

**VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2024 7:00 PM**

This Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 7:00 p.m. on July 8, 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, William Higgins, Badley 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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Peddler/Solicitor Ordinances

MAYOR COMMENTS

Thank you, Council President. I want to first begin by reading a Press release that some may or may not have heard (Press Release attached). They say that being a police officer means you are always on duty, and Cpl. Rovetto has proven this testament to be true. Last week I swore in Vernon's next police officer Robert Bauman who was surrounded by his family members, girlfriend and many members of our police department, and I believe he started the Academy today. After graduation, he will appear before the council for a ceremonial swearing-in open to the public. We wish him the best of luck and support in his journey.

I want to thank the council for restoring the Historical Preservation Commission. This commission should have never been abolished. Preserving history is paramount for our township. I'm also working with the Historical society on returning many of our township artifacts to be put out on display where it belongs. I just want to be clear these artifacts are owned by the Historical Society which has been tirelessly working on preserving these artifacts. So, moving forward I want to put several members who applied to the Historical Preservation commission into the record and they are Jodi White -Bearstler, Mr. Ariel Lazo, Lisaann VanBlarcom Permuian and Cynthia Bogdon.

In addition to the Historical Preservation Commission, we also revived the Arts Advisory Committee and would like to put these applicants' names into the record. They are Brianne Valentino, Timothy Oldmixon and Bruce Young.

When I ran for office some of the issues, I said I would do and this is a page pulled out of my campaign website and you can see it for yourself and I quote "Invest in revitalizing downtown Vernon to make it more attractive for business investments"

Also

- Encourage and promote fundraising campaigns to fund projects that will not cost the taxpayer money, with this being said we have collected through donations a huge portion of the needed funds to make our township a bit more attractive. Businesses are investing. People want to see our town center area improved. Thank you to all of those who have donated money.
- I also mentioned in my campaign that I would quote Focus on core infrastructure projects like road repair and water/sewer upgrades. Tonight's council meeting agenda has a water expansion agreement. This agreement is for the approval for Veoli to expand its water franchise into our town center and to the Ryan homes project. I will also lay out the road

paving schedule towards the end. I hate to repeat myself again but this was also another campaign promise that I quote” Encourage the development of more housing in zoned areas and office space to diversify the tax base and increase rateables which are extremely important in means of EDUs for our sewer.

- One last Campaign promise I have mentioned is quote “Encourage community engagement through town hall meetings & social media to gather input on tax assessment methods”
 - We have already had a town hall meeting on the assessments, but one of the things I was talking to Council President about is, sometimes it’s hard for people to come down to the municipal building so I have decided to go on the road and come to you to have these discussions. I think it’s very important everyone understands the tax reassessment program and what its good and bad points are. I will be at the Highland lakes club house on August 20th at 7pm to talk with residents. I hope to be scheduling these discussions in other areas of Vernon.
 - Another page out of my website is to quote “Utilize the full potential of our current and future municipal employees. Well, saving a life is an investment we can never put a price tag on. Myself and over 40 employees will be taking the AED\CPR training. This training will be conducted by our Very own Kevin Duffy
 - On June 26th we had our Senior Olympics, which was a lot of fun. Proud to say Vernon took the Silver this year, Montaque taking the Gold and Hopatcong with the Broze. Council president did I hear you will be participating next year? Rumor has it.
 - Other topics worth mentioning is the Gypsy moth issue, we have submitted a request for a survey to be conducted by the DOA Department of agriculture. It’s pretty evident that we will be spraying next year, and hopefully we will receive funding to offset those costs

Speaking of funding we just received our grant writer portal access and login accounts today, so we can begin looking for all the available funds out there that are available to us. I will be happy to share with the council as well, please let me know who wants access.

Also, on the 4th of July I was at mountain creek and I have met with Joe Hession, for those who don’t know Mr. Hession he is the owner of Mountain Creek. I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Hession not only holding this event, but purchased all the fireworks, staff, bounce houses and games etc....and then donated all the proceeds to the Vernon township fire departments. One of my conversations with Mr. Hession was how important the 4th of July is to not only our country but our town. Mr. Hession and I talked about having a 4th of July parade in Vernon which we can end the parade inside Mountain creek since he holds the 4th of July event for Vernon it would only make sense, but we can have further discussions on the road map, So I’m looking to put together a committee of people along with our Rec Dept and Board that can help make this a reality for next year.

