

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 1, 2020

1. ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

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

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

Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Ashby for Township Attorney Semeraro, and Township Clerk Stutz

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Peterson.

Deputy Mayor Peterson 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. 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 Kerry Peterson 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, 2020 and terminating July 1, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

Peter Tanella, Esq. administered the oath of office to Mayor Peterson.

(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 Peter Tanella 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, 2020 and terminating July 1, 2021.

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

AYE: Councilman Cicala, Maceri, Tanella, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

Township Clerk Kathleen Stutz administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Tanella.

(c) Comments from Councilmembers

Mayor Peterson stated that 2020 has presented the Township, nation and world with unprecedented challenges from the COVID 19 pandemic. Mayor Peterson voiced assurance for the Township's resiliency. Mayor Peterson commended former Mayor Vargo for efforts to keep the community informed during the first difficult months of the pandemic. Mayor Peterson thanked the Township administration, employees, and volunteers for dedication and support to the community and its residents. Mayor Peterson acknowledged the presence of the Township's District 40 legislative representatives, and thanked them for their support to the Township. Mayor Peterson also thanked Deputy Mayor Tanella for serving as her mentor, providing guidance, and long-time friendship. Mayor Peterson also thanked fellow Councilmembers for their support and opportunity to serve as Mayor. Mayor Peterson cited numerous accomplishments during past year, highlighting the purchase of electric car and installation of two electric charging stations, one at DPW and one at the Municipal Building, installation of mid-block crosswalk at Panther Park and replacement of infield at girls softball field at Panther, completion of new South End Firehouse with a back-up generator and acquisition of new fire truck, and acquisition of Newark watershed property for open space. Mayor Peterson also commented that the Township remains in a strong financial position, continues to advocate fiscal responsibility evidenced by having one of the three lowest tax rates in the County. Mayor Peterson thanked her family for their support, and pledged to serve with integrity, empathy and transparency.

Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, and Deputy Mayor Tanella extended congratulations to Mayor Peterson, commented that she has already shown exceptional leadership, dedication, commitment and genuine love of the Township and offered their continued support.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) 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, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (b) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the 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, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (c) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the 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, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (d) 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, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (e) To consider resolution re-appointing Council Liaison member to the 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, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (f) To consider resolution e-appointing Council Liaison members 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, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (g) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison members to the Senior Citizens Club & 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 Senior Citizens Club and Cedar Ridge Senior Citizens for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (h) To consider resolution re-appointing Class I 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 Joseph Cicala is hereby appointed as the Council Class I member to the Planning Board of Cedar Grove effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

- (i) To consider resolution re-appointing 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 Cheryl Brown and Zubin Haghi are hereby re-appointed to serve as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for four-year terms effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Marcia Vollero is hereby re-appointed to serve as the Alt. #1 member on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2022.

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

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

NO: None

- (j) To consider resolution concerning appointing members to 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, 2020:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Kerry Peterson | Mayor |
| Thomas J. Tucci, Jr. | Township Manager |
| John D’Ascensio | Construction Official |
| Sue Portuese | Health Official |
| Joseph Cirasa | Police Chief |
| James Zaccaria | Fire Chief |
| Sandy Huber | Ambulance & Rescue Squad |
| Jerry Vitiello | Supt. of Public Works |
| Alex Palumbo | Municipal Engineer |

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

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

NO: None

(k) To consider resolution appointing Rent Leveling 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 that the Township Council hereby appoints the members of the Township Council to serve as the members of the Rent Leveling Board until June 30, 2021.

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

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

NO: None

(l) To consider resolution authorizing execution of Local Aid Grant Agreement with the County of Essex

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 the Township Manager is hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Township of Cedar Grove and County of Essex for Local Aid Grant funds for Community Park Playground Improvements.

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

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

NO: None

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

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

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NO: None

The public meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

KERRY PETERSON MAYOR

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK