	$187.50	$104.66	$130.00	$95.00	$245.00
Weekend/ Holiday Rate	$250.00	$139.54	$150.00	$120.00	$325.00
TOTAL	**$1,237.50**	**$1,018.76**	**$930.00**	**$875.00**	**$1,380.00**
Markup Parts	10%	15%	15%	7%	10%
Markup Equip	10%	15%	10%	10%	10%

; and

WHEREAS, JEM Electric, 337 Rutherford Ave., Franklin, New Jersey, 07422, has provided for the lowest bid deemed responsive and responsible to the specifications and legal requirements as provided for within the bid document, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4A; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with JEM Electric, for a two (2) year contract for Electrical Services in accord with the tenets of contract found within Bid 26-08; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, extensions to contract shall be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15

RESOLUTION #26-263

REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 528 Lot 11 – Thompson)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to in the amount of $1811.16 representing refund for overpayment for 3rd qtr. 2026 property taxes for Block 528 Lot 11.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Thompson	**528**	**11**	**$1811.16**
		TOTAL:	**$1811.16**

RESOLUTION #26-264

REFUND OVERPAYMENT
(Block 472 Lot 67 – Folb)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, Vernon, New Jersey, that a warrant be drawn to in the amount of $1148.56 representing refund for overpayment for 2nd qtr. 2019 property taxes for Block 472 Lot 67.

OWNER	BLOCK	LOT	REFUND AMOUNT
Folb	**472**	**67**	**$1148.56**
		TOTAL:	**$1148.56**

RESOLUTION #26-265

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, SCAROLA

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Nicholas Scarola.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Nicholas Scarola.

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

RESOLUTION #26-266

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, EHMAN

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Harry Ehman.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Harry Ehman.

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

RESOLUTION #26-267

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, BENANTI

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Andrew Benanti.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Andrew Benanti.

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

RESOLUTION #26-268

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, COLIANNI

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Jared Colianni.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Jared Colianni.

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

RESOLUTION #26-269

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, FERRARA

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Michael Ferrara.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Michael Ferrara.

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

RESOLUTION #26-270

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, ZOSCHE

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Wallace Zosche.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Wallace Zosche.

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

RESOLUTION #26-271

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, THOMA

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Timothy Thoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Timothy Thoma.

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

RESOLUTION #26-272

REFUND FOR CARRY PERMIT MUNICIPAL FEE, ROARK

WHEREAS, mayor and township council of the township of Vernon have adopted ordinance 26-04 dated 2/9/2026 allowing the refund of the municipal fee portion of the conceal carry application;

WHEREAS, to ease the financial burden, the Township of Vernon will offer a refund of $150 for the municipal fee to Donald Roark.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes the Township of Vernon Finance Department to refund the municipal portion of the conceal carry application fee in the amount of $150 to Donald Roark.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #26-19: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REGULATING AND PROHIBITING THE RENTAL OF PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #26-19

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Contino

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #26-19.

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #26-17: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §250-9 FEES AND ESCROWS OF THE VERNON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

President Higgins asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #26-17.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-17.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to come forward, President Higgins asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #26-17.

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-17.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #26-17.

MOVED: Rizzuto

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES: Contino, Ooms
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #26-17.

ORDINANCE #26-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §250-9 FEES AND ESCROWS OF THE VERNON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

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

1. The following section shall be amended to the Administrative Code §250-9

G. Recreation Department Fees.

3. Use of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Pavilion.
a. **$100.00 for a 4 hour time slot for residents.**
b. **$200.00 for a 4 hour time slot for non-residents.**

2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions that are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent necessary.

3. If any article, section, subsection, term or condition of this Ordinance is declared invalid or illegal for any reason, the balance of the Ordinance shall be deemed severable and shall remain in full force and effect.

4. This Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage according to law.

Ordinance #26-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC OF THE VERNON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

President Higgins asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #26-18.

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Contino

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-18.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to come forward, President Higgins asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #26-18

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the floor to the public for public hearing of ordinance #26-18.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #26-18.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta, Higgins
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #26-18.

ORDINANCE #26-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC OF THE VERNON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

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

1. The following section shall be amended to the Administrative Code § 99-50 Hiring of Off Duty Police Officers:

F. Whenever the Chief of Police determines that the use of a police vehicle is required or requested for a contracted off-duty police assignment, the requesting vendor shall reimburse the Municipality for the use of the vehicle.

1. The fee for the use of a police vehicle shall be **$10.00 per vehicle per hour**, billed in one-hour increments, with a minimum charge of three (3) hours.

2. The vehicle fee shall be in addition to the hourly compensation paid for the assigned police officer(s), administrative fees, and any other authorized charges.

3. The Chief of Police shall determine when a police vehicle is required based upon public safety, traffic control, visibility, or operational needs.

2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions that are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent necessary.

3. If any article, section, subsection, term or condition of this Ordinance is declared invalid or illegal for any reason, the balance of the Ordinance shall be deemed severable and shall remain in full force and effect.

4. This Ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage according to law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

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

MOVED: Rizzuto
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

Ryan and Mila – commented on Burgher Road and Lake Wanda. They asked if there is a setback to the waterline onto someone's property that is considered public. A major problem is a bever dam on a major tributary to the lake that washes out several roads.

Ann Larson – expressed concern with PILOT programs. Ms. Larson commented on all of the glowing praises regarding Josh Gottheimer, she feels they are not true.

Doreen Edwards – questioned why the speaker system is working now. Ms. Edwards expressed concern with being film ready and asked what tax abatement has to do with it. Ms. Edwards is not in favor of PILOT programs.

Elaine Badgley – questioned if there have been any new buildings in front of the Land Use Board. Ms. Badgley expressed concern with PILOT programs.

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

MOVED: Ooms
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Contino questioned the ownership of Burgher Road. Council member Contino has driven through High Ridge and he questioned why certain roads are chosen to be paved.

Council Member Rizzuto was pleased to attend the recent 911 Ceremony. There were three individuals from our area who lost their lives on that day. Council Member Rizzuto hopes that the schools develop a curriculum to remember 911.

Council Member Ooms had no comments.

Council Member Sparta had no comments.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Higgins thanked the DPW and the Mayor for the lighting to help his horseshoe league play at night. He commented that the 911 Ceremony was moving and was glad he could attend it. Council Member Higgins commented that there is no development for buildings in front of the Land Use Board. Council Member Higgins commented on certain roads in Vernon and why they get paved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:37 pm Council Member Ooms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Contino.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

_____
William Higgins
Council President

Minutes approved: September 28, 2026