

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

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**JULY 1, 2019**

**1. ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE**

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

Present: Councilmember Kumburis, Peterson, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Vargo, Mayor Cicala  
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Semeraro, and Township Clerk Stutz  
Councilman-elect Maceri

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Cicala.

Mayor Cicala 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, 2018, 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. PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS TO OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR**

a) Presentation and Comments to outgoing Councilman Kumburis from Mayor Cicala  
Mayor Cicala presented a plaque and thank Councilman Kumburis for his service. Councilman Kumburis thanked the residents for the opportunity to serve as a Councilman.

b) Presentation and Comments to outgoing Mayor Cicala from Deputy Mayor Vargo  
Deputy Mayor Vargo presented a plaque to outgoing Mayor Cicala. Deputy Mayor Vargo stated that Mayor Cicala's tenure had been a difficult year that he handled with dignity and professionalism. Mayor Cicala thanked his family for allowing him to volunteer. Mayor Cicala also thanked his fellow councilmembers for their support, particularly Councilman Tanella who served as a mentor, District 40 legislators, Senator Corrado, Assemblyman Rooney, Assemblyman DePhillips, Township employees and volunteers, residents, Township Clerk and Township Manager. Mayor Cicala commented that the past year had more ups than downs, and included a personal highlight as being named Mayor of Year by Essex County Republican Committee.

**3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE (NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEN AND COUNCILWOMAN)**

- a) Joseph Maceri – Honorable Thomas P. Zampino, JSC (Retired) administered oath of office to Joseph Maceri.
- b) Peter H. Tanella – Kevin O'Toole, Esq. administered oath of office to Peter Tanella

**4. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

- (a) To consider resolution designating the Mayor

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, Essex County, New Jersey that Robbie be and is hereby chosen to preside at all meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, and that he be and is hereby appointed the Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove for a one-year term, effective July 1, 2019 and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

Senator Kristen Corrado administered the oath of office to Mayor Vargo.

- (b) To consider resolution designating the Deputy Mayor

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Kerry Peterson be and is hereby chosen in the absence of the Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove to preside in his place and stead at all meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, and that he is hereby designated the Deputy Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove for a one-year term effective July 1, 2019 and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

John Vincent Mallon, Esq. administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Peterson

- (c) Comments from Councilmembers

Mayor Vargo thanked his family, friends, township employees, volunteers, and residents for their support and opportunity to serve. Mayor Vargo congratulated and welcomed new Councilmember Joseph Maceri and re-elected Councilman Peter Tanella. Mayor Vargo also extended his personal thanks to the Township Attorney, Clerk, particularly the Township Manager, employees, department heads for their service, particularly the Police Department, emergency responders, and all Township volunteers. Mayor Vargo noted several challenges that the Township faced during the past year; COAH obligations, flash flooding, and Pompton Avenue roadway reconstruction. Mayor Vargo cited recent positives such as Downtown Advisory Committee efforts for downtown revitalization, influx of new businesses such as Cedar Beans, the Lacrosse Store, Woodland Indoor Play space, Fit 4 Life, and still to come Joe Zone Café, a juice bar, vegetarian

market, and meat market. Mayor Vargo highlighted recent accomplishments; of the largest vacant land acquisition of 52 acres from the City of Newark to be preserved in its natural state (open space), persistent pressuring of NJDOT for completion of repaving of Pompton Ave., and receipt of approximately \$1 million in grant money from State and County for community improvements such as improvements and handicap access to Community Park upper playground, acquisition of emergency back-up generator for new South End Firehouse, repaving of Harper Terrace, repaving of Ozone Ave. Mayor Vargo also cited additional upcoming community improvements that are coming to fruition; construction of new South End Firehouse and subsequent acquisition of new fire truck, small multi-purpose athletic field at LRP School, and noted efforts to improve Township infrastructure on an on-going basis. Mayor Vargo commended the CGHS softball team on becoming Group 1 State Champions. Mayor Vargo noted the Council's commitment to fiscal responsibility, evidenced by one of the lowest tax rates in Essex County. Mayor Vargo pledged to work today to advance and protect the community for tomorrow.

Councilman Cicala congratulated Mayor Vargo and Deputy Mayor Peterson on their appointments and stated that he looks forward to working with the new Council.

