

**TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE
ESSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

MAY 7, 2018

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Tanella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Zielinski, Township Clerk Stutz

The flag salute was led by Mayor Tanella.

Mayor Tanella made the required announcement concerning the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Adequate notice of this meeting was duly provided to the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger on December 28, 2017, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building Lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

2. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

- a) Presentation of Proclamation for Youth Week – Elks Club

Mayor Tanella presented the proclamation designating May 14 – 18 as Youth Week to Vincent DiMattia of the Elks Club.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) To consider approval of regular public meeting minutes of April 2, 2018

Deputy Mayor Cicala moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- a) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance #18-824 Amending Chapter 205 of the Township code entitled “Recreation Areas, Use of”

The ordinance was read by title only as follows:

Mayor Tanella opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella closed the public hearing.

Deputy Mayor Cicala moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilman Vargo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella
NO: None

b) To consider adoption of 2018 Municipal Budget

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the authorization of the amount of: \$15,237,534.22

GENERAL REVENUE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Surplus Anticipated | \$ 1,355,969.00 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue Anticipated | \$ 2,455,749.42 |
| Receipts from Delinquent Taxes | \$ 393,000.00 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES | \$ 10,268,751.41 |
|--|------------------|

| | |
|--|---------------|
| AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY LEVY | \$ 764,064.39 |
|--|---------------|

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 15,237,534.22 |
|---------------|------------------|

The Township Manager provided an overview of the 2018 Municipal Budget. Mr. Tucci advised that the total general appropriation for 2018 is \$15,237,534, which amounts to an increase of \$602,871 more than the 2017 budget. Mr. Tucci advised that the amount to be raised by taxation for municipal purposes is \$10,268,751, the exact amount allowed under the 2% CAP law. Mr. Tucci cited other factors, including several outside the Township’s control that continue to drive the budget. The Manager further noted that the proposed local tax rate of \$0.495, compared to \$0.484 in 2017. Mr. Tucci advised that the average assessed value of a home increase to \$467,100, compared to \$465,000 in 2017 and anticipated an \$61.55 increase in the local portion of average assessed home’s tax levy.

Mayor Tanella opened the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on this item only. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella closed this portion of the meeting.

Councilman Kumburis adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Vargo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella
NO: None

- c) To consider adoption of 2018 Solid Waste Collection District Budget

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

Be it resolved by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount \$1,630,464.00 for the amount to be raised by taxation for Solid Waste Collection District.

Mayor Tanella opened the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on this item only. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella closed this portion of the meeting.

Councilman Vargo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

5. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Tanella opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on any item on the agenda. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella closed this portion of the meeting.

6. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

a) Township Manager – The Manager noted a memo from the Municipal Engineer for recommendation of award of contract for professional engineering design services for rehabilitation of a water tank, to which the governing body concurred. For informational purposes, the Manager provided a recent news article regarding OPRA and social media use by elected officials. The Manager also shared information received at a seminar regarding Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA). Mr. Tucci noted two block party requests for Hilltop Drive and Young Ave., to which the governing body concurred. The Manager also provided the governing body with an updated Roadway inventory and explained project differences between a mill & overlay vs. total reconstruction. Mr. Tucci cited three items to be added to the capital improvement budget and requested authorization to proceed with introduction of a bond ordinance, to which the governing body agreed. The Manager requested an executive session to discuss unrepresented employee salaries. The Manager noted the resignation of CATV Committee member Andy Steinfeld.

b) Township Clerk – No report

c) Township Attorney – No report

d) Other Reports

Councilman Kumburis raised concern regarding the reported infestation of a new tic in New Jersey. The Manager recommended providing the Advisory Health Council with relevant information for review.

Councilman Vargo provided details of upcoming Downtown Advisory Committee sponsored event Cedar de Mayo scheduled for May 12th from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. with a rain date of May 19th.

Mayor Tanella addressed the County Liaison for consideration of digital signage on the trestle over Pompton Ave.

Deputy Mayor Cicala reported that plans for the South End Fire House were presented by the attorney for K. Hovnanian and accepted by the Planning Board.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) To consider resolution concerning appointment of Planning Board member

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that John Borgese be appointed as a member of the Planning Board to fill an unexpired term, effective immediately and terminating December 31, 2021.

Councilman Kumburis moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cicala, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella
NO: None

- b) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – CGHS Lacrosse Club

The following resolution had been posted on the bulletin board, and a brief synopsis was given by the Township Clerk:

WHEREAS, application for raffle license has been received from:

APPLICANTS

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

CGHS Lacrosse Booster Club
90 Rugby Rd.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held
June 15, 2018 at 3:00 pm at
90 Rugby Rd., Cedar Grove NJ 07009

WHEREAS, the fees have been paid, and the application has been reviewed by the Township Clerk and found acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that it does hereby approve said application.

Councilwoman Peterson moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Vargo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Tanella advised that the items had been withdrawn from the agenda.

9. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Bill Resolution was read by title and amount as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the attached summary of bills having been duly audited and found correct be and they are thereby ordered paid and that warrants be drawn on the Treasurer in the aggregate amount of \$3,582,859.42.

Deputy Mayor Cicala moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Vargo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

10. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON OR OFF THE AGENDA CONCERNING TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Mayor Tanella opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard.

Kate Hartwyk; Essex County Liaison – Ms. Hartwyk noted upcoming county sponsored events scheduled during the month of May. Councilman Vargo requested an update on the status of a crosswalk on W. Bradford Ave. The Manager explained that the crosswalk location is pending certification by the municipal engineer.

Lefty Grimes; 84 Hanover Rd., East Hanover – Mr. Grimes first commented on handicap accessibility of various businesses in the downtown business district and objected to the potential banning of sale of medicinal marijuana in the Township.

The following individuals voiced support for increased availability of medicinal cannabis (marijuana) and attested to its health benefits from personal experience:

Jeffrey Oakes; 60 Pemberton Ave., Oceanport

Amy Roth; 71 Greenhill Rd., Springfield

Michelle Burrows; 13 E. 17th St., Bayonne

AUTHORIZATION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings' Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-12 (b) (1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a Meeting of the Mayor and Council in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove are of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of any action on the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council of May 7, 2018.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is unrepresented employee salaries.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public as soon thereafter as it is deemed in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Deputy Mayor Cicala moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Vargo moved adjournment of the public council meeting, seconded by Councilman Kumburis, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Vargo, Deputy Mayor Cicala, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

PETER H. TANELLA MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK