

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

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

OCTOBER 17, 2016

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Staff Meeting – September 26, 2016

Councilman Cicala moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Kumburis, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

b) Executive Session – September 26, 2016

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

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

NO: None

c) Executive Session – October 3, 2016 (Interviews)

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

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

NO: None

d) Executive Session – October 3, 2016

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

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

NO: None

3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER

- a) UCC Changes - The Township Manager explained that the proposed changes to eliminate permit requirements for certain residential ordinary maintenance present safety concerns. The Manager noted that the EC Code Enforcement Official Association is requesting assistance from elected officials to oppose the proposed changes by approving a resolution, to which the governing body agreed.
- b) Abandoned Properties – The Manager noted the Code Enforcement Official’s request to adopt an ordinance to provide a mechanism to address property maintenance issues through creditor accountability. There was consensus to introduce an ordinance similar to the one adopted in Fairfield.

The Manager commended the Recreation Director for the pumpkin painting event held at Morgan’s Farm in conjunction with the outdoor movie sponsored by the Municipal Alliance Committee. The Manager noted the Municipal Engineer’s recommendation to reject the sole snow removal bid as it was substantially higher than last year, to which the governing body agreed. The Manager also provided the proposed 2017 municipal holidays and Council meeting schedule to which the governing body agreed. Mr. Tucci requested that the Township Attorney review the proposed date for the reorganization meeting prior final confirmation.

4. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY – Attorney Zielinski requested an executive session to discuss Coptic Church litigation and COAH litigation.

5. TOWNSHIP CLERK – The Clerk noted a request for presentation of a proclamation at the November 7th public meeting for pancreatic cancer awareness, to which the governing body agreed.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Tanella encouraged residents to visit the Recreation Dept. facebook page.

Deputy Mayor Maffucci advised that the current start-up redevelopment committee reviewed the proposed ordinance to formally establish the committee and had some questions. With consent of the governing body, Deputy Mayor Maffucci introduced member Robbie Vargo who posed questions to the Township Attorney on behalf of the committee. Following discussion, there was consensus that Mr. Vargo share the information provided by the Township Attorney with the committee before moving forward with the proposed ordinance. Deputy Mayor Maffucci advised that the Environmental Commission is seeking endorsement from the governing body of the Township’s current green grounds and maintenance policy and tree cover goals by resolution, to which the governing body agreed. Deputy Mayor Maffucci noted the upcoming 2nd annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Panther Park scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd. Deputy Mayor Maffucci reported that the Essex County Surrogate would like to attend a public meeting to make a presentation. There was consensus for the Clerk to co-ordinate.

Councilman Cicala suggested consideration of participation in the “Blue Line Campaign”, a visible expression of local support for the Police Dept. by painting a blue line down the center Pompton Ave. through the business district (from Grove Ave. to E. Bradford Ave.). The Manager advised that authorization from the State is necessary as Pompton Ave. is a State highway. There was consensus to seek the State’s authorization.

Councilman Kumburis commented on the success of the Halloween movie night event and the Municipal Alliance’s desire to expand it into an annual fall community event.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning insertion of special item of revenue

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

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2016 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2016 in the sum of \$2,986.16, which is now available as a revenue from the Body Armor Replacement Fund Program, which is administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, pursuant to the provision of statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$2,986.16 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

Body Armor Replacement Fund Program \$2,986.16

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

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

NO: None

- b) To consider resolution concerning best practices checklist

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

WHEREAS, the State's Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations Act (P.L.2016, c.10) requires a Best Practices Inventory be completed by each municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has completed and submitted the Best Practices Inventory to the Township Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has provided a copy of said inventory to the Township Council; and

WHEREAS, the required certifications have been made and the inventory has been submitted to the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has reviewed and discussed the results of the inventory with the Township Council during its regular public meeting of October 17, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council that the Best Practices Inventory has been reviewed by the Township Council.

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

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

NO: None

- c) To consider resolution concerning Green Grounds Maintenance policy

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove is desirous of ensuring that municipal parks, gardens, and landscaped areas are managed in the most efficient and environmentally friendly manner; and

WHEREAS, such landscaping efforts include use of low-maintenance plantings, maximizing water conservation, minimizing surface run-off, utilizing recycling and composted materials, and eco-friendly approaches to pest management as set forth by Integrated Pest Management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council that hereby endorses the above referenced Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said endorsement is approved at the request of the Township's Green Team to support efforts to attain Sustainable New Jersey certification.

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

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

NO: None

- d) To consider resolution concerning Township tree cover goal

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council also endorses the Township's current municipal tree canopy goal to achieve a 4.9% increase in tree canopy over 10 years to 35% as contained in the Township's Community Forestry Management Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said endorsement is approved at the request of the Township's Green Team to support efforts to attain Sustainable New Jersey certification.

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

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

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 \$ 2,484,118.96.

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

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

NO: None

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Tanella opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard. There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella 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 October 17, 2016.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is Coptic Church litigation and COAH litigation.
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.

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

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

NO: None

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. by acclaim.