

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

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

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – May 17, 2018

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Tanella, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo

ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

b) Executive Session – June 4, 2018 – Interview

Councilman Tanella moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

c) Executive Session – June 4, 2018

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

d) Staff Meeting – June 18, 2018

Councilman Tanella moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

e) Executive Session – June 18, 2018

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:
AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala
NO: None
ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

f) Executive Session – July 16, 2018 – Interview

Councilman Tanella moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:
AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Tanella, Mayor Cicala
NO: None
ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo
ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

g) Executive Session – July 16, 2018

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:
AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Tanella, Mayor Cicala
NO: None
ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo
ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

h) Executive Session – August 13, 2018 – Interview

Councilman Tanella moved approval and release of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:
AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Tanella, Mayor Cicala
NO: None
ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Vargo
ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

i) Executive Session – August 13, 2018

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:
AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala
NO: None
ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – No report

4. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY – Attorney Zielinski provided a proposed tax appeal settlement from alternate counsel. There was consensus to table the matter pending further explanation.

5. TOWNSHIP CLERK – The Clerk certified the initial and supplementary initiative and referendum petitions submitted 8/23/18 and 9/19 as follows:

I, Kathleen R. Stutz, Township Clerk of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the petition submitted to the Township Clerk by the Committee of Petitioners of Ann Mega 82 Hillsdale Rd., Harry Kumburis 41 The Glen, David Snyder 4 Granite Dr., Paul Burns 2 Elm Dr., and Isabel Spagnardi 511 Holly Lane on August 23, 2018 is insufficient for the following reasons:

- the initiative petition does not contain the full text of a proposed ordinance as required per N.J.S.A.40:69A-186; and
- the public question does not properly and fully state the contents of the required ordinance, nor provide specific information relative to impacts of the ordinance.

I certify that said petition contained a sufficient number of registered voter signatures required in accordance with N.J.S.A.40:69A-184 and that the signature pages submitted contained properly executed affidavits of circulators as set forth in N.J.S.A.40:69A-186.

I further certify that I notified each member of the Committee of Petitioners by letter via regular mail and certified mail on September 11, as to the above.

I, Kathleen R. Stutz, Township Clerk of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the supplementary petition dated September 17, 2018, submitted to the Township Clerk by the Committee of Petitioners of Ann Mega 82 Hillsdale Rd., Harry Kumburis 41 The Glen, David Snyder 4 Granite Dr., Paul Burns 2 Elm Dr., and Isabel Spagnardi 511 Holly Lane on September 19, 2018 is still insufficient and deemed rejected for the following reason:

- the supplementary petition does not contain “additional papers signed and filed as provided in the case of the original petition” as required per N.J.S.A.40:69A-188.

I further certify that I notified each member of the Committee of Petitioners by letter via regular mail and certified mail on September 24, as to the above.

The Clerk further advised that the petition that was submitted during the September 17th public hearing is under legal review by alternate counsel, Attorney Semeraro.

Councilman Tanella suggested that an informational fact sheet on affordable housing be created to provide accurate information to the public. Councilman Tanella commented that following the presentations at the September 17th special public meeting, he received numerous calls/comments from residents regarding misrepresentations by petition circulators.

The Clerk reported board/committee vacancies resulting from letters of resignations. The governing body directed the Clerk to advertise the vacancies.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Peterson commended the Mayor for conduct of September 17th special public meeting.

Councilman Tanella reported that he attended the Board of Education meeting last week. Councilman Tanella advised that the BOE members voiced their support of the governing body's actions, having attended the September 17th public hearing. Councilman Tanella advised that he contacted Sen. Corrado regarding the possibility of district legislators attending a town hall meeting with the Council and residents to discuss affordable housing issues and concerns, and means to effect change. Following discussion, the Clerk was directed to contact District 40 legislators to schedule the proposed town hall meeting in October. Councilman Tanella further suggested to establish an affordable housing sub-committee consisting of two councilmembers and several members of the public, to which the governing body agreed. Councilman Tanella and Councilwoman Peterson volunteered to serve on the sub-committee, to which the governing body agreed. There was discussion concerning potential additional acquisition of open space.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Fairfield Police Foundation

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

WHEREAS, an application for raffle license have been received from:

APPLICANTS

Fairfield Police Foundation
309 Bloomfield Ave.
Caldwell NJ 07006

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

On-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held
October 25, 2018 at 6:30 – 11:00 pm at
1131 Pompton Ave., 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 applications.

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

AYE: Councilman Peterson, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

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 \$ 426,524.93.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Kumburis

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Charles Dovico; 102 Holly Lane – Mr. Dovico raised concern pertaining to the use of pilot monies from the Hilltop redevelopment project to purchase open space (i.e. City of Newark property across from reservoir) rather than original intended purpose (i.e. infrastructure improvements, schools).

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Cicala closed this portion of the meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by acclaim.