

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2021

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Nabbi for Township Attorney Giacobbe and Township Clerk Stutz

2. PUBLIC HEARING

a) Community Development Block Grant – The Manager explained that public hearings are part of the application submission process. The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit public input for potential projects that provide benefit for low and moderate income persons. The Manager advised that this year's application is for a Senior Bus. 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 the public hearing.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – December 7, 2020

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

b) Staff Meeting – December 21, 2020

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

c) Executive Session – December 21, 2020

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

4. **TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Township Manager provided budget books for Council for upcoming budget hearings with the Manager.
5. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Nabbi stated that the resolution submitted by Mr. Splendoria was reviewed and suggested that the governing body also review a similar resolution that had been prepared for the Borough of Madison, to which the governing body agreed. Ms. Nabbi noted the memo pertaining to considerations for accepting or rejecting a gift of real property. Following discussion of the specific parcel and considerations described by memo, there was consensus to decline the property owner’s donation offer.
6. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk noted reported receipt of several letters of interest for board/committee vacancies. There was consensus to wait until the submission deadline to schedule interviews.

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Maceri – No report

Councilman Zichelli reported that at a recent meeting the Historical Society there was agreement to solicit requests for proposals for beekeeping on Morgan Farm property. The governing body requested that the Township Attorney draft the RFP. Councilman Zichelli requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Deputy Mayor Tanella – No report

Mayor Peterson reported that the Township utilized COVID funds to purchase approximately 3000 masks with a CG logo and are available at no cost for residents by request through the Recreation Dept. Mayor Peterson announced that the Township has partnered with the Community Church to provide a food pantry on the church property on Bowden Rd. for residents to either make food item donations or obtain, modeled after the “Little Food Pantry” program.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution authorizing submission of grant application and execution of grant agreement with NJDOT – Sweetwood Drive and David Road Project

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

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT
CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SWEETWOOD DRIVE AND DAVID ROAD
PROJECT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove formally approves the grant application for the above state project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as LAIF 2021-Sweetwood Drive and David Road-00028 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Mayor and Council and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

My signature and the Clerk's seal serve to acknowledge the above resolution and constitute acceptance of the terms and condition of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement as authorized by the resolution above.

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

9. 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 \$ 2,982,637.78.

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

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Peterson opened this portion of the meeting to any one wishing to be heard.

Charles Dovico; 111 Holly Lane – Mr. Dovico expressed concerns regarding ingress and egress into and out of Green Grocer parking lot resulting from Rt. 23 repaving project. Mr. Dovico suggested that the Township disseminate information concerning allocation of PILOT funds in the

budget over time. The Manager advised that the governing body has directed the funds utilized for debt reduction and capital costs.

There being no one else 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 in the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council of January 25, 2021.
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.

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. by acclaim.