I know Chief Young and DPW Director Badcock is probably watching this right now so Gentleman you may want to hit pause and grab a cocktail or two before continuing this meeting, because

- If the parade wasn’t enough, I had a discussion with the owner of the Carnival, and asked to have this come to Vernon. He has agreed to it, but we will need to lock down a date. This date will need to be ok with the BOE and Vernon etc.
- The only requirements the carnival needs are an open area and a water spigot which sounds easy enough but This will be a huge undertaking because We will probably need help from the state and county folks as well because this will be a long stretch for our local police dep and other departments, to cover these several days.
- I have noticed that Warwick had the NY state police and Sheriffs dept assisting, so this may require another committee that can assist our Rec department and Rec board with the planning.
- I’m sure my friends in the county and Sheriff’s office will be happy to assist.
- I remember hearing about all the memories the carnival in Highland lakes brought so many people each year, not to mention this is also a huge revenue maker for our first

responders but most importantly it brings a community together like the success of the car show so hopefully we can make all new carnival memories going forward

- And finally, our road work is set to begin, which I will post the schedule. This schedule that I have Infront of me is a tentative schedule and is subject to change due to weather etc.... (attached Schedule)

That is my report for today council President. Thank you.

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: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Ann Larsen – questioned the Veolia water expansion project. Ms. Larsen feels that a July 4th parade is a good idea.

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: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

All members were in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS LIST

The Council reviewed the bills list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 24, 2024 – Regular Meeting

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve the June 24, 2024 regular meeting minutes as amended.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #24-200: Resolution Approving Loan Agreement with Highland Lakes Fire Department

Resolution #24-206: Authorize the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with Granicus Compliance Software

Resolution #24-207: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 202 Lot 39 Schwind)

Resolution #24-208: (Block 202 Lot 39 – Schwind) Cancelling Taxes Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #24-209: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 529 Lot 243-Rivera)

Resolution #24-210: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 529 Lot 243-Rivera)

Resolution #24-211: (Block 529 Lot 243-Rivera) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

Resolution #24-212: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 327 Lot 5-Cova-Gomez)

Resolution #24-213: Refund for Totally Disabled Veteran (Block 327 Lot 5-Cova-Gomez)

Resolution #24-214: (Block 327 Lot 5 Cova-Gomez) Cancelling Taxes for Total Disabled Veteran

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

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION #24-200

RESOLUTION APPROVING LOAN AGREEMENT WITH HIGHLAND LAKES FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, on or about June 24, 2024, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon (“Township”) passed a bond ordinance in the amount of 105,750.00, including a principal amount of \$100,000 and a downpayment of \$5,750, for the purpose of lending this money to the Highland Lakes Fire Department (HLFD) so that it may make improvements to the premises of the HLFD, including installation of new insulation, flooring, and lighting, the upgrade of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, and the improvement of the ceiling, together with all structures, equipment, work and materials necessary therefore or incidental thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Township and the HLFD seek to enter into a loan agreement for the loan the Township is providing to the HLFD through the bond ordinance, as set forth in **Exhibit A** attached hereto and fully incorporated by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds that this loan agreement provides an acceptable means of repayment of the money the Township is lending to the HLFD.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Township is hereby authorized to enter into a loan agreement with the HLFD, upon the terms as substantially set forth in **Exhibit A**, and that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Township Council.

RESOLUTION #24-206

AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF A REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONTRACT WITH GRANICUS FOR COMPLIANCE SOFTWARE

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need for contractor for its operations in service of the residents of the Township, through Granicus, 408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55012 as a required disclosure contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and,

WHEREAS, Sean Canning, Q.P.A., of the Canning Group, LLC has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500 and the anticipated term of this contract is for the year of 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, Granicus, 408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55012, in the aggregate is expected to provide more than the pay to play threshold of \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Granicus, 408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55012, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and a Personal Contribution Disclosure form which certifies that Granicus 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 Granicus from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the subject to the governing bodies approval of future budgets the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds NOT TO EXCEED \$29,700.88 are available in Line Items:

2024: 4-01-20-100-20
2025: 5-01-20-100-20 (subject to the 2025 Budget)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Business Administrator to enter into a contract with Granicus, 408 St. Peter Street, Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55012, not to exceed \$29,700.88 for the 2024-2025 budget year for contractor services;

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 #24-207

**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 2023 property tax in the amount of \$3,129.22 to Reno Schwind.

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

RESOLUTION #24-208

(Block 202 Lot 39 – (Schwind))

CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Reno Schwind 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 \$1,612.47.

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

RESOLUTION #24-209

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 529 Lot 243-(Rivera))**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Cesar Rivera 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 2023 property tax in the amount of \$2,343.09 to Cesar Rivera.

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

RESOLUTION #24-210

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 529 Lot 243-(Rivera))**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Cesar Rivera 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 \$2,293.51 to Cesar Rivera.

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

RESOLUTION #24-211

**(Block 529 Lot 243 – (Rivera))
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Cesar Rivera 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 \$1,473.20.

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

RESOLUTION #24-212

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 327 Lot 5-Cova-Gomez)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Fernando Cova-Gomez 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 2023 property tax in the amount of \$2,775.96 to Fernando Cova-Gomez.

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

RESOLUTION #24-213

**REFUND FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
(Block 327 Lot 5-Cova-Gomez)**

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS awarded Fernando Cova-Gomez 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 \$3,863.04 to Fernando Cova-Gomez.

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

RESOLUTION #24-214

**(Block 327 Lot 5 (Cova-Gomez))
CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN**

WHEREAS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS on awarded Fernando Cova-Gomez 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 \$2,126.28.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #24-201: Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not Exceeding \$140,000 Bond Anticipation Notes of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-201.

MOVED: Buccieri
SECOND: Higgins

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-201.

RESOLUTION #24-201

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING
\$140,000 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Pursuant to a bond ordinance of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex (the “Township”) entitled: “Bond ordinance providing for the restructuring of a portion of the cost of acquisition of capacity at the sanitary sewage treatment plant of the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, appropriating \$2,800,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$2,666,000 bonds or notes of the Township for financing such appropriation”, finally adopted on November 14, 2011 (#11-23), bond anticipation notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$140,000 shall be issued for the purpose of temporarily financing the improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of said bond ordinance, including (to any extent necessary) the renewal of any bond anticipation notes heretofore issued therefor.

Section 2. All bond anticipation notes (the “notes”) issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the treasurer, the chief financial officer or the acting chief financial officer of the Township (the “Chief Financial Officer”), provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer and shall be signed and sealed by officials and officers of the Township in any manner permitted by N.J.S.A. §40A:2-25. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued hereunder, and the Chief Financial Officer’s signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. §40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes at not less than par from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Township at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes hereunder is made. Such report must

include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 3. Any note issued pursuant to this resolution shall be a general obligation of the Township, and the Township’s faith and credit are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the notes and, unless otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to do all other matters necessary, useful, convenient or desirable to accomplish the delivery of the notes to the purchasers thereof as promptly as possible, including (i) the preparation, execution and dissemination of a Preliminary Official Statement and Final Official Statement with respect to the notes, (ii) preparation, distribution and publication, if necessary, of a Notice of Sale with respect to the notes, (iii) execution of a Continuing Disclosure Undertaking, with respect to the notes in accordance with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and (iv) execution of an arbitrage and use of proceeds certificate certifying that, among other things, the Township, to the extent it is empowered and allowed under applicable law, will do and perform all acts and things necessary or desirable to assure that interest paid on the notes is not included in gross income under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 5. All action heretofore taken by Township officials and professionals with regard to the sale and award of the notes is hereby ratified, confirmed, adopted and approved.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon motion of Buccieri, seconded by Higgins, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

Resolution #24-202: Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not Exceeding \$6,125,000 Bond Anticipation Notes of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey
President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-202.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-202.

RESOLUTION #24-202

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING
\$6,125,000 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, IN THE
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
VERNON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Pursuant to a bond ordinance of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex (the “Township”) entitled: “Bond ordinance appropriating \$4,015,000, and authorizing the issuance of \$3,130,000 bonds or notes of the Township, for various improvements or purposes authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey”, finally adopted on May 24, 2021 (#21-12), bond anticipation notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$1,904,000 shall be issued for the purpose of temporarily financing the improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of said bond ordinance, including (to any extent necessary) the renewal of any bond anticipation notes heretofore issued therefor.

Section 2. Pursuant to a bond ordinance of the Township entitled: “Bond ordinance providing for the acquisition of a new fire truck by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, appropriating \$655,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$424,047 bonds or notes of the Township for financing such appropriation”, finally adopted on April 11, 2022 (#22-08), bond anticipation notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$424,000 shall be issued for the purpose of temporarily financing the improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of said bond ordinance, including (to any extent necessary) the renewal of any bond anticipation notes heretofore issued therefor.

Section 3. Pursuant to a bond ordinance of the Township entitled: “Bond ordinance appropriating \$1,955,000, and authorizing the issuance of \$1,365,000 bonds or notes of the Township, for various improvements or purposes authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey”, finally adopted on May 23, 2022 (#22-10), bond anticipation notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$1,365,000 shall be issued for the purpose of temporarily

financing the improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of said bond ordinance, including (to any extent necessary) the renewal of any bond anticipation notes heretofore issued therefor.

Section 4. Pursuant to a bond ordinance of the Township entitled: “Bond ordinance appropriating \$2,861,000, and authorizing the issuance of \$2,432,486 bonds or notes of the Township, for various improvements or purposes authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey”, finally adopted on June 12, 2023 (#23-15), bond anticipation notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$2,432,000 shall be issued for the purpose of temporarily financing the improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of said bond ordinance, including (to any extent necessary) the renewal of any bond anticipation notes heretofore issued therefor.

Section 5. All bond anticipation notes (the “notes”) issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the treasurer, the chief financial officer or the acting chief financial officer of the Township (the “Chief Financial Officer”), provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer and shall be signed and sealed by officials and officers of the Township in any manner permitted by N.J.S.A. §40A:2-25. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued hereunder, and the Chief Financial Officer’s signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. §40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes at not less than par from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Township at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes hereunder is made. Such report must include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 6. Any note issued pursuant to this resolution shall be a general obligation of the Township, and the Township’s faith and credit are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the notes and, unless otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 7. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to do all other matters necessary, useful, convenient or desirable to accomplish the delivery of the notes to the purchasers

thereof as promptly as possible, including (i) the preparation, execution and dissemination of a Preliminary Official Statement and Final Official Statement with respect to the notes, (ii) preparation, distribution and publication, if necessary, of a Notice of Sale with respect to the notes, (iii) execution of a Continuing Disclosure Undertaking, with respect to the notes in accordance with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and (iv) execution of an arbitrage and use of proceeds certificate certifying that, among other things, the Township, to the extent it is empowered and allowed under applicable law, will do and perform all acts and things necessary or desirable to assure that interest paid on the notes is not included in gross income under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 8. All action heretofore taken by Township officials and professionals with regard to the sale and award of the notes is hereby ratified, confirmed, adopted and approved.

Section 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon motion of Higgins, seconded by Sparta, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

Resolution #24-203: Authorizing the Vernon Township Council to Approve a Person-to-Person Transfer of Liquor License #1922-33-007-016

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-203.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-203.

RESOLUTION #24-203

**AUTHORIZING THE VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO APPROVE A PERSON-TO-
PERSON TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE #1922-33-007-016**

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a person-to-person transfer of a Plenary Retail Consumption License #1922-33-007-016, for the purpose of changing the name of licensee wherein the sale, service and storage of alcoholic beverages are authorized; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon does hereby approve, effective as of July 8, 2024 a person-to person transfer of the Plenary Retail Consumption License #1922-33-007-016, located at 200 Route 94, Vernon, New Jersey to transfer from Appalachian Liquors Corp, to Mountain Creek Resort Inc. as delineated in the application form.

Resolution #24-204: Authorizing the Application for New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Grant

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-204.

MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-204.

RESOLUTION #24-204

AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES GRANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, for approximately \$16,000.00 State share with \$4,000.00 local share for a total contract of \$20,000.00 for 2024/2025 to provide therapeutic horse back riding recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Township of Vernon does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of the agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of such funds pursuant to the terms of said Agreement between the Township of Vernon and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, the agreement and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Resolution #24-205: Resolution Authorizing Water Main Extension and System Improvements Agreement with Veolia Water New Jersey Inc.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to approve resolution #24-205.
MOVED: Higgins
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to approve resolution #24-205.

RESOLUTION #24-205

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WATER MAIN EXTENSION AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT WITH VEOLIA WATER NEW JERSEY, INC.

