

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

**MINUTES
7:00 P.M.**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

Mayor Chiusolo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and 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, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building's lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Councilman Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Zielinski, Township Clerk Stutz
Absent: Councilman Kumburis

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – May 4, 2015

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

b) Staff Meeting – May 18, 2015

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Longo. Councilman Kumburis joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Kumburis

c) Staff Meeting – June 15, 2015

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Longo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

d) Executive Session – July 20, 2015 – Interview

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Longo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

e) Executive Session – July 20, 2015

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Longo, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

3. **TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Manager requested an executive session to discuss 2015 Police salary negotiations.
4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Zielinski provided memos concerning proposed tax settlements. Councilman Longo moved to approve the settlements, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and agreed to unanimously. Attorney Zielinski requested an executive session to discuss a pending litigation matter regarding K. Hovnanian.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk advised receipt of an additional letter of interest for the MAC vacancy. The Clerk provided an update on the renewal status of an ABC license.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Kumburis announced upcoming Municipal Alliance sponsored events.

Mayor Chiusolo raised the issue of continued misinformation and erroneous statements provided to the public and media respectively. Mayor Chiusolo stated that he has received phone calls from several residents recently regarding misleading information provided by Councilman Kumburis. Mayor Chiusolo also referred to a comment in the media by Councilman Kumburis indicating unwillingness of councilmembers to work together. Mayor Chiusolo stated that he is and has always been willing to work with all members of the council. Mayor Chiusolo further expressed his desire to clear the slate from the politicking and move forward with governing. Mayor Chiusolo recounted communications from residents regarding position/statements attributed to Council/members position regarding development of certain properties at a recent Sr. Citizen meeting attended by Councilman Kumburis with Council candidate Martinelli. There followed a lengthy discussion regarding Councilman Kumburis' continued involvement in campaign efforts and dissemination of erroneous information, raising development issues that are currently non-existent, nor been discussed by the governing body. Mayor Chiusolo further stated that no one Councilmember may speak on behalf of other Councilmembers on matters that have not been discussed by the governing body. During discussion, Deputy Mayor Tanella also expressed concern with the continuous pattern of dissemination of misleading information/misstatements by Councilman Kumburis during a campaign effort, and subsequent calls to Councilmembers from residents seeking clarification.

Councilman Maffucci requested placement of a speed monitor on Overlook Rd. Councilman Maffucci requested an update on plans for Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. The Manager responded that a date and location has been established; October 24th from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. Councilman Maffucci expressed his desire to become the liaison the Advisory Health Council.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution authorizing execution of grant agreement with NJDEP for Green Communities Grant

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

**GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE
AND
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BY AND FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

GRANT IDENTIFIER: FS16-101

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Cedar Grove desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$3,000.00 to fund the following project:

**Green Communities Grant
Community Forestry Management Plan**

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED that Thomas Tucci or the successor to the office of Township Manager is authorized (a) to make application for such a grant, (b) if awarded, to execute a grant agreement with the State for a grant in the amount not less than \$3000.00 and not more than \$3,000.00, and (c) to execute any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council authorized and hereby agrees to match 50% of the Total Project Amount, in compliance with the match requirements of the agreement. The availability of the match for such purposes, whether cash, services, or property, is hereby certified 50% of the match will be made up of in-kind services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grantee agrees to comply with all applicable federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the agreement.

Councilman Longo moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

- b) To consider resolution concerning submission of 2016 NJDOT grant application – Improvements to Cedar Street

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

Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Improvements to Cedar Street project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **MA-2016-Cedar Grove Township-00** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

8. 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 \$ 230,524.28.

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

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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 September 21 2015.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is pending litigation regarding K. Hovnanian.
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 Tanella moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maffucci, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilman Kumburis, Longo, Maffucci, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Chiusolo

NO: None

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. by acclaim.