

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

**COUNCIL STAFF MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 22, 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,  
Township Clerk Stutz  
Absent: Councilman Cicala

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) Executive Session – January 11, 2021 - Interview

Councilman Zichelli 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) Executive Session – January 11, 2021

Councilman Zichelli 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) Staff Meeting – January 25, 2021

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

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

d) Executive Session – January 25, 2021

Councilman Maceri 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

ABSENT: Councilman Cicala

### **3. PUBLIC HEARING**

a) Community Development Block Grant – The Manager explained that a second public hearing is part of the application submission process. Mr. Tucci commented that 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.

**4. TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Township Manager provided a current COVID report. Mr. Tucci advised that of the 1217 positive tests to date, 615 emanated from the nursing homes in Cedar Grove, and include both patient and staff. The Manager further advised that of the 119 COVID deaths, 101 associated with nursing homes, 100 patients, 1 staff member, the remaining 18 deaths were among the Township's general population. Mr. Tucci noted a memo from the Recreation Director regarding proposed community pool rates for the 2021 season, to which the governing body agreed.

**5. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – No report

**6. TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk reported receipt of letters of interest (13) for various board/committee vacancies. There was consensus to schedule interviews in executive session on 3/1 and 3/15 at 6:15 p.m..

### **7. COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilman Maceri – The Township Manager addressed Councilman Maceri's inquiry regarding the process to determine feasibility of a community center. Mr. Tucci explained the process that includes appropriation of funds for preparation of plans and specs, utilizing the existing pool building as the location, conduct of a public hearing after preparation of plans and specs. The Manager also addressed Councilman Maceri's inquiry concerning Township roadway paving. Mr. Tucci explained that the program consists of two types of paving; roadway reconstruction and road overlay (milling and resurfacing) and is based on a Township roadway inventory which prioritizes roads according to needed repair and other factors. Mr. Tucci cited roadways slated for reconstruction (Myrtle Ave., S. Mountain Ave., and Ozone Ave.) and overlay (Sweetwood Drive area) in 2021.

Councilman Zichelli reported that the Historical Society decided to discontinue beekeeping on Morgan Farm property. Councilman Zichelli also noted that the Historical Society has submitted guidelines for volunteers for review by the Township Attorney. Councilman Zichelli reported having met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss integration of the Downtown Advisory Committee with the Chamber and received positive feedback from the Chamber.

Deputy Mayor Tanella – Deputy Mayor Tanella noted communication received from UNICO requesting to participate in an expanded annual tree lighting event.

Mayor Peterson noted the election resolution that was provided by Township Attorney following submission of a similar resolution and request for consideration (approval) by a Township young adult. Councilman Maceri requested additional time to review, to which the governing body agreed. There was consensus to decline to consider a resolution designating a COVID 19 memorial day.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) To consider resolution concerning award of bid for Collection, Transportation, Delivery of Solid Waste, Vegetative Waste, Co-mingled/Paper Recycling

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 Collection, Transportation, and Delivery of Solid Waste, Grass Clippings, Vegetative Waste, and Comingled/Paper for the Township of Cedar Grove, and were publicly opened by the Township Clerk on January 12, 2021 and read by the Township Clerk as follows:

OPTION #1  
2 DAY /WEEK PICK UP SOLID WASTE  
1 DAY/WEEK VEGETATIVE WASTE, COMINGLED/PAPER RECYCLING

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b>	<b>2 YEAR</b>	<b>3 YEAR</b>	<b>5 YEAR</b>
F. Basso Jr. Rubbish, Inc.	\$ 759,900.	\$ 1,519,800.	\$ 2,279,700.	\$ 3,898,500.

OPTION #2  
1 DAY /WEEK PICK UP SOLID WASTE  
1 DAY/WEEK VEGETATIVE WASTE, COMINGLED/PAPER RECYCLING

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>1 YEAR</b>	<b>2 YEAR</b>	<b>3 YEAR</b>	<b>5 YEAR</b>
F. Basso Jr. Rubbish, Inc.	\$ 769,900.	\$ 1,519,800.	\$ 2,279,700.	\$ 3,898,500.

**WHEREAS**, the bids have been reviewed by the appropriate Township officials; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Manager and Township Engineer have reviewed the bids and recommend awarding bid Option #1, 2x/week pick-up solid waste, 1 day/week pick-up vegetative waste and comingled/paper recycling inclusive of multifamily and townhouse condominium collection for a five-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract in the 2021 Refuse Collection District Budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the award of bid for a five-year period in the total amount of \$3,898,500.00 be made to F. Basso Jr. Rubbish, Inc. of Irvington, NJ for the Collection, Transportation and Delivery of Solid Waste, Grass Clippings, Vegetative Waste, and Comingled/Paper in Cedar Grove.

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning submission of 2021 CDBG application

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

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council hereby authorizes the Township Manager and the Township Engineer to submit applications for funding under the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program to the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, as required by the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development that projects for which applications will be submitted are approved in the following priority order:

1. Senior Citizen Bus

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development.

Councilman Maceri 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

- c) To consider resolution concerning tax reduction granted by Tax Court of NJ

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

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector of the Township of Cedar Grove has determined that action is required as a result of 2019 - 2020 tax reductions granted by the Tax Court of New Jersey;

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has certified to the foregoing as well as to the amount of the tax cancellations, which are set forth along with the name and address of the taxpayer.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the required tax cancellations and refunds be made:

2019 Tax Reductions Granted by the Tax Court of New Jersey

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Owner &amp; Location</u>	<u>Tax Cancellations and Tax Refund</u>
180	46.01	Muhammad B. & Fatina C. Khan 44 Laura Drive Cedar Grove, NJ 07009	\$2,893.91

2020 Tax Reductions Granted by the Tax Court of New Jersey

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Owner &amp; Location</u>	<u>Tax Cancellations and Tax Refund</u>
180	46.01	Muhammad B. & Fatina C. Khan 44 Laura Drive Cedar Grove, NJ 07009	\$2,963.94
371	51	PSEG Corporate Properties 445 Little Falls Road Cedar Grove, NJ 07009	\$11,923.18

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. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Bill Resolution of 2/8/2021 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 \$ 5,094,572.66.

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

The Bill Resolution of 2/22/2021 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 \$ 2,967,846.63.

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

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by acclim.