

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

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

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press on January 19, 2025, and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Council President Rizzuto led the assemblage in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council Members, Natalie Buccieri, Jessica DeBenedetto, William Higgins, Bradley Sparta and Council President Patrick Rizzuto. Also present were Mayor Anthony Rossi, Business Administrator Tina Kraus, Donelle Bright, Township Attorney Peter King and Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Rossi gave his condolences to the Knipe Family for the loss of their daughter. He also mentioned Brian Lynch's brother passed away and he sent his condolences to him.

The Township won the Municipal Award 2025 for providing business attraction and retention incentives and or a business-friendly attitude and services.

Vernon received a Dot Grant \$176,000 to pave Canistear Road.

The Police Department held their Food Drive this week. Thank you for all of the donations for Vernon Township.

The water expansion project is continuing from Theta back onto Church St.

The Princeton Hydro report was received for all of the lake communities in Vernon.

Vernon Township now has an official Facebook page for information.

Saturday November 29th will be a ribbon cutting for Aqua Pure.

The Holiday Market and Cobblestone Village were successful.

The Turkey Trot will be Thanksgiving morning and check in is at 7:00 am.

The Senior Center Mixer was held at Milano Restaurant this week.

Sussex County has purchased a new stove for the Senior Center.

Quiet Time with Santa for children with special needs will be held December 5th at 6:00 pm in the Senior Center.

The Holiday Tree Lighting will be held at the Firehouse at 6:00 pm the same night.

Wreaths Across America is at 10:00 am at the Glenwood Cemetery on December 13th.

Operation Toy Train will take place at Veteran's Park at 4:30 pm on December 13th.

Mayor Rossi spoke about the garbage pick up incentive that was not on the agenda today.

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.

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

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

MOVED: DeBenedetto

SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #25-301: Approval of 2024 LOSAP List

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-301.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: DeBenedetto

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-301.

**RESOLUTION #25-301
APPROVAL OF 2024 LOSAP
LIST**

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Volunteer Fire Companies and Vernon Emergency Services and Rescue Squad have provided to the Township Committee annual certification identifying all active volunteer members who have qualified for credit for the year 2024; and

WHEREAS, after initial review by the Township Council the lists have been posted in the respective buildings of each participating emergency service organization for a period of at least 30 days for review by members; and

WHEREAS, there has been no objection or complaint received from any member of those organizations or from the organizations themselves, or the lists have been corrected, and the lists have again been reviewed by the Township Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that the attached lists indicating qualified members for each agency for the respective year and amounts are approved.

Resolution #25-302: Approving Active Volunteer Firefighter for Membership in the New Jersey State Fireman’s Association (Dispaltro)

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #25-302.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #25-302.

RESOLUTION #25-302

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

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, Alicia M. Dispaltro, an active firefighter and member of the Highland Lakes 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 Alicia M. Dispaltro for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #25-17: Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, New Jersey Approving Application for a Long Term Tax Exemption and Authorizing the Execution of a Financial Agreement with Omega Drive Redevelopment Urban Renewal, LLC

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to table ordinance #25-17.

MOVED: DeBenedetto
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to table ordinance #25-17.

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.

Motion carries to open the meeting to the public.

Sally Rinker – questioned the use of social media and Facebook pages as official pages.

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: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins is hoping that there is more discussion on the 2026 budget because he feels that in the past there was not enough discussion. Council Member Higgins would like to see requests for proposals for Vernon’s professionals without them being automatically renewed. Council Member Higgins commented that there were not enough facts to vote on the garbage program and he feels that the PILOT program should not be rushed and we need more information.

Council Member DeBenedetto asked if the digital sign outside the municipal building could be slowed down. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Sparta believes that the garbage program has some merit for the community but it needs to be discussed more because the Council had some concerns about the program and the numbers.

Council Member Buccieri would like to have the garbage discussion again at the next meeting because she feels that the program could be a cost saver. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President complimented the owners of the Tracks Deli for providing service to the community by providing many residents who were not able to get their federal funding. Council President Rizzuto asked for volunteers for the many positions available in Vernon such as the fire departments. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Council President Rizzuto announced that the December 22nd meeting will be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:14 pm Council Member DeBenedetto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Council Member Sparta.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Patrick Rizzuto
Council President

Minutes approved: December 8, 2025