

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

MARCH 7, 2022

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri

Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Nabbi, Township Clerk Stutz

Absent: Mayor Tanella

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Maceri.

Deputy Mayor Maceri 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 23, 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) To consider approval of minutes of regular public meeting of February 7, 2022

Councilman Zichelli moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Tanella

- b) To consider approval of minutes of special public meeting of February 28, 2022

Councilwoman Skabich moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Councilman Zichelli, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Tanella

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

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

4. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

a) Township Manager – The Manager provided draft guidelines for the proposed Stormwater Damage grant for review, to which the governing body agreed. Mr. Tucci reported that a memorial dedication was held March 4th, the first anniversary of her passing, for long-time crossing guard Peg Tower. Mr. Tucci advised that a memorial plaque has been placed near the post outside the Municipal Building, an additional street sign will designate the intersection of Pompton Ave./Bowden Rd. as “Peg’s Corner”, and March 4th will be remembered as Peg Tower Day in honor of her 47-year dedicated service rendered to the youth of the Township as crossing guard.

b) Township Clerk – No report

c) Township Attorney – Attorney Nabbi requested an executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

d) Other Reports

Councilmembers each thanked the Township Manager for organizing the tribute to Peg Tower.

Councilwoman Peterson - Councilwoman Peterson commented that she attended the recent CGHS musical and noted that Jelani Remi, professional dancer and high school alumni assisted with choreography.

Councilwoman Skabich – Councilwoman Skabich commented that she will attend the Memorial Middle School TREPS program on Sunday, March 13.

Councilman Zichelli – Councilman Zichelli expressed concern regarding a recent letter sent to residents by the Ambulance & Rescue Squad that contained factually incorrect statements regarding ambulance service.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) To consider resolution concerning State of New Jersey SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program

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

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove desires to further the public interest by obtaining a grant administered by the State of New Jersey, Department of Law & Public Safety in the amount of \$67,254.00 to fund the Project Title SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program Award Number 21-BWC-086 is for an Award Period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove is hereby authorized to accept the SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program in the amount of \$67,254.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove is accepting the SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program funds for the purpose described in the grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby accepts the SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program administered by the State of New Jersey, Department of Law & Public Safety in the amount of \$67,254.00.

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Tanella

- b) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – The Fighting Childrens Cancer Foundation Inc.

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

WHEREAS, applications for raffle licenses have been received from:

APPLICANTS

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

The Fighting Childrens Cancer Found. Inc.
55 Lane Rd. Suite 300
Fairfield NJ 07004

Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held
November 12, 2022 at 9:00 p.m. at
691 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove NJ 07009

The Fighting Childrens Cancer Found. Inc.
55 Lane Rd. Suite 300
Fairfield NJ 07004

Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held
November 12, 2022 at 9:00 p.m. at
691 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove NJ 07009

WHEREAS, the fees have been paid, and the applications have been reviewed by the Township Clerk and found acceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that it does hereby approve said applications.

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Tanella

6. 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 \$1,610,182.92

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Tanella

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

Deputy Mayor Maceri opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Deputy Mayor Maceri 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
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is
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 Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Tanella

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Tanella

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

PETER TANELLA MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK