

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 1, 2021

1. ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Councilmember Cicala, Maceri, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Tanella, Mayor Peterson
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Nabbi for Township Attorney Giacobbe, Township Clerk Stutz, and Councilwoman-elect Skabich

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 December 24, 2020, 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.

2. PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS TO OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR

a) Presentation and Comments to outgoing Councilman Cicala from Mayor Peterson
Mayor Peterson presented a plaque and thanked Councilman Cicala for his service to the residents of the Township, first as a member and President of the Board of Education, and then as Councilman, Deputy Mayor and Mayor. Councilman Cicala acknowledged Mayor Peterson for her passion and integrity, congratulated the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor, re-elected Councilmembers Peterson and Zichelli and newly elected Councilwoman Skabich. Councilman Cicala thanked the Township Manager for his leadership. Councilman Cicala also thanked his family for their support. Councilman Cicala further commented that his departure from the Council is bittersweet and he takes great pride and pleasure in having served as a member of the governing body.

b) Presentation and Comments to outgoing Mayor Peterson from Deputy Mayor Tanella
Deputy Mayor Tanella presented a plaque to outgoing Mayor Peterson. Deputy Mayor Tanella stated that Mayor Peterson's tenure had been a difficult year and proved herself to be a true leader and handled her tenure as mayor with dignity and professionalism. Mayor Peterson stated that it had been an honor and privilege to serve as Mayor and appreciated everyone's support, particularly her family.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE (ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS)

- a) Kerry Peterson – Senator Kristin M. Corrado administered oath of office to Kerry Peterson.
- b) Melissa Skabich – Mayor Mario Kranjac administered oath of office to Melissa Skabich.
- c) Joseph Zichelli – Kevin O'Toole, Esq. administered oath of office to Joseph Zichelli

4. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

(a) To consider resolution designating the Mayor

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, New Jersey that Peter H. Tanella be and is hereby chosen to preside at all meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, and that he be and is hereby appointed the Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove for a one-year term, effective July 1, 2021 and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Peterson, Skabich, Tanella, Zichelli

NO: None

Kevin J. O'Toole, Esq. administered the oath of office to Mayor Tanella.

(b) To consider resolution designating the Deputy Mayor

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, New Jersey, that Joseph Maceri be and is hereby chosen in the absence of the Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove to preside in his place and stead at all meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, and that he is hereby designated the Deputy Mayor of the Township of Cedar Grove for a one-year term effective July 1, 2021 and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

Senator Kristin Corrado administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Maceri

(c) Comments from Councilmembers

Mayor Tanella thanked his family and fellow colleagues, friends, and residents for their support and opportunity to serve. Mayor Tanella acknowledged the presence of State legislators, Senator Corrado, Assemblyman DePhillips and former Assemblyman Jack Citarelli. Mayor Tanella commented on former Councilman Cicala's public service, and noted that he was the second person to have served two separate leadership roles; first President of Board of Education, and later Mayor of Township Council. Mayor Tanella welcomed new Councilmember Melissa Skabich, congratulated Joseph Zichelli and Kerry Peterson on re-election, and Joseph Maceri being selected to serve as

Deputy Mayor. Mayor Tanella also extended his personal thanks to the Township Manager for his constant loyalty to the Township Council, dedication and leadership to the Township, the Township Clerk, and all Township professionals and employees for their service, particularly the Police Department, emergency responders, and all Township volunteers. Mayor Tanella highlighted numerous accomplishments within the past year and undertakings in the upcoming year such as new South End Firehouse and truck at no expense, one of lowest tax rates in Essex County, completion of multipurpose field on LRP school property, award of contract for plans for renovation of North End Firehouse, allocation of funds for plans for a community center at existing Community Park pool building. Mayor Tanella commented that the incoming year is filled with hope and that he looks forward serving again as Mayor and working with his Council colleagues.

Deputy Mayor Maceri acknowledged outgoing Councilman Cicala and support rendered during his initial election campaign. Deputy Mayor Maceri congratulated recently re-elected Councilmembers Peterson and Zichelli, and first-time elected Councilmember Skabich. Deputy Mayor Maceri and commended Councilmember Peterson for her tremendous job as Mayor under unprecedented challenging circumstances. Deputy Mayor Maceri commented that Councilman Zichelli's dedication and hard work is inspiring and welcomed new Councilmember Skabich. Deputy Mayor Maceri thanked Mayor Tanella for his friendship and mentorship. Deputy Mayor Maceri expressed gratitude to State legislators Senator Corrado and Assemblymen DePhillips and Rooney for their support to the Township. Deputy Mayor Maceri commented that the Township is lucky to have former Senator O'Toole as a resident. Deputy Mayor Maceri acknowledged the Township Manager for his dedication and leadership, and described Mr. Tucci as the best Township Manager in New Jersey. Deputy Mayor Maceri also thanked all Township employees for their service and his family for their support.

Councilwoman Skabich thanked Mayor Kranjac for administering the oath of office. Councilwoman Skabich pledged to work hard and credited longtime friend Gretchen Goodwin for providing the inspiration and courage to undertake this role in public service. Councilwoman Skabich also thanked her family and best friend Judy Garbo for their support.

Councilman Zichelli stated that he is grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents of his hometown. Councilman Zichelli thanked his family for all their support. Councilman Zichelli also thanked his mentor Kevin O'Toole, District 40 State legislators, former Township Attorney Scrivo, friends from Seton Hall Prep, Seton Hall College, and Seton Hall Law School. Councilman Zichelli commented that there is no better Township Manager in the State of New Jersey than Thomas Tucci, thanked him for his steadfast dedication to the Council and Township. Councilman Zichelli also thanked Police Dept., Fire Department volunteers and colleagues.

Councilwoman Peterson thanked everyone for their support during her re-election campaign, and stated that she is excited to serve another four years and has learned so much during her first four years. Councilwoman Peterson thanked her family for their support and encouragement. Councilwoman Peterson also thanked the Township Manager, Township Clerk, District 40 legislators, and Port of Authority Chairman Kevin O'Toole for their support and service to the Township. Councilwoman Peterson also welcomed Melissa Skabich to her first term on the governing body.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) To consider resolution appointing Class I member to the Planning Board

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, New Jersey that Peter Tanella is hereby appointed as the Council Class I member to the Planning Board of Cedar Grove effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

(b) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the Recreation Advisory Board

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, New Jersey, that Peter Tanella be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Liaison Member on the Recreation Advisory Board for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

(c) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison members to Cedar Ridge Senior Citizens

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, New Jersey, that Peter Tanella and Joseph Maceri be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Co-Liaison members to Senior Citizens Club and Cedar Ridge Senior Citizens for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

(d) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison members to Board of Education

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, New Jersey that Peter Tanella and Kerry Peterson are hereby appointed to serve as the Council Co-Liaison members to the Cedar Grove Board of Education, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

- (e) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Advisory Health Council

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, New Jersey that Peter Tanella and Kerry Peterson are hereby appointed to serve as the Council Co-Liaison members to the Cedar Grove Board of Education, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

- (f) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Committee

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, New Jersey, that Kerry Peterson be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Member on the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Committee for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

- (g) To consider resolution appointing Councilman Liaison member to Library Board of Trustees

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, New Jersey, that Kerry Peterson be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Member on the Library Board of Trustees for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

- (h) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the CATV Committee

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, New Jersey, that Melissa Skabich be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Member on the CATV Committee for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

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

- (i) To consider resolution appointing Class III member to the Planning Board

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, New Jersey, that Joseph Zichelli is hereby appointed to serve as the Council Class III Member to the Planning Board, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

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

- (j) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to Historical Society

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, New Jersey that Joseph Zichelli be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Liaison Member on the Cedar Grove Historical Society, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2022.

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

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

- (k) To consider resolution concerning re-appointing members to Zoning Board of Adjustment

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 that Jason Malyuk and Jason Nardiello are hereby re-appointed to serve as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for four-year terms effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alex Conte is hereby re-appointed to serve as the Alt. #2 member on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2023.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

- (l) To consider resolution concerning re-appointing/appointing members to Emergency Management Council

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, New Jersey, that it does hereby appoint/re-appoint the following individuals to Cedar Grove’s Emergency Management Council effective immediately through July 1, 2022:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Peter H. Tanella | Mayor |
| Thomas J. Tucci, Jr. | Township Manager |
| James Hoffman | Construction Official |
| Keith Costello | Health Official |
| Joseph Cirasa | Police Chief |
| James Zaccaria | Fire Chief |
| Sandy Huber | Ambulance & Rescue Squad |
| Jerry Vitiello | Supt. of Public Works |
| Alex Palumbo | Municipal Engineer |

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

- (m) To consider resolution re-appointing members of Rent Level Board

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council hereby appoints the members of the Township Council to serve as the members of the Rent Leveling Board until June 30, 2022.

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

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for engineering design services – Update of Township Stormwater Management Plan

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

WHEREAS, The Township has a need for professional engineering design services for Update of the Township Stormwater Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertising duly made for a fair and open contract in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et. seq., proposals were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on April 21, 2021 as follows; and

| <u>PROPOSER</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| CME Associates | \$ 30,774. |
| Neglia Engineering Associates | \$ 39,790. |
| H2M Architect & Engineers | \$ 42,500. |

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer has recommended that a contract for the above referenced professional services be awarded to Neglia Engineering Assoc.; and

WHEREAS, funds are now available for this purpose in Bond Ordinance #19-842.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Neglia Engineering Associates of Lyndhurst, NJ, for an amount not to exceed \$39,790.00 in accordance with the proposal dated April 21, 2021.
2. This agreement is awarded as a “Professional Service” in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because of the technical of the professional services required for this project; and
3. A notice of this agreement shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as required by law.

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

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Zichelli moved adjournment of the public council meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

The public meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

PETER TANELLA

MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK