

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2024 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on October 28, 2024 via Zoom Webinar and 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 17, 2024 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, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also, present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Kraus, Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio, Township Attorney Matthew Moench.

Council Member DeBenedetto was not present.

MAYOR COMMENTS

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: Sparta

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Seeing no 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

October 17, 2024 – Executive Session

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the October 17, 2024 executive session meeting minutes.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN: Higgins

ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to approved the October 17, 2024 executive session meeting minutes.

October 17, 2024 – Regular Meeting

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the October 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approved the October 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #24-274: Approval of Cooperative Purchasing Contract, Uniform Cleaning Supply – OMNIA Cooperative Contract 001299 – “Cintas Inc.”

Resolution #24-276: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 124 Lot 1 - Dolan)

Resolution #24-277: (Block 124 Lot 1 – (Dolan) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #24-278: (Block 124 Lot 1 – (Dolan) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

All Members Present Were in Favor

Motion carries to approved the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #24-274

Approval of Cooperative Purchasing Contract, Uniform Cleaning and Supply – OMNIA Cooperative Contract 001299- “Cintas Inc.”

WHEREAS, there is a need for Uniform Rental, Supply and workplace accessories within the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, this service can be purchased through Omnia Cooperative Contract 001299; and

WHEREAS, this service has proposed for the Township of Vernon in amounts consistent with cooperative contract 001299; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon can procure this through the OMNIA cooperative contract under the authority of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11 et. Seq; and

WHEREAS, subject to the approval of future budgets, the Chief Financial Officer certifies that funds are available in the 2025 current fund.

WHEREAS, the purchasing agent has concurred with the legality of the purchase in accord with the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S..40A:11-11 et. Seq.).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Towns of Vernon, in the County of Sussex as follows: the Mayor is authorized to enter into a contract with Cintas Inc.,

6800 Cintas Boulevard, Cincinnati, OH 45262, under the authority of Omnia Cooperative Contract 001299 for the Uniform Cleaning and Supply and workplace accessories.

RESOLUTION #24-276

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 124 Lot 1-Dolan)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Daniel Dolan 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 2024 property tax in the amount of \$829.79 to Daniel Dolan.

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

RESOLUTION #24-277

**(Block 124 Lot 1 – (Dolan))
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Daniel Dolan 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 2024 in the amount of \$1,763.53.

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

RESOLUTION #24-278

**(Block 124 Lot 1 – (Dolan))
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Daniel Dolan 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 \$3,387.60.

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

RESOLUTION

Resolution #24-275: Resolution Accepting Bid of Country Classic Auto Body LLC for Bid # 13-2024 Tanker Repair Services

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-275.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-275

RESOLUTION #24-275

**Resolution Accepting Bid of Country Classic Auto Body LLC
for Bid # 13-2024 Tanker Repair Services**

WHEREAS, there is a need for a Tanker Repair Services Bid contractor in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon publicly advertised for buds and received in a public manner on October 24, 2024. for Tanker Repair under bid 13-2024; and

WHEREAS, the Township received one (1) bid for service:

:

NAME OF BIDDER	Country Classic Auto Body LLC
LUMP SUM	\$60,068.17

WHEREAS, the Qualified Purchasing Agent has reviewed the bid submitted by Country Classic Auto Body LLC and found them to be the lowest responsible bidder in accord with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4(a).

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

1. The contract for Tanker Repair Bid is hereby awarded to Country Classic Auto Body LLC in the amount of \$60,068.17
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Country Classic Auto Body LLC. for Tanker Repair Bid in accord with the tenets of contract found within Bid 13-2024, commencing upon passage of resolution and execution of contract.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #24-23: Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of New Equipment for Use by the Department of Public Works of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$540,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$513,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Such Appropriation

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #24-23.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #24-23.

Ordinance #24-24: Ordinance Addressing Clothing Allowance for Members of Volunteer Ambulance and First Aid Squads Serving the Township

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #24-24.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #24-24.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

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

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

Jessica Paladini – questioned what the Council spoke about in executive session. Ms. Paladini also questioned the need for a resolution for donations.

Ann Larsen – expressed concern with ordinance #24-14. Ms. Larsen expressed concern with the annual assessment program.

Karina – expressed concern with rain water on her property.

Scott Cassell – expressed concern with the annual assessment program and the executive session.

Stephanie Vecharello – expressed concern with the Council answering certain questions.

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

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to close the floor to public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins welcomed some of the candidates for the Board of Education and wished them luck.

Council Member Sparta Had no comment.

Council Member Buccieri had no comment.

Council Member Sparta had no comment.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto had no comment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 pm Council Member Sparta 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: December 9, 2024