

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

**COUNCIL STAFF MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**MAY 17, 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 Cicala, Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson  
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Nabbi for Township Attorney Giacobbe,  
Township Clerk Stutz

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) Executive Session – April 5, 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

ABSTAIN: Councilman Cicala

b) Executive Session – April 19, 2021 - Interview

Councilman Zichelli moved approval and release 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) Staff Meeting – April 19, 2021

Councilman Zichelli moved approval and release 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

d) Executive Session – April 19, 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

ABSTAIN: Councilman Cicala

e) Executive Session – May 3, 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

ABSTAIN: Councilman Cicala

3. **TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Township Manager explained the need to amend the Police Department tale of organization due to the pending retirement of the Police Chief. The Manager requested to introduce the necessary ordinance amendment at the next public meeting, to which the governing body concurred. The Manager noted the Finance Director’s recommendation for sewer adjustment request for 31 Monroe St., to which the governing body agreed. For informational purposes the Manager noted a memo from the Police Chief regarding oversight and assistance for the municipal election. Mr. Tucci announced that Cedar Grove has the third highest vaccination of municipalities in the State. The Manager requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter regarding salaries of unrepresented employees and contract negotiations regarding acquisition of property.
4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Nabbi noted a memo provided regarding managing deer population. Attorney Nabbi provided information pertaining to Environmental Commission membership, power and duties. Attorney Nabbi confirmed the Engineer’s recommendation for award of bid for removal and replacement of the DPW maintenance building roof. Attorney Nabbi explained that the bid for loadig, transportation and disposal of leaves should be awarded for a one-year contract term following legal review of bid documents. Attorney Nabbi requested an executive session to discuss contract negotiations regarding Hilltop pilot funds and potential litigation regarding Morgan Farm property.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk noted recent legislation regarding early voting.

## 6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Cicala congratulated incoming Councilmember Melissa Skabich on her election. Councilman Cicala noted safety concerns regarding the turf field under construction on school property (LRP).

Councilman Zichelli reported that beekeeper as not yet removed bee hives from Morgan Farm property.

Deputy Mayor Tanella noted completion of the third bocci court. The Manager advised that temporary lighting is being provided until permanent lighting can be installed. The Manager also

noted that a fourth court is planned for 2022. Deputy Mayor Tanella request an executive session to discuss potential litigation matter regarding flag raising request.

Mayor Peterson reported a leveling concern on one of the bocci courts. The Manager advised that the Township is aware and issue is being addressed by contractor. Mayor Peterson requested nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor for July 1<sup>st</sup> re-organization. Councilman Zichelli nominated Joseph Maceri to serve as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Councilman Cicala, and agreed to unanimously. Councilman Maceri nominated Peter Tanella to serve as Mayor, seconded by Councilman Zichelli, and agreed to unanimously. Mayor Peterson commented on the Jr. Firefighter Day held May 16<sup>th</sup> in Community Park and commended the Fire Department for conducting the event.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning awarding bid for Removal & Replacement of DPW Maintenance Building Roof

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 Removal & Replacement of DPW Maintenance Building Roof , and were publicly opened by the Township Clerk on March 18, 2021, as follows:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>TOTAL BASE BID</u>
Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc.	\$ 28,956.00
Patwood Contract Corp.	33,010.00
GC Dynatech Construction LLC	37,000.00
Journey Cont. Co.	49,000.00
MAK Group	49,758.00
Integrity Roofing Inc.	53,340.00
NDP Construction	64,000.00
Duga Construction	135,000.00

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Engineer and Township Attorney have reviewed the bids submitted, and recommend that the award bid to Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc. of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, the apparent low bidder, in the amount of \$ 28,956.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds are available to satisfy our obligations under this contract from Bond Ord. 20-856.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the award of bid be made to Northeast Roof Maintenance, Inc. of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

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

Councilman Zichelli 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

## **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 \$ 6,191,043.

Councilman Maceri 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 May 17, 2021.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is personnel regarding non-represented employee salaries, contract negotiations for acquisition of property, contract negotiation regarding Hilltop pilot funds, potential litigation regarding Morgan Farm cemetery, potential litigation regarding flag raising request.
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: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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