

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

Mayor Maceri called the meeting to order at 7:14 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: Councilmembers Peterson (via conference call), Skabich Councilman Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zichelli, Mayor Maceri
Also Present: Acting Township Manager Palumbo, Township Attorney Nabbie, Deputy Township Clerk Forde

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Staff Meeting – October 17, 2022

Councilman Tanella moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Deputy Mayor Zichelli, and passed by the following vote:

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

Executive Session – October 17, 2022

Deputy Mayor Zichelli moved approval of the minutes without release, seconded by Councilman Tanella, and passed by the following vote:

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

3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – The Acting Township Manager reported that The Township was in receipt of the fully executed stormwater grant agreements with Mr. Sousa and Mr. Jennings. The Acting Township Manager reported the Township was in receipt of the fully executed Blasi Field lease agreement. He reported the County was about 80% done. The Acting Township Manager also reported the Town Hall Roof contract was signed, but construction would start in the Spring.

The Acting Township Manager reported improvement to the tennis courts on Little Falls should be completed in the Spring.

Mayor Maceri asked the RFP Status regarding improvement to Community Park Field. The Acting Township Manager responded RFPs for design proposals were received on November 30th. The project description, specifics regarding the Township's wants and suggested cost were provided to interested vendors.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli asked if pickle ball line stripes were included. The Acting Township Manager responded affirmatively.

4. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY – No report. The Township Attorney requested an executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation.

5. TOWNSHIP CLERK – No report.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Peterson – Councilwoman Peterson asked since the Manager's Office was currently vacant, if there were any way to have the office freshly painted.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli recused himself regarding any business relating to the hiring of Township Manager and left the Chambers at 7:21 PM.

Mayor Maceri responded while he had no objection to doing something, he felt the Township should wait until the new Manager arrived to decide what he wanted to do.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli returned to the Chambers at 7:23 PM.

Councilwoman Skabich – Councilwoman Skabich reported there was severe damage to the West Essex Trail during the last storm. Thanked the Acting Township Manager for handling the situation. She added that the Environmental Commission was also pleased.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli – Deputy Mayor Zichelli wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Maceri – Mayor Maceri reported that the residents of 95 Sunrise Terrace were charged late fees for their water bill and requested that their late fees be waived. He requested a resolution reimbursing those residents be placed on the December 5, 2022 Meeting Agenda for adoption.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) To consider resolution concerning 2022 Volunteer Fire Department stipends.

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:

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove shall establish the following 2022 fee schedule for stipends and mileage allowance for volunteer firemen of the Township of Cedar Grove:

	2021 Stipend	1% Increase	2022 Stipend
Fire Chief	1698	16.98	1714.98
Deputy Fire Chief	1061	10.61	1071.61
Fire Captain	530	5.3	535.3
Fire Lieutenants	399	3.99	402.99
Fire Chiefs Secretary	954	9.54	963.54
Fire Prevention Bureau Dir	742	7.42	749.42
Fire Inspector	318	3.18	321.18
Fire Prev. Bureau Secretary	318	3.18	321.18
Fire Dept. Secretary	187	1.87	188.87
Fire Relief Secretary	399	3.99	402.99
NFIR Secretary	424	4.24	428.24
Public relations Info Officer	318	3.18	321.18
Clothing Allowance	925	9.25	934.25
Fire Prevention Bureau Mileage	101	1.01	102.01
IT Support	232	2.32	234.32
Respirator Protection Officer	318	3.18	321.18
Drivers/ SCBA	162	1.62	163.62

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that 2022 fee schedule for stipends and mileage allowance for Volunteer Firemen be hereby established.

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

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

NO: None

- b) To consider resolution concerning renewal of Amusement Business Licenses for 2023; The Grasshopper, The Grove and Il Tulipano.

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

WHEREAS, the following businesses have applied for renewal of their Amusement Business License for 2023:

APPLICANT	TRADE NAME	LICENSE FOR
Edward Fitzpatrick, Inc. (<i>Owner</i>)	The Grasshopper	Night Club/Restaurant
Second Gen Catering	The Grove	Night Club
Pompton Restaurant Associates	Il Tulipano	Night Club

WHEREAS, the application has been reviewed, the fee has been paid, and the Fire Prevention Bureau, Code Enforcement Official, the Police Department have all made inspections and certify that the above locations comply with local ordinances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Township Clerk be directed to renew the licenses of the above-named establishments.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Skabich, and passed by the following vote.

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

- c) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Cedar Grove Elks Lodge.

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

WHEREAS, an application for raffle license has been received from:

<u>APPLICANTS</u>	<u>EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE</u>
Cedar Grove Elks Lodge #2237 405 Bowden Rd. Cedar Grove NJ 07009	On-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held December 9, 2022 at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at 405 Bowden Rd., Cedar Grove NJ 07009

WHEREAS, the fees have been paid, and the application has 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 application.

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

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

- d) To consider resolution concerning appointment 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, County of Essex, New Jersey, that Michael Miller be appointed as a student member of the Recreation Advisory Board to fill a vacancy for unexpired term, effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2024.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli reported he knew the appointee very well. He indicated he would be excited to appoint the appointee who would be a great fit to the Board.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Skabich, and passed by the following vote.

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning renewal of Amusement Device License.

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

WHEREAS, the following businesses have applied for renewal of their Amusement Device License for 2023:

APPLICANT	TRADE NAME	LICENSE FOR
Edward Fitzpatrick, Inc. (<i>Owner</i>)	The Grasshopper	Juke Box/Video Game

WHEREAS, the application has been reviewed, the fee has been paid, and the Fire Prevention Bureau, Code Enforcement Official, the Police Department have all made inspections and certify that the above locations comply with local ordinances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Township Clerk be directed to renew the license of the above-named establishment.

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

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

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 \$2,780,453.80.

Councilman Tanella moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Zichelli and passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

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.

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 November 21, 2022.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is personnel and 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 Tanella moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Skabich, and passed by the following vote:

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. by acclaim.