

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

**COUNCIL STAFF MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 21, 2022**

**1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR**

Mayor Tanella 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 Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Attorney Giacobbe for Township Attorney Nabbi, and Township Clerk Stutz

Absent: Deputy Mayor Maceri

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a) Staff Meeting – February 28, 2022

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Maceri

b) Executive Session – February 28, 2022

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Maceri

c) Executive Session – March 7, 2022

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Maceri

3. **TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Manager provided details and date (Monday 5/30/2022) of annual Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Tucci noted change to the parade route, which will end at Community Park, followed by a picnic in the park. The Manager requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter and non-represented employee salaries.
4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – Attorney Giacobbe requested to discuss contract negotiation.
5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Clerk noted a vacancy on the Recreation Advisory Board and Municipal Alliance Committee, and letters of interest received concerning membership on Municipal Alliance Committee. There was consensus to advertise vacancy on website and schedule interviews for executive session on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

## 6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Zichelli noted a concern potential solution regarding key availability for access to Morgan Farmhouse.

Councilwoman Skabich reported that potential location has been identified for proposed community garden. The Manager advised that a schematic is to be prepared by the Municipal Engineer. The Manager also noted that he and the Engineer met with the Library Director to discuss renovations at the Library that had been postponed during COVID, and other potential upgrades.

Councilwoman Peterson – No report

Mayor Tanella – Mayor Tanella requested an executive session to discuss a potential litigation matter.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning transfer of appropriations

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59 permits certain transfers of appropriations during the first three months of the succeeding year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the following transfers of appropriations listed herein in the 2021 Municipal Budget be approved:

**CURRENT FUND MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

To:

Utility and Bulk Purchases:

Other Expenses \$12,450.00

From:

Statutory Expenditures:

Unemployment Compensation Insurance \$12,450.00

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Maceri

- b) To consider resolution concerning allocation of resources for repair/replacement of sidewalks, streets and highways

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

**ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF  
SIDEWALKS, STREETS AND HIGHWAYS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove recognizes the need to keep its sidewalks, streets, and/or highways in safe condition; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove acknowledges that it has limited resources to undertake the repair or replacement of all sidewalks, streets, and/or highways in need of such efforts during calendar year 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 59:2-3*, a public entity is not liable for the exercise of discretion when, in the face of competing demands, it determines whether and how to utilize or apply existing resources, including those allocated for equipment, facilities and personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove has completed a survey, identifying those sidewalks, streets, and/or highways most in need of repair, and has also determined that among those locations listed on the Roadway Inventory the Township of Cedar Grove only has sufficient resources to undertake replacement of the top listed street based on funds available during calendar year 2022;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Cedar Grove declares that the funds available in its budget for repairing sidewalks, streets, and/or highways for calendar year 2022 shall be used to repair or replace locations based on the Roadway Inventory, and all remaining sidewalks, streets and/or highways will be addressed as funds become available in future years.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Maceri

## **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 \$ 3,665,065.25.

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

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Maceri

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Tanella opened this portion of the meeting to any one wishing to be heard.

Charles Dovico; 111 Holly Lane – Mr. Dovico raised several questions pertaining to 36 Cliffside Drive redevelopment project. Mr. Dovico referred to the Hilltop PILOT program and proposed 36 Cliffside Drive PILOT program and suggested that the Township provide/issue an annual report to the public on the specific utilization of the funds.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, Mayor Tanella 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 in the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council of February 28, 2022.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed are personnel, non-represented employees' salaries, contract negotiation, potential litigation.
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, Mayor Tanella

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Maceri

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. by acclaim.