

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

DECEMBER 5, 2022

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Zichelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Councilmember Peterson, Skabich, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Zichelli
Also Present: Acting Township Manager Palumbo, Township Attorney Nabbie, Deputy
Township Clerk Forde
Absent: Mayor Maceri

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Zichelli.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli 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 meeting of November 7, 2022.

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

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

3. PUBLIC HEARING

a) To consider adoption of Pending Ord. #22-899 – Ordinance Amending the Film Ordinance.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only:

PASSED ORDINANCE NO. 22-899

**ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 01-544 OF 2001 AN ORDINANCE
CREATING CHAPTER 192 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR
GROVE, ENTITLED MOTION PICTURE FILMING.**

Deputy Mayor Zichelli opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Deputy Mayor Zichelli closed the public hearing.

Councilman Tanella moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

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

- b) To consider adoption of Pending Ord. #22-900 – An Ordinance Setting the Maximum Allowable Rent Increase Pursuant to Chapter 208 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only:

PASSED ORDINANCE NO. 22-900

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RENT INCREASE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 208 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE

Deputy Mayor Zichelli opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Deputy Mayor Zichelli closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Skabich moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

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

- c) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance #22-901 Stormwater Control Management Ordinance.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only:

PASSED ORDINANCE #22-901

STORMWATER CONTROL MANAGEMENT

Deputy Mayor Zichelli opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Deputy Mayor Zichelli closed the public hearing.

Councilman Tanella moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

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

- d) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance #22-902 Ordinance of the Township of Cedar Grove Authorizing the Purchase of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (“VFW”) Post 6255 Property Located at 970 Pompton Avenue.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only:

PASSED ORDINANCE #22-902

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (“VFW”) POST 6255 PROPERTY LOCATED AT 970 POMPTON AVENUE

Deputy Mayor Zichelli opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Deputy Mayor Zichelli closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Skabich moved that the ordinance be adopted at second reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a passed ordinance to take effect as prescribed by law, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

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

Deputy Mayor Zichelli 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 Zichelli closed this portion of the meeting.

5. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

- a) Acting Township Manager – The Acting Township Manager reported the Holiday Candle Luminaries were in and anyone interested could contact Recreation Director Marisa Landolfi-Jefferson.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli asked if a date was scheduled for pick up. The Acting Township Manager responded affirmatively stating Mrs. Landolfi-Jefferson would provide the information.

- b) Township Clerk – No Report.
- c) Township Attorney – No Report.
- d) Other Reports

Councilwoman Peterson – No Report.

Councilwoman Skabich – Councilwoman Skabich gave kudos to Recreation Director Marisa Landolfi-Jefferson for a wonderful Tree-Lighting Ceremony. She explained that to experience the Ceremony with a five-year old was magical, especially when looking at all of the children’s faces as Santa flew in.

Councilman Tanella – No Report.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli – No Report.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle applications – St. Catherine of Siena Church.

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:

APPLICANTS

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

St. Catherine of Siena Church
339 Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

On Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held
March 10, 2023 at 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at
39 E. Bradford Avenue, 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.

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

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle applications – St. Catherine of Siena Church.

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:

APPLICANTS

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

St. Catherine of Siena Church
339 Pompton Avenue

Merchandise Raffle to be held
March 10, 2023 at 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at

Cedar Grove NJ 07009

39 E. Bradford Avenue, 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.

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

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

- c) 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
Al Lombardi (<i>Owner</i>)	Lombardi	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.

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

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

- d) To consider resolution designating official newspapers of the Township for 2023.

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 the Verona/Cedar Grove Times, Star Ledger, and The Herald News are hereby designated as the official newspapers of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2023.

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

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of representatives to the Community Development Block Grant 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 Alex Palumbo, Municipal Engineer and Lubna Muneer, Finance Director are hereby re-appointed to serve as Cedar Grove’s representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for 2023.

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

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution concerning 2023 Official Holidays.

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 the following official holidays shall be observed by the Township of Cedar Grove for the year 2023.

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

January 2	Monday	New Year’s Day
January 16	Monday	Martin Luther King Day
February 20	Monday	President's Day
April 7	Friday	Good Friday
May 29	Monday	Memorial Day
July 4	Tuesday	Independence Day
September 4	Monday	Labor Day
October 9	Monday	Columbus Day
November 10	Friday	Veteran’s Day

November 23	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
November 24	Friday	Thanksgiving
December 25	Monday	Christmas Day

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

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning 2023 Council Meeting Schedule.

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

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, also known as the Open Public Meetings Act, requires that the governing body compile and disseminate a schedule of meetings to be held by it during the coming year 2023;

WHEREAS, meetings of the governing body are held in the Municipal Building, 525 Pompton Avenue at 7:00 p.m. and are open to the public with the exception of executive sessions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following schedule of the meetings of the Township Council is hereby approved for publication:

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS shall be held in the Council Chambers the first Monday of each month, excluding holidays, according to the following schedule:

January 9	June 5
February 6	September 11
March 6	October 2
April 3	November 6
May 1	December 4

STAFF COUNCIL MEETINGS shall be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room the third Monday of each month, excluding holidays, according to the following schedule:

January 23	June 12
February 27	September 25
March 20	October 16
April 17	November 20
May 15	December 18

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body shall conduct meetings according to a summer meeting schedule for the months of July and August as follows:

TYPE OF MEETING	DATE
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Regular
Regular

July 10
August 7

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that official action will be taken at Regular Meetings and may be taken at any Staff Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that closed/executive sessions may take place at Regular Meetings or Staff Meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the annual Re-organization Meeting shall be held on Saturday, July 1st at 12:00 Noon in the Council Chambers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the schedule of meetings shall be posted on the Bulletin Board on the first floor of the Municipal Building Lobby.

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

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

- c) To consider resolution concerning appointment/re-appointment of Township Officials.

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 it does hereby appoint/re-appoint the following Township officials, commencing January 1, 2023:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Nylema Nabbie | Township Attorney |
| 2. | Robert J. Candido | Township Prosecutor |
| 3. | Peter D. Russo | Public Defender |
| 4. | Theresa Platvoet | Court Administrator |
| 5. | Courtney Demarest | Deputy Court Administrator |

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

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

- i. Township Attorney

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Attorney for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services", and

WHEREAS, **NYLEMA NABBIE** of the firm Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC submitted proposal for Township Attorney pursuant to advertising duly made for a fair and open contract in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et. seq., that were publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 25, 2022; and

WHEREAS, **NYLEMA NABBIE** is an attorney-at-law in the State of New Jersey and comes under the "professional services" provision of the Local Public Contracts Law:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby appoint **NYLEMA NABBIE** of the firm Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC to serve as the Township Attorney commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate Township officials be authorized to execute agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of the appointments shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

ii. Municipal Prosecutor

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Prosecutor for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services", and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby re-appoint **ROBERT J. CANDIDO** to serve as the Township Prosecutor commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate Township officials be authorized to execute an agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this appointment shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

iii. Public Defender

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Public Defender for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services", and

WHEREAS, PETER D. RUSSO is an attorney-at-law in the State of New Jersey and comes under the "professional services" provision of the Local Public Contracts Law:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby re-appoint **PETER D. RUSSO** to serve as the / commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate Township officials be authorized to execute an agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this appointment shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

iv. Court Administrator

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 Theresa Platvoet be re-appointed to serve as the Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- v. Deputy Court Administrator

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 Courtney Demarest be re-appointed to serve as the Deputy Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- d) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Auditor.

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Auditor for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4, for the annual audit; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Nisivoccia & Company is a registered municipal accounting firm in the State of New Jersey and comes under the "professional services" provision of the Local Public Contracts Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby appoint Nisivoccia & Company to serve as Township Auditor for the calendar year 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this appointment shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Bond Counsel.

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for specialized legal services in connection with the authorization and the issuance of bonds or notes of the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq. under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposal for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 25, 2022; as follows

Gibbons, P.C. Newark, NJ
Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. Woodbridge, NJ

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the law firm of Gibbons, P.C. of Newark, New Jersey is hereby re-appointed for the calendar year 2023 to provide the specialized legal services necessary in connection with the authorization and the issuance of bonds or notes by the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

- f) To consider resolution concerning re- appointment of Tax Appeal Attorney.

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for specialized legal services in connection tax appeals of the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq. under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposal for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 25, 2022; as follows

Marmero Law, LLC	Woodbury, NJ
Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala, Taylor, LLC	Parsippany, NJ
Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs LLC	Oakland, NJ
Hill Wallack, LLP	Princeton, NJ

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that Nicholas A. Grieco, Esq. of the law firm of Inglesino Webster Wyciskala Taylor, LLC of Parsippany, New Jersey is hereby re-appointed for the calendar year 2023 to provide the specialized legal services as Tax Appeal Attorney for the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

g) 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:4-58 permits certain transfers of appropriations during the last two months of the fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the following transfers of appropriation listed herein in the 2022 Municipal Budget be approved

CURRENT FUND MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Operating:	FROM	TO
Salary & Wage Personnel Adjustment Program	\$92,025.00	
Treasurer- Controller’s Office: Salary & Wages	3,575.00	
Tax Collections: Salary & Wages	15,044.71	
Township Manager’s Office: Salary & Wages		\$21,744.71
Engineering Services & Costs: Salary & Wages		9,500.00
Public Buildings & Grounds: Salary & Wages		9,000.00
Planning Board: Salary & Wages		1,200.00
Zoning Board: Salary & Wages		1,200.00

Construction Official: Salary & Wages		17,000.00
Road Repairs & Maintenance: Salary & Wages		4,500.00
Equipment Repair & Maintenance: Salary & Wages		8,000.00
Parks & Playground: Salary & Wages		38,500.00
Collection of Taxes: Other Expenses	2,000.00	
Unemployment Compensation Insurance	9,400.00	
Election: Other Expense		6,500.00
Contingency		500.00
Treasurer- Controller's Office: Other Expense		2,000.00
Statutory Expenditures: Define Contribution Retirement Prog		2,400.00
		<hr/>
		\$122,044.71 \$122,044.71

WATER OPERATING FUND BUDGET

	FROM	TO
Operating: Salary Adjustment Program	\$7,485.00	
Operating: Salaries & Wages		\$7,485.00

SEWER OPERATING FUND BUDGET

	FROM	TO
Operating: Salary Adjustment Program	\$10,103.00	
Operating: Salaries & Wages		\$10,103.00

SWIM POOL OPERATING FUND BUDGET

	FROM	TO
Operating: Salary Adjustment Program	\$5,042.00	
Operating: Salaries & Wages		\$5,042.00

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DISTRICT BUDGET

	FROM	TO
Operating: Disposal Fees	\$55,000.00	
Operating: Salaries & Wages		\$55,000.00

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

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

- h) To consider resolution concerning cancellation of outstanding checks.

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

WHEREAS, the Current Fund and Payroll account reconciliations reflect the following stale dated outstanding checks:

CURRENT FUND

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
70664	2-22-2021	\$ 36.50
70770	3-15-2021	1,797.00
70787	3-15-2020	467.84
71238	5-17-2021	75.00
71783	8-09-2021	186.00
71953	9-13-2021	200.00
72030	9-13-2021	118.94
72347	10-18-2021	250.00
72602	12-06-2021	925.00
72704	12-06-2021	<u>462.50</u>
		4,518.78

PAYROLL ACCOUNT

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
19664	4-30-2021	\$ 307.25
19751	5-28-2021	196.81
19787	6-11-2021	37.13
19918	6-25-2021	20.02
19929	7-02-2021	31.18
2886	4-16-2019	<u>23.64</u>
		\$616.03

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, that the above listed checks are hereby voided and cancelled.

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

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

NO: None

- i) To consider resolution concerning re-appointment of Class II Member of 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 FURTHER RESOLVED that Richard Hamilton be re-appointed as the Class II member of the Planning Board for a one-year term, effective January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

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

NO: None

- j) To consider appointment of representatives to New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund.

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, that the following municipal officials are hereby appointed as the Commissioner and Alternate to the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund for the calendar year 2023:

Commissioner – Alex Palumbo, Acting Township Manager

Alternate – Sukaina Barlas

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

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

NO: None

- k) To consider resolution concerning appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer.

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

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 requires that each public agency annually designate an officer or employee to serve as its Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that Dale A. Forde is hereby appointed as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Township of Cedar Grove.

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

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

NO: None

- l) To consider resolution concerning refund of overpayment – 95 Sunrise Terrace.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli moved (Item L from the agenda.)

- m) To consider resolution concerning the Municipal Alliance Grant.

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

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey recognize that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Essex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

- 1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Cedar Grove Municipal Alliance Grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$10,121.26
Cash Match	\$2,530.32
In-Kind	\$7,590.95

- 2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance Grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

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

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

- n) To consider resolution concerning 2023 Police Department employee salaries.

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

WHEREAS, The Township of Cedar Grove did adopt Ordinance No. 18-836, fixing salary grades and ranges, wages and fees of the officers of the Cedar Grove Police Department of the Township of Cedar Grove; and

WHEREAS, said ordinance provides that the Township Council shall, by resolution, fix the salary of each officer within the salary ranges as set forth in Section One of the Salary Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the salaries as hereinafter enumerated shall constitute the salaries for the Fiscal Year 2023 which shall become effective January 1, 2023 for officers of the Cedar Grove Police Department covered under Section One of the Salary Ordinance.

Proposed 2023 POLICE DEPARTMENT – PATROLMAN GRADE P-1
Effective 1/1/23

PROBATIONARY

1	2	3	4	5	6	MAX
\$46,671	\$60,655	\$74,635	\$88,617	\$102,600	\$116,583	\$130,567

	2023		
NAME	Salary	Longevity	Holiday Pay
Buscio, Dominick	\$130,567	\$7,834	\$6,388
Cardona, Anthony	\$130,567	\$2,611	\$6,147
Cirasa, Daniel	\$60,655	-	\$2,799
Grawehr, Connor	\$88,617	1,772	\$4,172
Grigolo, Anthony	\$116,583	\$2,332	\$5,488
Heck, Christopher	\$130,567	\$2,611	\$6,147
Hectus, Robert	\$130,567	\$13,057	\$6,629
Johnson, Joseph	\$116,583	\$2,332	\$5,488
Hoyt, Nicole	\$130,567	\$5,223	\$6,267
Ligas, Joseph	\$146,234	\$2,925	\$6,884
Lynch, Carolyn	\$130,567	\$10,445	\$6,508
Lynch, Christopher	\$130,567	\$2,611	\$6,147
McElroy, Jeffrey	\$130,567	\$13,057	\$6,629
Muneyyirci, James	\$60,655	-	\$2,799
Passafiume, Michael	\$130,567	\$5,223	\$6,267
Rock, Alan	\$116,583	\$2,332	\$5,488
Sinisi, Stephen	\$60,655	-	\$2,799
Smiglesky, John	\$130,567	\$5,223	\$6,267
Watson, Nyron	\$60,655	-	\$2,799
Westra, Justin	\$116,583	\$2,332	\$5,488

Sergeants	Grade P – Minimum	Maximum
		\$146,234

REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>JOB CLASSIFICATIONS</u>	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
3	Maintenance Worker	\$38,912.	\$68,767.
4	Equipment Operator	45,020.	68,644.
5	Sewer Plant Operator	47,272.	70,473.
6	Mechanic Auto/Sewer/Water	50,648.	81,989.
7	Engineering Aide	52,899.	87,550.
8	Senior Engineering Aide (VACANT)	60,000.	94,845.
9	Parks/Grounds Department Foreman Road Department Foreman Water Department Foreman Sewer Department Foreman Senior Engineering Aide Automotive Foreman	64,431.	101,402.
10	Superintendent	92,186.	119,544.

