

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

APRIL 19, 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

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 April 19, 2021.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is personnel and litigation regarding Rizzolant Realty.
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 Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

The staff meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m. following adjournment of Executive Session

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Executive Session – March 1, 2021 - Interview

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) Executive Session – March 1, 2021

Deputy Mayor Tanella moved approval and release 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

c) Executive Session – March 15, 2021 - Interview

Councilman Maceri moved approval and release 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

d) Staff Meeting – March 15, 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

ABSTAIN: Councilman Cicala

e) Executive Session – March 15, 2021

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

3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – The Township Manager provided a memo from the Finance Director recommending no water/sewer bill adjustment for Acct. 3-3710600, which the governing body agreed. The Manager noted a water bill adjustment request from a Monroe St. resident that has been forwarded to the Finance Director. Mr. Tucci referred to a memo from the Tax Assessor concerning tax list summary and advised that the average residential

assessment increased from \$469,600 in 2020 to \$470,900 in 2021. The Manager noted the Recreation Director's memo regarding award of pool concession contract for the 2021 pool season. Mr. Tucci stated that the Township Attorney recommended award of the sludge removal bid to the second low bidder as there was a non-curable material defect in the bid bond of the apparent low bidder, to which the governing body agreed. Mr. Tucci also noted the Municipal Engineer's recommendation for award of bid for the roof replacement at the DPW Maintenance Building to the apparent low bidder, subject to Township Attorney review, to which the governing body agreed. The Manager reported the Municipal Engineer's recommendation for award of contract for professional engineering design services for Reconstruction of ADA Raps at Various Intersections, to which the governing body agreed. The Manager noted the Recreation Director's memo concerning the annual 4th of July fireworks display scheduled to be conducted Thursday, July 1st with a rain date of Friday, July 2nd, to which the governing body agreed. Mr. Tucci advised the annual Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, April 30 at Morgan's Farm. The Manager provided potential dates and time for the new South End Fire House ribbon cutting. There was consensus to schedule the ribbon cutting for Thursday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. The Manager also suggested that the County Executive be invited, to which the governing body agreed.

4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Nabbi provided and explained the drafted cannabis opt-out ordinance and procedure. There was consensus to place the ordinance on the 5/3 meeting agenda for introduction and schedule public hearing at a special public meeting on 6/21.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk provided an update on the conduct of the May 11th municipal election. The Clerk noted that there will be in-person voting at all polling locations and new voting machines will be utilized. Ms. Stutz also noted that information pertaining to the election can be found on the Township's website.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Maceri – Councilman Maceri expressed concern regarding residents feeding deer following numerous complaints received. The Manager recommended educating the public regarding the undesirability of feeding deer on private property.

Councilman Zichelli – Councilman Zichelli reported that the Historical Society has requested volunteer guidelines. Councilman Zichelli also reported that the bee hives have not been removed by the beekeeper as requested by the Historical Society.

Deputy Mayor Tanella – Deputy Mayor Tanella requested an update on the status of turf field construction on Board of Education property (LRP school). The Manager advised that completion is anticipated by late August/early September. Deputy Mayor Tanella inquired the status of RFP for plans/specifications for a community center. The Manager advised that funds have been allocated in the 2021 capital budget. Mr. Tucci further stated that an RFP can be issued after the adoption of the 2021 municipal budget. Deputy Mayor Tanella endorsed the hiring of a "COVID ambassador" for the 2021 pool season to ensure that patrons adhere to protocols.

Mayor Peterson – Mayor Peterson advised that there is a problem with the softball scoreboard at Panther Park.

The Clerk noted correspondence from a high school student requesting to serve as the student member on the Environmental Commission. Following discussion, there was consensus that the Township Attorney review statutory membership of a Commission in order to provide appropriate response.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning 2021 fireworks display

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, that it does hereby approve a Fireworks Display to be furnished and executed by Starfire Corporation of Carrolltown, PA, at the Cedar Grove Leonard R. Parks Athletic Field on Thursday, July 1, 2021 with a rain date of Friday July 2, 2021.

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning submission of strategic plan for 2022 Municipal Alliance Grant

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

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Essex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Cedar Grove Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 9,500.00
Cash Match	2,375.00
In-Kind	7,125.00

2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Councilman Zichelli moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Tanella, 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 \$ 6,331,726.64.

Deputy Mayor Tanella 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.

Melissa Skabich; 53 The Glen – Ms. Skabich noted resident concerns regarding speeding on Ozone Ave. and Bowden Rd. The Manager advised that the Police Department is scheduled to conduct speed monitoring and enforcement on Ozone Ave. following its upcoming reconstruction.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by acclaim.