WHEREAS, Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc. (“Veolia”) holds a franchise to provide water service to certain parts of the Township of Vernon (“Township”) pursuant to a municipal consent granted by the Township to Veolia, and approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to expand Veolia’s franchise area to provide domestic water service and fire protection services (via sprinkler systems and fire hydrants) as it will bring much needed water upgrades to the Township’s infrastructure and allow for future development, which is currently limited due to water access; and

WHEREAS, the Township and Veolia have negotiated a water main and sewer extension agreement which has been reviewed by the Township Attorney and CFO, as set forth in **Exhibit A** attached hereto and fully incorporated by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds that this agreement to be acceptable and in furtherance of the Township’s desired goal of expanding water services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Township is hereby authorized to enter into the water main extension and system improvement agreement with Veolia, upon the terms as substantially set forth in **Exhibit A**, and that the Mayor is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Township Council.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #24-14: Ordinance Addressing Construction Records Clearence

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #24-14.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #24-14.

Ordinance #24-15: Ordinance Amending the Salaries for Certain Officers and Employees of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #24-15.

MOVED: Higgins

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto,

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #24-15.

Ordinance #24-16: An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Providing for the Municipal Consent of the Township for Veolia Water New Jersey Inc. To Provide Water Services to Certain Properties Identified on Exhibit A Annexed Hereto in the Township of Vernon and for the Laying of Pipes and Installation of Other Utility Facilities as May be Necessary

Council President Rizzuto asked for a motion to introduce ordinance #24-16.

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Higgins, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto,

Motion carries to introduce ordinance #24-16.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Ordinance #24-13: Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey Addressing Taxis/Autocabs

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to open the floor for public hearing on ordinance #24-13.

MOVED: Natalie

SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Seeing no one from the public wishing to come forward, President Rizzuto asked for a motion to close the public hearing on ordinance #24-13.

MOVED: Higgins

SECONBuccieri

All members were in favor.

President Rizzuto asked for a motion to adopt ordinance #24-13.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Buccieri

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Buccieri, Sparta, Rizzuto

NAYES: Higgins

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: DeBenedetto,

Motion carries to adopt ordinance #24-13.

ORDINANCE #24-13

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADDRESSING TAXIS/AUTOCABS

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) finds that it is in the public interest and in order to ensure the safety and quality of life for all residents of and visitors to the Township, to create licensing requirements and regulate the operation of taxis and drivers of taxis engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township is authorized to create licensing requirements and regulate taxis/autocabs within the Township pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:16-2.

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

SECTION 1. Part II, titled “General Legislation”, is hereby supplemented as follows:

Chapter 568 Taxi Cabs

§ 568-1 Definitions.

As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

“Township” shall mean the Township of Vernon.

“Driver” shall mean any person who drives a taxi/autocab within this Township.

“Operation” of a taxi/autocab shall consist of transporting in such taxi/autocab of one or more persons for hire. A taxi/autocab which is operated or run over any street within the Township, to seek or accept passengers for transportation from points or places to points or places within or outside the Township shall be deemed to be operation of a taxi/autocab within the Township. A taxi/autocab parked or idling on a Township street or accepting a passenger for hire from a point of departure within the Township shall be deemed to be operation. Operation of a taxi/autocab by one other than the owner shall be deemed operation by the owner, as well as operation by the person actually driving the taxi/autocab. The transportation in or through the Township of any person other than the owner or driver of any motor vehicle bearing signs therein or thereon using the word “taxi”, “cab”, “autocab”, “car service”, “hack”, “dial a ride”, “call a ride”, “transport”, transport vehicle”, “car service” or “transportation” shall be prima facie evidence of operation.

“Owner” shall mean any person, corporation, business entity or association in whose name title to any taxi/autocab is registered with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, or who appears in any governmental records to be the conditional vendee or licensee thereof.

“Person” means and includes any individual, co-partnership, association, corporation or joint stock company, their lessees, trustees or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever.

“Taxi/Autocab” shall mean and include any automobile commonly called taxi, engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire which is held out, announced or advertised to operate or run, or which is operated or run over any of the streets within the Township and which accepts or discharges passengers for transportation from points or places to points or places within or outside the Township. “Taxi/Autocab” shall not include a limousine as defined by N.J.S.A. 48:16-3.

§ 568-2 Requirement of taxi/Autocab owner or operator license.

A. No person shall operate any taxi/autocab within the Township, unless the company, taxi and driver are currently licensed in good standing in a municipality which shares any part of a common border with the Township and has received an Intra-Municipal Taxi/Autocab License in accordance with this

ordinance and said person or corporation conforms to all of the laws and regulations of the State of New Jersey.

§ 568-3 Licenses.

A. All taxi/autocab owners and operators, operating within the Township shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.

B. There are hereby established one (1) class of taxi/autocab licenses in the Township as follows:

(1) Intra Municipal Taxi/Autocab License: This license shall entitle the vehicle therein listed and described to be used as a taxi/autocab and operated in this Township by a driver duly licensed hereunder.

§ 568-4 Applications for licenses.

A. Application Form.

(1) Each applicant for the issuance or renewal of a license shall supply, in full, the information requested on the application forms approved by the Chief of Police and obtained from the Township Clerk, and shall verify the correctness thereof by certification. The completed application must be filed with the Township Clerk, together with the fee hereinafter fixed.

B. Applications for Intra Municipal Taxi/Autocab Licenses shall be filed with the Township Clerk at any time, but no taxi/autocab shall be operated in the Township until the IntraMunicipal Taxi/Autocab is licensed in accordance with this section each year.

C. There shall be a maximum of fifty (50) Intra-Municipal Taxi/Autocab Licenses available for issuance. Said number may be increased (or decreased) subject to the discretion of the Township in accordance with N.J.S.A. §48:16-2.1 et seq.

D. Requirements for Intra-Municipal Taxi/Autocab Licenses. Each applicant for an IntraMunicipal Taxi/Autocab Licenses must meet all requirements of the original licensing municipality and be in “Good Standing” to be considered for issuance of a license:

(1) Be of the age of twenty-one (21) years, or over.

(2) Fully complete an application form provided by the Township Clerk, which shall be signed and sworn to or certified by the applicant and filed with the Township Clerk as a permanent record.

(3) Insurance.

(a) Each applicant for an Intra-Municipal Taxi/Autocab Licenses shall, together with the application, submit the insurance policy required by N.J.S.A. 48:16-3 et seq., covering the taxi/autocab sought to be licensed; and each applicant shall then and thereafter comply with all of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-1 et seq., as well as the acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto.

(b) The minimum acceptable insurance liability limit is one million five hundred thousand (\$1,500,000) dollars of combined single limit coverage.

§ 568-5 Issuance of license.

A. Upon notification by the Township Clerk of satisfactory fulfillment of the foregoing requirements, the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall either grant or deny the license application.

B. Any license issued pursuant to this section shall expire at midnight of the thirty-first (31st) day of December of the year in which it was issued except for the initial 2024 license, which will expire at midnight of the thirty-first (31st) day of December, 2024.

C. Licenses shall not be transferable.

§ 568-6 Fees.

A. The annual fee for each Intra-Municipal Taxi/Autocab license hereafter issued, or any renewal thereof, shall be as indicated in Ordinance § 250-17. The license is not transferable and is granted to a specific vehicle.

§ 568-7 Denial, revocation or suspension of licenses.

A. The Chief of Police or his/her designee may, in his/her discretion, refuse to issue or renew, or may revoke or suspend any owner's license issued hereunder if the applicant or licensee:

(1) Has been convicted of a crime in this or any other jurisdiction.

(2) Violates any provision of this ordinance.

(3) Has not complied fully with all of the requirements of this ordinance.

(4) If the motor vehicle licensed, or to be licensed, has unsafe or unsanitary conditions, or is otherwise dangerous to the safety or health of the occupants or others.

(5) If the policy of insurance required by N.J.S.A. 48:16-3 and Section 4(b)(4) of this Ordinance lapses, or such coverage is not maintained at all times.

(6) Has in any degree contributed to any injury to any person, or damage to property, arising out of reckless operation of a motor vehicle pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-96.

(7) Uses the vehicle's audible device improperly.

B. The licensee may appeal a refusal to renew, revocation, or suspension of his/her license to the Mayor and Council.

§ 568-8 Display of license and certificate of insurance.

A. No taxi/autocab shall be operated in the Township unless the taxi/autocab driver's license (including photographic identification) of the person operating the taxi/autocab, is prominently displayed and open to view of passengers in accordance with reasonable procedures of the issuing municipality which shares any part of a common border with the Township.

B. The Certificate of Insurance required by N.J.S.A. 48:16-6 shall likewise be prominently displayed in accordance with reasonable procedures of the Township provided by way of written notice to the licensee.