<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>		<u>GRADE</u>	<u>LONGEVITY</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>
Calabrese, Eugene	\$62,821.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
King, Timothy	67,700.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
Lewis, Kevin	41,664.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
Mattia, Steven	47,752.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
McElroy, Michael	58,457.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
Mesce, Robert	64,473.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
Mendieta-Ramos, Jose	41,664.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
Romano, Christopher	38,912.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
Smolls, Donald	47,660.	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
VACANT	52,605	3	___	___	Maint. Worker
Hunter, William	68,644.	4	___	___	Equip. Operator
Webb, David	68,644.	4	___	___	Equip. Operator
Lavin, James	68,862.	5	___	___	Sewer Plant Operator
Gialanella, Michael	75,189.	6	___	___	Water Mechanic
Burdett, David	68,729.	6	___	___	Sewer Mechanic
Donovan, Dan	87,550.	7	___	___	Engineering Aide
VACANT	94,845.	8	___	___	Senior Engineering Aide
Bailey, Jeffrey	74,584.	8	___	___	Parks Foreman
DiGeronimo, Peter	101,402.	8	___	___	Automotive Foreman
Resciniti, Thomas	87,241.	8	___	___	Road Foreman
VACANT (Water)	100,207.	8	___	___	Water Foreman

Grasso, Michael	109,423.	9	—	Superintendent/Licensed Water/Sewer Operator
Vitiello, Jerry	115,545.	9	—	Superintendent Superintendent

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

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

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 \$941,223.88.

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

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

NO: None

9. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

- a) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services - 2023 COAH Planning Consultant.

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 appointment of a planning consultant for affordable housing (COAH) services; 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., the sole proposal was received and publicly opened by the Deputy Township Clerk on October 25, 2022 as follows; and

<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Banisch Associates Flemington, NJ	\$ 106/hr. - \$197/hr.

WHEREAS, the Acting Township Manager has recommended that a contract for the above- referenced professional services be awarded to Banisch Associates; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose under Affordable Housing Line Item 9700–9025.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it does hereby appoint Francis J. Banisch, III. of the firm Banisch Associates to serve as planning consultant for affordable housing (COAH) commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate Township officials be authorized to execute an agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this agreement shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as required by law.

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

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

NO: None

- b) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services - 2023 Township Planner.

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for planning services for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq. under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said services were received and publicly opened by the Deputy Township Clerk on October 25, 2022 as follows:

Kasler & Associates	Springfield, NJ
Neglia Engineering Associates	Lyndhurst, NJ

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that Jason Kasler, AICP, PP of Springfield, New Jersey is hereby re-appointed for the calendar year 2023 to provide the planning services for the Township in accordance with the proposal dated October 25, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

- c) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services - 2023 Planning and Zoning Board Attorney.

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for specialized legal services in connection with the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq. under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposal for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 25, 2022; as follows

James Bryce of Murphy McKeon	Riverdale, NJ
Weiner Law Group	Parsippany, NJ
Maraziti Falcon, LLP	Cedar Knolls, NJ

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that James Bryce of the firm The Law Offices of Murphy McKeon Riverdale, New Jersey is hereby re-appointed for the calendar year 2023 as the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment Attorney in accordance with the proposal dated October 25, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk's Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

- d) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services - 2023 Planning and Zoning Board Engineer.

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for consulting engineering services in connection with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 et seq. under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said services were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 25, 2022 as follows:

Neglia Engineering Associates	Lyndhurst, NJ
CP Engineering	Sparta, NJ
Suburban Consulting Engineers	Flanders, NJ

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that Suburban Consulting Engineers, of Flanders, New Jersey is hereby re-appointed for the calendar year 2023 to provide the consulting engineer services necessary in connection with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment in accordance with the proposal dated October 25, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

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

1. Andrew Camaratto, Esq. – Mr. Camaratto explained he represented the project owner of May 36 Cliffside Drive, LLC.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli recused himself from attending the meeting at 7:14 PM and Councilman Tanella assumed the Chair to hear Mr. Camaratto’s remarks.

Mr. Camaratto explained the project was 40% of the Township’s affordable housing compliance under the 2018 settlement agreement. He explained his client was designated as the redeveloper in May. He explained the site plans were signed in May and his client acquired the property in July. He indicated his client worked very hard to meet the requirements of the redevelopment agreement. He indicated his client did not obtain a tree clearing permit or building permits. He explained his client had not had the opportunity to obtain a pre-construction meeting. He explained this was a public/private partnership and

his client wanted to partner with the Town. He indicated his client filed a detailed demand letter to the Township before Thanksgiving. He indicated his client did not understand what the issues were as to why the project was not moving forward.

The Township Attorney indicated she had spoken with Mr. Camaratto earlier in the day explaining that a letter would be forthcoming with regard to permits that were applied for by his client. She indicated this was not the appropriate forum to address this matter. She explained that upon receipt of the letter, they could sit down to discuss.

Mr. Camaratto acknowledged he had spoken with the Township Attorney earlier in the day. He indicated time was of the essence and his client was spending an incredible amount of money to move forward with the project. The Township Attorney responded she was not in the office tomorrow, but Mr. Camaratto should be in receipt of her letter and perhaps she, Mr. Camaratto and others involved could get on the phone.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli returned to the meeting at 7:19 PM and assumed the Chair.

2. Felix Luisi, 46 Buena Vista Rd. – Mr. Luisi asked if there were any progress with the Verona-Cedar Grove Flood Control Board. Deputy Mayor Zichelli responded Verona adopted its version of the Ordinance last month and the joint Board should be staffed in February. The Township Attorney responded the intention was to introduce the Ordinance in January.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli responded Cedar Grove's Ordinance should match the specifics of Verona's Ordinance, then a notice would be posted for the number of residents who would apply to sit on the Board.

3. Michael Kraynanski, 32 Old Orchard Ct. – Mr. Kraynanski complained about the lack of transparency with the resolutions on the Public Meeting Agenda. He asked for updates regarding the position of Township Manager. Deputy Mayor Zichelli responded pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act; the short form of the resolution was required to be on the Agenda. Deputy Mayor Zichelli responded he did not see the lack of transparency to which Mr. Kraynanski referred. Deputy Mayor Zichelli addressed disparaging remarks made by Mr. Kraynanski. Deputy Mayor Zichelli explained that Township Attorney responded to correspondence sent by Mr. Kraynanski and she concluded there was no validity to his false claims.
4. Dave Fletcher, 29 The Glen – Mr. Fletcher explained he was the owner of the store, Cedar Beans Coffee. He expressed interest in being on the committee involved in the hiring process for a new Township Manager. Thanked Council for the holiday decorations and lights.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli asked the Township Attorney if she would respond to Mr. Fletcher's and Mr. Kraynanski's questions. Deputy Mayor Zichelli recused himself from the meeting and Councilman Tanella assumed the Chair at 7:27 PM.

The Township Attorney explained under the Open Public Meetings Act, the Agenda had to be posted 48 hours in advance. She explained the Agenda was posted on the website and Agenda and resolutions were posted on the municipal bulletin board by the Deputy Clerk.

She invited Mr. Kraynanski to take a look at the Agenda in advance of the meeting and contact the Deputy Clerk for copies of the documents listed on the agenda that were not otherwise privileged.

Councilman Tanella explained to Mr. Fletcher that the Council was scheduled to meet in Executive Session. He explained the Council would consider Mr. Fletcher’s interest and respond to him one way or the other.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli returned at 7:28 PM.

- 5. Michael Kraynanski, 32 Old Orchard Ct. – Mr. Kraynanski explained that in correspondence he sent to the Township, he requested the Township Attorney not be involved in the investigation process; however, she sent responded to his correspondence.

Deputy Mayor Zichelli responded there was no investigation because there was no wrongdoing. He explained it was clear that Mr. Kraynanski had a personal agenda. He commended the Township Attorney for responding to Mr. Kraynanski’s letter in the manner she did.

The Township Attorney responded there was no investigation.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard Deputy, Mayor Zichelli closed this portion of the meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NO: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

JOSEPH ZICHELLI DEPUTY MAYOR

ATTEST:

DALE A. FORDE DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK