

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 16, 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, 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 Cicala, Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – October 19, 2020

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

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

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Cicala

b) Staff Meeting – October 19, 2020

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

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

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Cicala

c) Executive Session – November 2, 2020

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

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

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Maceri

3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – The Township Manager requested authorization for preparation of a bond ordinance for acquisition of Police Department communications system, to which the governing body agreed. The Manager noted receipt of draft agreement between the Township and Cedar Grove Ambulance & Rescue Squad to be executed prior to resuming services.

4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Semeraro confirmed the Municipal Engineer’s recommendations for award of bid for snow removal and reconstruction of Ozone Ave. following bid reviews. Attorney Semeraro requested an executive session to discuss potential litigation regarding the Township’s solicitation ordinance.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk reported that the County Clerk is expected to certify the results of the November 3rd general election on November 23rd. The Clerk advised that the results of the municipal election for council vacancy can then be certified.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Maceri congratulated Councilman Zichelli on the outcome of recent election for council vacancy.

Councilman Cicala congratulated the CGHS boys’ soccer team on their first ever State game win, and advance to quarter finals.

Councilman Zichelli reported receipt of check from Essex County Open Space Fund for barrier-free playground equipment at Community Park.

Deputy Mayor Tanella suggested that the Clerk ascertain interest of expiring board/committee members in re-appointment, to which the governing body agreed. Deputy Mayor Tanella also suggested advertising for board/committee interest. Deputy Mayor Tanella requested an executive session to discuss RFP for professional services.

Mayor Peterson noted receipt of a noise complaint by a landscaper. The Manager commented that the township is governed by the State’s noise ordinance that establishes permitted decibel levels at specific times. The Manager recommended investigation of the complaint by the Police Dept. Mayor Peterson suggested a white light initiative to celebrate the holiday season. The Manager advised the annual tree lighting event may be virtual because of new outdoor gathering restrictions/limits. The Manager suggested a drive by holiday event hosted by the Recreation Dept. in lieu of the usual event, to which the governing body agreed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider introduction of Pending Ord. #20-867 – 2021 Allowable Rent Increase

The clerk read the Ordinance by title only:

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RENT INCREASE
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 208 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR
GROVE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the maximum allowable rent increase in the Township for the year 2021 pursuant to Chapter 208 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove is hereby set at 2.2%.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final reading, adoption, and publication in accordance with the law.

Councilman Cicala moved that Pending Ordinance #20-867 be passed at first reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a pending ordinance with a public hearing of December 7, 2020, seconded by Deputy Mayor Tanella, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

b) To consider resolution concerning 2020 Volunteer fire Department stipends

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:

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove shall establish the following 2020 fee schedule for stipends and mileage allowance for volunteer firemen of the Township of Cedar Grove:

Fire Chief	\$1,681.00
Deputy Fire Chief	\$1,050.00
Fire Captains	\$ 525.00
Fire Lieutenants	\$ 395.00
Fire Chiefs Secretary	\$ 945.00
Fire Prevention Bureau Dir.	\$ 735.00
Fire Inspector	\$ 315.00
Fire Prev. Bureau Secretary	\$ 315.00
Fire Dept. Secretary	\$ 185.00
Fire Relief Secretary	\$ 395.00
NFIR Secretary	\$ 420.00
Public Relations Info Officer	\$ 315.00
Clothing Allowance	\$ 916.00
Fire Prevention Bureau Mileage	\$ 100.00
IT Support	\$ 230.00
Respirator Protection Officer	\$ 315.00
Drivers/SCBA	\$ 160.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that 2020 fee schedule for stipends and mileage allowance for Volunteer Firemen be hereby established.

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

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

NO: None

- c) To consider resolution concerning award of bid for furnishing of equipment & personnel for snow plowing

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertising duly made, a sole bid was received for the furnishing of equipment and personnel for snow plowing and publicly opened and read by the Township Clerk on October 14, 2020 as follows:

BIDDER	ITEM #1 TRUCK, PLOW & OPERATOR	ITEM #2 TRUCK H/D PLOW & OPERATOR	ITEM #3 TRUCK, S/SPREADER & OPERATOR	ITEM #4 4-WHEEL DRIVE LOADER	ITEM #5 TANDEM DUMP TRUCK
Sanzari Ashpalt Oak Ridge, NJ	\$250.00/hr	\$300.00/hr	\$80.00/hr	\$100.00/hr	\$65.00/hr.

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer, the Township Manager, have reviewed the bids and recommend that the award of bid be made to Sanzari Asphalt, Oak Ridge, New Jersey.

WHEREAS, funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract in the 2020 Snow Removal Budget Account #0315-2800.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the award of bid be made to Sanzari Asphalt, Oak Ridge, New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper township officials be instructed to execute a contract on behalf of the Township.

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

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

- d) To consider resolution concerning award of bid for Reconstruction of Ozone Ave

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertising duly made, bids were received for Reconstruction of Ozone Ave, and were publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 6, 2020 as follows:

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT
American Asphalt & Milling Services Kearny NJ	184,477.07
Stanziale Construction Bloomfield NJ	187,852.30
AJM Contractors Inc.	205,184.65

Clifton NJ	
Marini Bros.	222,641.50
Hackensack NJ	
DLS Contracting Inc.	229,155.50
Fairfield NJ	
Diamond Construction	324,316.80
Brick NJ	

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer and Township Attorney have reviewed the bids submitted, and recommend that the award of bid to American Asphalt & Milling Services of Kearny, New Jersey, the apparent low bidder, in the amount of \$ 184,477.07; and

WHEREAS, the funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract from Bond Ord. #20-861.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the award of bid be made to American Asphalt & Milling Services of Kearny, New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper officials be instructed to execute a contract on behalf of the Township.

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

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

NO: None

- e) To consider resolution concerning purchase of road surfacing from Morris County cooperative Pricing Council Contract

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

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove utilizes the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Contract #6 for road resurfacing; and

WHEREAS, the contract amount for road resurfacing will not exceed \$288,027.25; and

WHEREAS, the funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract through Bond Ordinance No. 18-826 and 20-856.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove authorizes the Township of Cedar Grove to purchase from the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Contract #6 for road resurfacing from Schifano Construction, Corp. for an amount not to exceed \$288,027.25.

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

- f) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – CGHS Music Matters

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

CGHS Music Matters Inc.
90 Rugby Rd.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held
January 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at
90 Rugby Rd., 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 Zichelli, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

- g) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – St. Catherine of Siena HSA

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 have been received from:

APPLICANTS

St. Catherine of Siena HSA
39 E. Bradford Ave.
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Calendar Raffle to be held
Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 1, 27, March 11, 22, 2020
at 8:30 am at
39 E. Bradford Ave., 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.

Councilman Cicala 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

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 \$ 6,771,780.17.

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

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

NO: None

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 November 16, 2020.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is personnel, RFP for professional services and potential litigation regarding solicitation ordinance.
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.

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

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

NO: None

10. ADJOURNMENT

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