Councilman Tanella thanked residents for his re-election. Councilman Tanella also thanked his wife and daughters for their support of his desire to serve. Councilman Tanella thanked former Senator O'Toole, District 40 legislative representatives, Township Manager, and Clerk. Councilman Tanella also commended former Mayor Cicala for his leadership during his term as Mayor, applauded current Mayor (Vargo) for his passion and energy, and congratulated Councilman Maceri on his election. Councilman Tanella commented that he particularly looks forward to working with the current membership because of the respect and trust that they have in each other.

Councilman Maceri thanked voters for their trust and support and stated that it is an honor to be elected. Councilman Maceri thanked Council colleagues for support and guidance during campaign, particularly Councilman Tanella, and Township Manager for responding to his (Councilman Maceri's) many questions. Councilman Maceri issued a special thank you to Retired Judge Zampino for his long-time mentorship. Councilman Maceri also thanked former Senator O'Toole, District 40 legislators, especially his parents, and extended and immediate family.

Deputy Mayor Peterson commended former Mayor Cicala for his leadership during the past year, thanked fellow councilmembers individually, the Township Manager, Clerk and Attorney. Deputy Mayor Peterson also acknowledge and thanked District 40 legislators, former Senator O'Toole. Deputy Mayor Peterson also noted her deep roots in the Township and thanked her family for their support of her desire to serve.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Historical Society

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, Essex County, New Jersey that Robbie Vargo be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Liaison Member on the Cedar Grove Historical Society, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

(b) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the Advisory Health Council

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Kerry Peterson be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Liaison member to the Advisory Health Council for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

(c) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Committee

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Kerry Peterson be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Member on the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Committee for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

(d) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Library Board of Trustees

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Kerry Peterson be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Member on the Library Board of Trustees for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

(e) To consider resolution appointing Class I member to Planning Board

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, Essex County, New Jersey that Joseph Cicala is hereby appointed as the Council Class I member to the Planning Board of Cedar Grove effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

(f) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the Board of Education

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, Essex County, New Jersey that Joseph Cicala and Peter Tanella are hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Co-Liaison members to the Cedar Grove Board of Education, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

(g) To consider resolution appointing Class III member to the Planning Board

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Peter Tanella is hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Class III Member to the Planning Board, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

(h) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Recreation Advisory Board

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Peter Tanella be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Liaison Member on the Recreation Advisory Board for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

- (i) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Cedar Ridge Senior Citizens

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Peter Tanella and Joseph Maceri be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Co-Liaison members to Cedar Ridge Senior Citizens for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

- (j) To consider resolution appointing Council member to Environmental Commission

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that Joseph Maceri is hereby appointed to serve as Councilmember to the Environmental Commission to fill an unexpired term effective immediately and terminating December 31, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (k) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Zoning Board members

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 that Joseph DeBlasio and Joseph Zichelli are hereby re-appointed to serve as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for four-year terms effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2023.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ed Christenson is hereby re-appointed to serve as the Alt. #2 member on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

Abstain: Mayor Vargo

- (l) To consider resolution concerning appointment of Emergency Management Council

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, Essex County, New Jersey, that it does hereby appoint/re-appoint the following individuals to Cedar Grove’s Emergency Management Council effective immediately through July 1, 2019:

Robbie Vargo	Mayor
Thomas J. Tucci, Jr.	Township Manager
John D’Ascensio	Construction Official
Sue Portuese	Health Official
Joseph Cirasa	Police Chief
Dave Shaulis	Fire Chief
Sandy Huber	Ambulance & Rescue Squad
Jerry Vitiello	Supt. of Public Works
Alex Palumbo	Municipal Engineer

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Jeff McElroy is hereby re-appointed as Emergency Management Co-ordinator for a three-year term effective immediately and expiring July 1, 2022.

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

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

NO: None

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) To consider resolution concerning annual renewal of ABC license – Caidie LLC

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

WHEREAS, the following individual and corporation has applied for the renewal of their Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, namely:

<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>TRADENAME</u>	<u>FEE</u>
0704-33-011-007	Caidie LLC 505 Pompton Avenue	DelMonico's	\$2,002.00

WHEREAS, the above individual and corporation has submitted their municipal fee for renewal to the Township Clerk, and received the required tax clearance certificate; and

WHEREAS, said application complies with the State Laws regulating the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the application for renewal of existing alcoholic beverage license from the above mentioned individual and corporation be approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue said license to the applicant for the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Vargo

**7. 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 \$ 3,83,957.36.

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

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

NO: None

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

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



**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

NO: None

The public meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

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ROBBIE VARGO

MAYOR

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KATHLEEN R. STUTZ      MUNICIPAL CLERK