

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 1, 2022

1. ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Tanella called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Peterson, Skabich, Zichelli, Deputy Mayor Maceri, Mayor Tanella
Also Present: Township Manager Tucci, Township Attorney Nabbie, and Township Clerk Stutz

The flag salute was led by Mayor Tanella.

Mayor Tanella 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. 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 Joseph Maceri 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, 2022 and terminating July 1, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

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

(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 Zichelli 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, 2022 and terminating July 1, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

Township Clerk Kathleen Stutz administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Zichelli.

(c) Presentation of Plaque to Outgoing Mayor

Mayor Maceri presented a plaque to outgoing Mayor Tanella. Mayor Maceri stated that it has been an honor to have served as Deputy Mayor with outgoing Mayor Tanella. Mayor Maceri stated that he hopes to follow in the outgoing Mayor's footsteps with the same leadership qualities that the outgoing Mayor has shown.

(d) Comments from Councilmembers

Mayor Maceri expressed his thanks to his Council colleagues for their faith and support. Mayor Maceri thanked Kevin O'Toole for the honor of administering his oath and described him as an all-star for Cedar Grove and the State, as he has served both in many capacities. Mayor Maceri further commented that Kevin O'Toole's service and generosity to the community is unmatched. Mayor Maceri expressed his thanks to his parents, who immigrated to this country from southern Italy to provide their children with opportunity, his sister, in-laws, uncles, aunts and cousins for their constant and continued support. Mayor Maceri also expressed his thanks to his immediate family, his wife whom he met in the fourth grade, and two sons, and his appreciation of his family's understanding of the importance of public service and the sacrifices involved. Mayor Maceri recognized the presence of his work family and thanked them for their support and encouragement. Mayor Maceri also acknowledged the Township's District 40 legislative representatives, Senator Corrado, Assemblymen DePhillips and Rooney, and voiced his appreciation for their availability. Mayor Maceri thanked his Council "family" and described the different assets each member contributes to the governing body. Mayor Maceri expressed the governing body's thanks to all Township employees and professionals, especially Township Manager Thomas Tucci for his unwavering leadership and loyalty to all residents of the Township, and leading by example. Mayor Maceri commended the Manager for his service to the township for over 30 years, responsible fiscal management and ensuring that the Township's residents have the best community to raise their families. Mayor Maceri announced the governing body's unanimous decision to make a special dedication of the Municipal Building to Township Manager Thomas Tucci with a bronze plaque to honor his longtime service and commitment to the Township. Mayor Maceri also thanked the Township team, including the Township Clerk, professionals, department heads, Town Hall employees, DPW, Police Dept., first responders, volunteers on boards, committees, and commission, as well as volunteers on civic organizations. Mayor Maceri highlighted recent Township accomplishments; new South End Fire House and fire truck, acquisition of open space dedicated to Green Acres, new multi-purpose turf field, and recreation improvements. Additionally, Mayor Maceri cited other planned future improvements including new North End Fire House, new Fire Safety Building at 14 Cedar Street, design for new community center, continued maintenance of Peckman River, new state-of-the-art electronic water meter reading system, and continuation of road overlay program. Mayor Maceri

stated his commitment to work with the Council and Manager to ensure residents continue to receive the best services while remaining fiscally responsible.

The Township Manager announced his official retirement as of January 1, 2023 and last physical day of August 30, 2022. Mr. Tucci thanked his parents for instilling the values that he has endeavored to live by, his wife, daughters and grandchildren for their support over the past 30 years. Mr. Tucci attributed his success as Manager to the Township department heads and employees; what he termed the “trickle up” effect. Mr. Tucci stated that he hoped he was leaving the Township in a better state than when he took over, referenced having maintained a low tax rate and current significant budget surplus. The Manager stated that he is most proud of the Panther Park complex and the recreational opportunities it provides for residents. Mr. Tucci also recapped recent accomplishments and several previously mentioned planned project which he encouraged the governing body to bring to fruition with fiscal responsibility. Mr. Tucci particularly thanked individuals that he has worked with the longest and/or closest; former longtime Construction Official, former longtime Administrative Assistant, current Administrative Assistant, Township Clerk, recently retired Finance Director, and Recreation Director. Mr. Tucci reflected that he has served with many different governing body members, five different police chiefs, numerous fire chiefs, and some of the best legal counsel. Mr. Tucci thanked the Township’s first responders, Police Department employees, fire department and rescue squad volunteers for their service, and two longtime friends, and described one as an unsung hero of the Township. Mr. Tucci shared advise that he received from his father after his first Council meeting as Township Manager which he has tried to live by during his career; “don’t do anything in this job just because you can (have the authority), and if you help someone without hurting anyone else, do it.” Mr. Tucci noted that there is a longstanding culture in the Township which he encouraged the governing body and residents to continue. The Manager closed his comments with the sign-off words from a favorite DJ Frankie Crocker; “May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live, and may you live to be 100 and meet 100 lives a day I’ll never know that people like you passed away”.

Councilwoman Peterson thanked former Mayor Tanella for his leadership and friendship. Councilwoman Peterson offered congratulations to Mayor Maceri, and commented on attributes of Deputy Mayor Zichelli and Councilwoman Skabich. Councilwoman Peterson also commended and thanked the Township Manager for his service and offered best wishes for his retirement.

Councilman Tanella congratulated incoming Mayor Maceri, described him as even keeled, applauded his analytical skills, and voiced his full support. Councilman Tanella also congratulated the Deputy Mayor, commended his hard work and passion for Cedar Grove. Councilman Tanella addressed comments to the Township Manager and stated that he is the great leader behind the great Township. Councilman Tanella commended the Manager’s fiscal responsibility and passion for Cedar Grove.

Councilwoman Skabich also thanked former Mayor Tanella for his service and recounted her appreciation for each Councilmember’s attributes shared with her during her freshman year as Councilwoman; Councilman Tanella for his leadership skills, Councilwoman Peterson for being her sounding board, Mayor Maceri for his even temperament and deliberative approach to all issues, Deputy Mayor Zichelli for his responsiveness and assistance. Councilwoman Skabich also commended the Township Manager for his service, particularly the budget process and accountability.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli thanked the residents for electing him to office and giving him the opportunity to serve on the Council. Deputy Mayor also acknowledged and thanked his family, mentor Kevin O'Toole, Al Barlas, District 40 legislative representatives, dedicated town employees, and Township Clerk. Deputy Mayor Zichelli expressed his thanks to Mr. Tucci for his longtime service, commented that he is grateful for the Manager's guidance and friendship, and stated there is no better Manager in the state. Deputy Mayor Zichelli also acknowledged Attorney Nabbie for her legal guidance. Deputy Mayor Zichelli recounted numerous community events conducted in the Township during the past year, all with the best interest of the residents in the forefront. Deputy Mayor Zichelli addressed each of his Council colleagues and commented on their individual assets. Deputy Mayor Zichelli pledged to continue to work hard for all the residents of the Township.

3. 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 Joseph Maceri is hereby appointed as the Council Class I member to the Planning Board of Cedar Grove effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (b) To consider resolution appointing Class III member to 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, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (c) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the 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, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (d) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the 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 Kerry Peterson be hereby re-appointed to serve as the Council Liaison member to the Advisory Health Council for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (e) To consider resolution re-appointing Council Liaison member to the Alliance for Substance Abuse 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, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (f) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison member to the 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, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

(g) 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 re-appointed to serve as the Council Member on the CATV Committee for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

(h) To consider resolution appointing Council member to the Environmental Commission

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 is hereby appointed to serve as Councilmember to the Environmental Commission to fill an unexpired term effective immediately and terminating December 31, 2024.

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

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

NO: None

(i) 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, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (j) To consider resolution concerning 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, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (k) To consider resolution appointing Council Liaison members to the Senior Citizens Club & 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, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- (l) To consider resolution re-appointing Zoning board members

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 Joe Muszynski is hereby re-appointed to serve as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a four-year term effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Marcia Vollero is hereby re-appointed to serve as the Alt. #1 member on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2024.

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

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

NO: None

(m) To consider resolution 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, 2023:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Joseph Maceri | Mayor |
| Thomas J. Tucci, Jr. | Township Manager |
| James Hoffmann | Construction Official |
| Keith Costello | Health Official |
| John Kennedy | Police Chief |
| Mike Grasso | Fire Chief |
| Sandy Huber | Ambulance & Rescue Squad |
| Jerry Vitiello | Supt. of Public Works |
| Alex Palumbo | Municipal Engineer |

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

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

NO: None

(n) To consider resolution appointing Rent Leveling Board members

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

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

NO: None

(o) To consider resolution concerning appointment of Certified Finance Officer

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:9-140.10 requires every municipality in the State of New Jersey to have a Chief Financial Officer to be appointed by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.10 further provides that the term of office of the Chief Financial Officer “shall be four years, which shall run from January 1 in the year the Chief Financial Officer is appointed”; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Grove Code Section 3-22.1 provides that the Director of Finance shall be the Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove is in need of a Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, Lubna Muneer is currently employed by the Township of Cedar Grove as Assistant Finance Director and holds a current required Certified Municipal Finance Officer Certificate; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that Lubna Muneer has the qualifications and experience to hold the position and perform the duties of Chief Financial Officer

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Lubna Muneer is hereby appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Cedar Grove, also serving as Director of Finance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ms. Muneer’s appointment shall commence July 1, 2022, and that pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.10, Ms. Muneer’s term of office shall be four years, beginning for purposes of statutory tenure on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2025.

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

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

NO: None

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

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

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NO: None

The public meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

JOSEPH MACERI MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN R. STUTZ MUNICIPAL CLERK