§ 568-9 Lettering and Visual Identification Symbol.

A. The owner of a taxi/autocab shall cause to be displayed on the body of the vehicle the taxi license number issued to that vehicle. The number shall be three inches in height and located in the center of the rear quarter panels on the driver and passenger sides and the rear center line of the trunk of the vehicle. Each taxi/autocab shall display on each rear door of the taxi/autocab the name of the municipality or municipalities which has issued the taxi/autocab a taxi license in letters three inches in height.

B. Every taxi/autocab or other vehicle required to be licensed under this Ordinance operating within the Township shall display a visual identification symbol the design, specification and contents of same to be determined in the sole discretion of the Township, by way of a decal or other method which will identify the vehicle as properly and currently licensed. The method of display shall be as determined by the Township Police Department and communicated in writing to the Intra-Municipal Taxi/Autocab Licenses holder which shall be required to adhere to the contents of said notice within seven (7) calendar days of the date of the notice. The Township may elect to require that the visual identification symbol be made and then affixed to the licensed vehicle by a vendor or vendors of the Township's designation, all such costs for such production and affixing to the licensed vehicle to be paid by the licensee.

§ 568-10 Restriction on Operation of taxi/autocabs.

A. No Cruising: No person shall cruise any street of the Township in any vehicle, including but not limited to taxi/autocabs, at any time for the purpose of soliciting for one or more persons for transportation for a fee or fare.

B. Pre-arranged Pickup: Any taxi/autocab may pick up passengers if the taxi/autocab owner or the owner's agent has been specifically arranged beforehand by the person seeking transportation or someone acting on said person's behalf or such person has otherwise arranged in advance for pick up at a specific time and place. The taxi/autocab driver must have proof of such pre-arrangement including at a minimum the full name of the person to be picked up, the full name of the person making the arrangement and a contact phone number for said person.

C. All persons shall be picked up or discharged at the curb, or in off-street areas designated by a business establishment for the use of its patrons, and the taxi/autocab shall at no time interfere with traffic on any street.

§ 568-11 Fines and penalties.

A. Violation of any of the provisions of this article shall be punishable as provided in Ordinance § 1-19.

B. Nothing herein shall preclude the prosecution of any such violation under Title 48 and or Title 2C of the New Jersey statutes nor restrain or prohibit the Mayor and Council from suspending or revoking any license issued hereunder in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. Severability.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to the portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Repealer.

All ordinances and resolutions, and parts of ordinances and resolutions which are inconsistent with provisions of this ordinance shall be, and are hereby, repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication in accordance with law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 5 Minutes Per Person)

MOVED: Buccieri

SECOND: Higgins

All members were in favor.

Sally Rinker – is opposed to the removal of the memorial at the pump track.

Shannon Rinker – is opposed to the removal of the memorial at the pump track.

Christa Gerry – is opposed to the removal of the memorial at the pump track.

Jackie Keller – expressed concern about a neighbor shooting firearms in his yard.

Edwin Isaacson – expressed concern about a neighbor shooting firearms in his yard.

Bruce Campbell – a business owner in the township who is concerned with the sign ordinance.

Scott Cassell – feels that the Mayor has positive ideas for events.

Brad Barlo – a business owner in the township who is concerned with the sign ordinance.

Jonathan Hansen – is opposed to the removal of the memorial at the pump track.

Steve Dunlop – is opposed to the removal of the memorial at the pump track.

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

All members were in favor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Higgins feels that tonight’s meeting was interesting and that there were some heartfelt statements. He feels bad for the situation that we are in right now. Council Member Higgins said we have a police department and they should be reacting to the shooting of guns. Council Member Higgins commented that the reason property taxes are up so high is because of the School Board. He asked that people step up and run for the School Board to fill the five empty seats.

Council Member Sparta had no comments.

Council Member Buccieri had no comments.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Rizzuto explained that the issue with the shooting is a difficult one. If there are certain laws that supersede township ordinances there is nothing the township can do. Council President Rizzuto recommended talking to the neighbor or contacting the County to see if they can mediate the situation. If the person shooting the guns is not the homeowner, maybe contact the homeowner and talk about the situation.

Council President Rizzuto reminded everyone that the next Township Council meeting is Monday, August 12, 2024 and the meeting after that is Thursday, September 12, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:47 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: August 12, 2024