

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

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 2, 2020**

**1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

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

Present: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Semeraro, Township Clerk Stutz

Absent: Councilman Tanella

The flag salute was led by Mayor Vargo.

Mayor Vargo 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 26, 2019, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) To consider approval of minutes of regular public meeting of February 3, 2020

Councilman Maceri moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Councilman Cicala, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Peterson

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

**3. PUBLIC HEARING**

- a) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance #20-854 Amending Chapter 140 Of the Township Code entitled "Flood Damage Prevention"

The ordinance was read by title only as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 140 OF THE CODE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP, ENTITLED FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION.**

Councilman Cicala moved to amend the Ordinance to remove the words "Municipal or" from Section 4.4-1(c) such that appeals from a decision of the Cedar Grove Flood Appeal Board are to be heard by the County courts. Motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

Mayor Vargo opened the public hearing on this item.

Paul Burns; 2 Elm Rd. – Mr. Burns requested an explanation of the ordinance. The Manager advised that the ordinance is required to comply with FEMA flood maps so that residents could be eligible for funding assistance from FEMA if it were ever necessary.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Vargo closed the public hearing.

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

AYE: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella

Councilman Tanella joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

- b) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance #20-855 - Ordinance Fixing Salary Grades and Ranges of DPW Employees for Fiscal Year 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

The ordinance was read by title only as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE TO FIXING SALARY GRADES AND RANGES, WAGES AND FEES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024**

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

Deputy Mayor Peterson 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 Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

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

Mayor Vargo 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 Vargo closed this portion of the meeting.

**5. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

- a) Township Manager – The Manager provided the updated roadway inventory requested by the Governing Body. Mr. Tucci also provided a list of proposed current and long-term capital improvement projects as requested. The Manager advised that the mid-block crosswalk at Panther Park project is underway and anticipated completion is two months. The Manager also reported that the Township has received a NJDOT Local Aid grant in the amount of \$350,000 for roadway improvements to Myrtle Ave. The Manager also reported that two RFP's were received for COAH legal services.
- b) Township Clerk – The Clerk reported receipt of two letters of interest for Library Board vacancies. The Clerk was directed to schedule interviews for executive session prior to the next meeting (3/16).
- c) Township Attorney – Attorney Semeraro reported that the Township received final judgment of compliance and repose for it application for approval of the Township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan. Attorney Semeraro explained that the judgment give the Township immunity from builders' remedy lawsuits.
- d) Other Reports

Councilman Cicala acknowledged the presence of Boy Scout Brandon Hu, a prospective Eagle Scout.

Councilman Maceri – No report

Councilman Tanella – No report

Deputy Mayor Peterson commented that she attended the recent high school musical Peter Pan. Deputy Mayor Peterson also suggested that the Township recognize Ms. Foos, high school music teacher, for her accomplishments and 20 years in the district, to which the governing body agreed.

Mayor Vargo advised that the Township has received authorization/approval from NJDOT to enhance the trestle of Pompton Ave. Mayor Vargo provided an update regarding Downtown Advisory Committee. Mayor Vargo announced that the DAC Cedar de Mayo event is scheduled for 5/16.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle applications – St. Catherine of Siena Church

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

**WHEREAS**, applications for raffle license have been received from:

**APPLICANTS**

**EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE**

St. Catherine of Siena Church  
339 Pompton Ave.  
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held  
May 31, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at  
339 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove NJ 07009

St. Catherine of Siena Church  
339 Pompton Ave.  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

Non-Draw Wheels  
May 28, 29, 30, 2020 at 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. and  
May 31, 2020 at 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at  
339 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove NJ

St. Catherine of Siena Church  
339 Pompton Ave.  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

On-Premise 50/50  
May 28, 29, 30, 2019 at 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. and  
May 31, 2020 at 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at  
339 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove NJ

**WHEREAS**, the fees have been paid, and the applications have 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 Cicala moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Tanella, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

- b) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – De Paul Diocesan H.S. Parents Assoc.

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 has been received from:

**APPLICANTS**

**EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE**

DePaul Diocesan H.S. Parents Assoc.  
1512 Alps Road  
Wayne NJ 07470

On-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held  
March 19, 2020 at 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at  
691 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 application.

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

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

NO: None

- c) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Ben Porat Yosef

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 has been received from:

**APPLICANTS**

**EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE**

Ben Porat Yosef  
243 E. Frisch Court  
Paramus NJ 07652

On-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held  
March 16, 2020 at 7:30 – 11:30 p.m. at  
691 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 application.

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

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

NO: None

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) To consider resolution concerning 2020 Fireworks display

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, that it does hereby approve a Fireworks Display to be furnished and executed by Garden State Fireworks, Inc. of Millington, NJ at the Cedar Grove Leonard R. Parks Athletic Field on Thursday, July 2, 2020 with a rain date of Friday July 3, 2020.

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

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

NO: None

b) To consider resolution concerning 2020 pool fees

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

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council did adopt an ordinance on May 20, 1963 providing for the establishment of fees for the Cedar Grove Municipal Swimming Pool; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following fees be established for the Cedar Grove Municipal Swimming Pool for the 2020 season as follows:

	<u>Prior To May 22, 2020</u>	<u>Effective May 22, 2020</u>
Resident Family	\$568.00	\$599.00
Resident Individual	\$406.00	\$438.00
Resident Couple/Parent-Child	\$484.00	\$509.00
Resident Senior Citizen	\$195.00	\$227.00

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that additional rate categories be established as follows:

Babysitter/care giver Mon – Fri (not household resident)	\$150
Household resident; non-main family member	Child \$ 75
	Adult \$100

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that non-resident memberships will be limited to one hundred (100). The following non-resident fees are established for 2020:

Non-Resident Family	\$1200.00
Non-Resident Individual	\$ 650.00
Non-Resident Senior Citizen	\$ 410.00

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in addition, senior citizens who qualify for the State Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged Program (PAA) will be entitled to a reduced senior citizen rate of \$111.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Guest Fee for 2020 will be \$10.00 per day for an adult and \$7 for child.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that there be established a fee for swim lessons as follows; \$20/child for members and \$100/child for non-members.

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

AYE: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson

c) To consider resolution concerning 2020 DPW Employee Salaries

**WHEREAS**, The Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove did adopt Ordinance #20-855, fixing salary grades and ranges, wages and fees of certain employees within the Department of Public Works of the Township of Cedar Grove; and

**WHEREAS**, said ordinance provides that the Township Council shall, by resolution, fix the salary of each employee within the salary ranges as set forth in Section One of the Salary Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the salaries as hereinafter enumerated shall constitute the salaries for Fiscal Year 2020 for the employees covered under Section One of the Salary Ordinance, represented by the Township of Cedar Grove Employees' Association.

**REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES**

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>JOB CLASSIFICATIONS</u>	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
3	Maintenance Worker	\$35,629.	\$59,697.
4	Equipment Operator	41,200.	62,262.
5	Sewer Plant Operator	43,260.	64,492.
6	Mechanic Auto/Sewer/Water	46,350.	75,032.
7	Engineering Aide	48,410.	75,445.
8	Parks/Grounds Department Foreman Road Department Foreman Water Department Foreman Sewer Department Foreman Senior Engineering Aide Automotive Foreman	58,963.	92,135.
9	Superintendent	84,363.	109,400.

<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>LONGEVITY</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>
Bahaw, Robbie	\$43,897.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Calabrese, Eugene	55,063.	3	___	Maint. Worker
King, Timothy	59,528.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Lewis, Kevin	38,129.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Mattia, Steven	43,700.	3	___	Maint. Worker
McElroy, Michael	51,069.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Mendieta-Ramos, Jose	38,129.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Mesce, Robert	56,575.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Rodriguez Romero, Henry	38,129.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Smolls, Donald	43,616.	3	___	Maint. Worker
Hunter, William	60,392.	4	___	Equip. Operator
Webb, David	60,392.	4	___	Equip. Operator
Lavin, James	60,662.	5	___	Sewer Plant Operator
Gialanella, Michael	\$64,164.	6	___	Water Mechanic
Hopper, Andrew	61,716.	6	___	Sewer Mechanic

Donovan, Dan	68,635.	7	___	Engineering Aide
Bailey, Jeffrey	65,967.	8	___	Parks Foreman
DiGeronimo, Peter	80,800.			
Locascio, Joseph	84,440.	8	___	Senior Engineering Aide
Resciniti, Thomas	77,550.	8	___	Road Forman
Grasso, Michael	97,850.	9	___	Superintendent/Licensed Water/Sewer Operator Superintendent
Vitiello, Jerry	103,452.	9	___	Superintendent

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

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

NO: None

d) To consider resolution concerning transfer of appropriations

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 permits certain transfers of appropriations during the first three months of the succeeding year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the following transfers of appropriations listed herein in the 2019 Municipal Budget be approved:

**CURRENT FUND MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

To:

Township Clerk’s Office:

Other Expenses \$2,000.00

Recreation:

Other Expenses 2,000.00

\$4,000.00

From:

Road Repairs and Maintenance:

Salaries and Wages \$4,000.00

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

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

NO: None

e) To consider resolution concerning designation of Mayor for the day



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 Deputy Mayor Kerry Peterson is hereby appointed Mayor for the day on March 21, 2020.

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

AYE: Councilmen 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.

Kate Hartwyk; Essex County Liaison – Ms. Hartwyk announced upcoming Essex County sponsored events; Job Fair on 3/20 for County seasonal positions, and Cherry Blossom Festival.

Kevin McVey; 19 Briarwood Terr. – Mr. McVey noted the passing of former Recreation Director John Mahr and suggested a tree planting in his memory with a plaque, which the Manager advised is underway. Mr. McVey cited a tree concern on recently acquired Township property adjacent to his property.

Paul Burns; 2 Elm Dr. – Mr. Burns inquired the status of athletic field construction on LRP School property. The Manager stated construction is anticipated to commence beginning of May.

There being no one else 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 Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Mayor Vargo

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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ROBBIE VARGO                      MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN R. STUTZ      MUNICIPAL CLERK