

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

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 21, 2021

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Giacobbe, Attorney Nabbi,
Township Clerk Stutz

The flag salute was led by Mayor Peterson.

Mayor Peterson 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 on June 9, 2021, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building Lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

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 June 21, 2021
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is contract negotiation.
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: Councilmen Cicala, Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

The special public meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

- a) To consider adoption of Pending Ord. #21-870 – Amending Chapter 268 of Township Code entitled “Zoning”

The ordinance was read by title only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 268 ENTITLED "ZONING" SECTION 268-8 ENTITLED "PROHIBITED BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND USES" OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Peterson closed the public hearing.

Councilman Zichelli moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, 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 adoption of 2021 Municipal Budget

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 Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the authorization of the amount of: \$16,184,249.16

GENERAL REVENUE

Surplus Anticipated	\$ 3,831,168.00
Miscellaneous Revenue Anticipated	\$ 2,298,445.25
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	\$ 300,000.00

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES \$ 10,885,019.37

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY LEVY \$ 805,655.48

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 18,120,288.10

The Township Manager provided an overview of 2021 Municipal Budget. The Manager noted that the amount to be raised by taxation for municipal purposes is \$10,885,019, which is \$1,580,644 less than the maximum amount increase allowed under the 2% CAP law. Mr. Tucci cited several line item increases that impact the budget; group medical, P & F pension contributions, and debt service payments. The Manager reported that estimated local tax rate is .526 vs. .516 in 2020. The Manager anticipated a \$53 increase in the local portion of the average assessed home's (\$470,900) tax levy.

Deputy Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Peterson closed the public hearing.

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

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

- c) To consider adoption of 2021 Solid Waste collection District Budget

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, County of Essex, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount \$2,026,335.00 for the amount to be raised by taxation for Solid Waste Collection District.

Deputy Mayor Peterson opened the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on this item only. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Deputy Mayor Peterson closed this portion of the meeting.

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

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

- d) To consider adoption of Pending Ord. #21-875 – Amending Chapter 55 of the Township Code entitled “Police Department”

The ordinance was read by title only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 55 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE, ENTITLED “POLICE DEPARTMENT.”

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Peterson closed the public hearing.

Councilman Zichelli moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilman Cicala, and passed by the following vote:

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

- e) To consider adoption of Pending Ord. #21-876 – 2021 Salary Grades and Ranges, Wages and Fees of Municipal Officers and Employees

The ordinance was read by title only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARY GRADES AND RANGES, WAGES AND FEES OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021.

Mayor Peterson opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Peterson closed the public hearing.

Councilman Cicala moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

3. MEETING OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP WISHING TO BE HEARD ON ANY ITEM ON OR OFF THE AGENDA CONCERNING TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

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

Jacqueline Wolfstirn; 70 Buena Vista Rd. – Ms. Wolfstirn voiced concern regarding recent Board of Education mask policy under extreme heat and distribution of a survey to students without parental consent. Ms. Wolfstirn also commented on the manner of treatment by the Board of Ed and Superintendent of parental concern. Mayor Peterson stated that the Township Council has no authority of Board of Education matters. Mayor Peterson further commented that the resident could contact the Essex County Supt. of Schools about such concerns.

Romany Bekhit; 23 Rockledge Pl. – Mr. Bekhit commented at length on alleged violation of policy by the Board of Education and Supt. of Schools related to survey distributed to students by teachers without parental consent. Mr. Bekhit also objected to the mask mandate for students in high temperatures.

Sal Minieri, 26 Sweetwood Dr. – Mr. Minieri expressed concern regarding lack of visibility of unity to patriotism, particularly townwide display of American flag on patriotic holidays.

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

4. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Zichelli moved adjournment of the public council meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Tanella, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

PETER TANELLA MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK