

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, updated September 23, 2020, 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 Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

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

Absent: Councilman Cicala

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – June 1, 2020

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

AYE: Councilman Maceri, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

ABSTAIN: Councilman Zichelli

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

b) Staff Meeting – June 15, 2020

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

AYE: Councilman Maceri, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Zichelli

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

c) Executive Session – June 15, 2020

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

AYE: Councilman Maceri, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Zichelli

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

d) Executive Session – June 29, 2020

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

AYE: Councilman Maceri, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Zichelli

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

3. **TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Township Manager provided the Finance Director’s recommendation to decline request for waiver of a water/sewer bill penalty, to which the governing body agreed. The Manager announced the upcoming annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk to be conducted October 22nd from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Panther Park. The Manager also explained protocols that will be in place to permit public to attend public meetings commencing with the next Council meeting on 10/5; temperature/face recognition scan in lobby, masks required, social distance seating, that adhere to the Township’s risk insurance fund COVID protocols. The Manager also noted that the high school is contemplating participating in a joint project with the PSC to create an environmental rain garden on the high school property.
4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Semeraro provided requested draft resolutions for placement on the next meeting agenda, to which the governing body agreed. Attorney Semeraro advised that the Rt. 23 parking ordinance amendment will be ready for the 10/5 meeting agenda.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk noted letter of interest received for existing Zoning Board vacancy. Following a brief discussion, there was consensus to schedule interviews for executive session on 10/19 at 6:30 p.m. The Clerk also noted recommendations from the CGHS Athletic Director of potential student members for Recreation Advisory Board. Following discussion, there was consensus to schedule interviews with recommended juniors for executive session 10/5 at 6:30. The Clerk provided an update on the upcoming November 3d general election and noted that election information has been posted on the Township’s website with links to County Clerk’s website and the State’s 2020 voter information portal. The Clerk also advised that the annual League of Municipalities Conference is a virtual conference.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Maceri commented that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The governing body concurred with Councilman Maceri’s suggestion to place a proclamation on the 10/5 agenda. Councilman Maceri noted continual littering at Panther Park despite daily maintenance.

Councilman Zichelli provided the dates and times of the Historical Society’s annual pumpkin and apple sale at Morgan’s Farm. Councilman Zichelli advised that O’Toole-Scrivo law firm purchased masks for distribution to Cedar Grove students. Councilman Zichelli suggested that the Board of Education be invited to the 10/5 Council meeting for presentation of the masks. Councilman Zichelli also suggested a “drive through” trick or treat event at Town Hall on Halloween, to which the governing body agreed.

Deputy Mayor Tanella requested an update on COVID status. The Manager advised that Township positive cases are stable. Deputy Mayor Tanella also requested the status for LRP field construction. The Manager advised that construction should commence mid-October. Deputy Mayor Tanella also inquired the status of South End Fire House. The Manager advised that the building is complete ready to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony. Deputy Mayor Tanella requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Manager addressed Mayor Peterson's inquiry regarding resumption of Township board/committee meetings, i.e. with social distance protocols in place. Mayor Peterson noted notification of an "unsafe" Township tree near 103 Westland Rd. The Manager advised the location will be inspected by DPW.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle applications – Cedar Grove Elks

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

WHEREAS, applications for raffle licenses has been received from:

APPLICANTS

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Cedar Grove Elks Lodge #2237
405 Bowden Rd.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

On-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held
October 24, 2020 at 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. at
405 Bowden Rd. Cedar Grove NJ 07009

Cedar Grove Elks Lodge #2237
405 Bowden Rd.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

On-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held
October 24, 2020 at 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. at
405 Bowden Rd. Cedar Grove NJ 07009

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.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

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 \$ 337,846.18.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Peterson opened this portion of the meeting to any one wishing to be heard. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Peterson 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 September 28, 2020.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is personnel.
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.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by acclaim.