

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 1, 2023

1. ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Councilmember Mega, Skabich, Tanella, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Maceri
Also Present: Township Manager Zichelli, Attorney Nabbie, Township Clerk Forde and Councilman-elect Zazzali

The flag salute was led by Mayor Maceri.

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 22, 2022, 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. PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS TO OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR

a) Presentation and Comments to outgoing Councilman Tanella from Mayor Maceri.

Mayor Maceri presented a plaque to outgoing Councilman Tanella. Mayor Maceri thanked Councilman Tanella for his 19 years of service on the Governing Body. Mayor Maceri thanked as an experienced and trusted advisor. Mayor Maceri commended Councilman Tanella on his relationship with his family which made him the biggest mentor anyone could admire and respect. Mayor Maceri mentioned when he became mayor, the Township Manager, Clerk and CFO retired. Mayor Maceri said whenever he spoke with Councilman Tanella and Councilman Tanella always inquired about his family and life. Mayor Maceri said Councilman Tanella was a family man and would never let him forget about the importance of family. Mayor Maceri acknowledged Councilman Tanella always worked in the best interest of the Township and its residents. Councilman Tanella talked about his early years on Council. Councilman Tanella expressed that while he enjoyed serving on Council, it was time to step down. Councilman Tanella commended Mayor Maceri for handling the retirement of the Manager, CFO and Clerk terrifically. Councilman Tanella commended the new Manager, Clerk and Attorney for doing a great job. Councilman Tanella congratulated Councilwoman Mega who has served on various capacities within the Township. Councilman Tanella congratulated the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Councilmembers Peterson and Skabich respectively. Councilman Tanella also thanked his family for their support. Councilman Tanella acknowledged former Councilman Zunic, Chairman O'Toole, Senator Corrado and Assemblyman DePhillips, Josh Salinski and Chairman Al Barlas. Councilman Tanella acknowledged Township employees and volunteers.

- b) Presentation and Comments to outgoing Mayor Maceri from Deputy Mayor Peterson.

Deputy Mayor Peterson presented a plaque to outgoing Mayor Maceri. Deputy Mayor Peterson stated that Mayor Maceri had done an incredible job and it was an honor working next to him. Mayor Maceri stated that had been a great year. Mayor Maceri thanked all dignitaries and residents in attendance for joining Council's Reorganization Meeting on a Saturday and holiday weekend. Mayor Maceri reiterated it was a great, but challenging year. Mayor Maceri stated there were big transitions, but the Council and employees worked as a team and did a great job.

Mayor Maceri stated the residents were always taken care of during the six-month transition. Mayor Maceri commended the Township Clerk, interim Manager and his Assistant worked hard to accommodate the residents of which he was appreciative. Mayor Maceri commended the Township Manager on assuming the role and doing a great job. Mayor Maceri acknowledged the Police and Fire Chiefs and other Department Heads in attendance. Mayor Maceri stated it has been honor serving Cedar Grove and looked forward to another four years on Council.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE (ELECTED COUNCILMEMERS)

- a) Joseph Maceri – Honorable Peter H. Tanella, Esq. administered oath of office to Joseph Maceri.
- b) John A. Zazzali – Township Clerk Forde administered oath of office to John Zazzali.
- c) Michele Mega – Township Manager Zichelli administered oath of office to Michele Mega.

4. 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 Kerry Peterson 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, 2023 and terminating July 1, 2024.

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

AYE: Councilmember Mega, Skabich, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Peterson, Mayor Maceri
NO: None

Port Authority Chairman Kevin O'Toole, Esq. administered oath of office to Kerry Peterson.

Mayor Peterson made the following remarks:

“Thank you everyone for being here today. First and foremost, I would like to thank Chairman O’Toole for swearing me today. It means a lot to me that he is here with us today. Kevin has been serving this community, as a former mayor and then Senator, for many, many years. Your service and dedication to this community, and to many others, is second to none. His hard work does not go unnoticed, and it is very much appreciated. You are a constant positive contributor to this community and to many others. Thank you Kevin, for all you do.

I would also like to thank my mother, who held the bible for me today, She’s always been supporting me and all my endeavors. It may not have always been easy, but thank you Mom. I would like to also thank my in-laws, especially my sister-in-law Lauren and Pop. My father-in-law Lee, who is a 50-year veteran on the Fire Department, who has given a lot to Cedar Grove and who tries to make almost every meeting which is a comfort to look out and see. My husband Mark and my daughter Bethany, who is not here with us today, but is watching from Utah with her boyfriend Andy. Shout out to you guys in Utah and my daughter Katie for always supporting my role on this Council. As Pete said, ‘It takes a lot of time away from our families and they’ve always been so understanding and a great support. I am very honored to be Mayor for a second time here in Cedar Grove. I love this town that I grew up in, so much so, that my husband and I decided, that it ss the best place to raise our children.

It is important to me to maintain the integrity and values I was raised on in this town, while navigating waters of change and evolution. I will constantly strive to find the balance to maneuver these factors while maintaining Cedar Grove as a quiet, small town that is reminiscent of a simpler, more innocent time. I look forward to working with our township manager and my Council colleagues to serve this community over the next year.”

YEAR END RECAP

Mayor Peterson made the following remarks:

“Thank you all for coming this afternoon to the Town Council’s Reorganization Meeting despite it being a Saturday in July that happens to be the weekend before July 4th. Each year, the Deputy Mayor gives a recap of relevant issues in town, progress we made and what to expect in the future. I have the distinct privilege of giving this year’s speech and am honored to highlight the future of our great Township.

First, I must thank Mayor Maceri for serving a year with honor and distinction. During his term, the Township Manager, Clerk and Chief Financial Officer all retired, all having combined more than 100 years of service to the Township. Mayor Maceri navigated these absences with poise and confidence and worked harder than any other Mayor to ensure the Township transitioned smoothly and without missing a step. Mayor Maceri also initiated weekly ‘Meet the Mayor’ Office Hours, a concept that brings our residents close to their government and provides immediate assistance. I am going to continue in this tradition that he started and look forward to interacting with residents on a personal basis at these weekly meetings.

I want to also thank outgoing Councilman Peter Tanella. Councilman Tanella served the Township for 19 years as a Councilman and was truly an asset that will be missed. While he deserves retirement, Peter’s lifelong commitment to the Township has shaped the future and left a resounding impact that will continue to be felt. I am certain that he will not be a stranger.

To my fellow Councilmembers, I offer congratulations to Mayor Maceri on his re-election and Councilman Zazzali and Councilwoman Mega on their recent elections. I am positive that they will serve the community well and will lead with action. I am grateful to have them join this Governing Body and look forward to the contributions that they will make. To incoming Deputy Mayor Skabich, your presence on the Council has been a blessing. You provide us with ideas and plans that are full of action and commitment. Your rational approach to issues and ability to work through different obstacles is a testament to the service you are able to provide our residents. I look forward to serving with you as Deputy Mayor over the next year.

To Senator Corrado and Assemblyman DePhillips, thank you for coming to our meeting. The service you provide to the residents of Cedar Grove is second to none and I am grateful for your commitment to the Township. I know that whenever we reach your office, a resolution will be forthcoming. We appreciate your partnership in government and look forward to many more years working together.

Before I go into some of the projects that the Township completed over the past year, it is imperative that I recognize our town hall staff, DPW employees, our Volunteer Fire Department, Cedar Grove Police Department and Cedar Grove Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Squad. Without all of these individuals, the projects the Township sets out on would be nothing more than mere ideas. These are the people that turn words in action and for all you do, on behalf of the entire Town Council, we are grateful and thank you.

Over the past year, a lot has happened. This Governing Body appointed Dale Forde as our Municipal Clerk. Dale brings a wealth of experience to the position and we are lucky to have her sitting with us every other Monday on the dais. Her attention to detail is second to none and we appreciate how she prepares for each and every meeting of the Mayor and Council.

The Governing Body also appointed a new Township Manager. Our former colleague, turned Manager, Joe Zichelli has accomplished more in six months that the Township has seen in six years. From successfully negotiating a hybrid solution with our Cedar Grove Ambulance and Rescue Squad to refurbishing Town Hall, Joe spends more time at the office than anywhere else. So, when our reorganization meeting fell on a Saturday, we knew it would be no problem for him because he would already be here.

I am starting this year's recap with a project that is a personal favorite of mine and was an idea initiated by Councilwoman Skabich. The Township was able to implement a community garden at the lower portion of Morgan's Farm. This has been wildly successful with almost of the beds being reserved for residents who want to plant and grow together. The solace and peace from this project serve more benefit than the mere cultivation of crops and having the community come together at such a special place is exactly what Cedar Grove stands for.

The Township recently completed the paving of Anderson Parkway. This reconstruction involved complete milling and repaving. The Township will be repaving Greendale, Dalewood, Ira and Sweetwood Road in the coming months. Brunswick Road is scheduled for design work and paving either this fall or early spring. The Township has submitted NJDOT grants for repaving Devonshire Road and Devonshire Road South as well as Carlson Parkway and Smith Place. It is our hope that we can consider this aggressive paving schedule to keep our streets in the best shape they can possibly be in.

In this year's budget, the Township announced that it will be replacing all water meters to the tune of \$1.7 million dollars. This project is being paid for in cash out of PILOT funds. The meter replacement will provide for the ability to digitally read meters and provide early leak detection to the residents. We look forward to beginning this project and seeing the benefits that new water meters will provide to the Township.

The Township recently closed on the VFW property. In maintaining our commitment to reduce the circulation of land and preserve open space to reduce affordable housing requirements, this purchase puts the Township at over sixty (60) acres of purchased property in the past eight years. This property, like the Newark Watershed around the reservoir, and the property on the corner of Fairview Avenue and Route 23 will be earmarked on the open space inventory and placed in the Green Acres Program, preventing development for the future. With respect to the VFW property, the Township hopes to plant between 100-120 trees to reduce the impervious coverage and restore the land to a natural state.

Town Hall is looking better than ever. The roof was recently replaced and a new clock and cupola were installed with a beautiful copper base and flashing that truly stands out. I am pleased to report this project came in under budget and ahead of schedule. You will notice new river rock around our sign, flag pole and tree beds. The grass in fact greener. This year, the Township hopes to begin improvements inside Town Hall as well, bringing in a computer network and renovating the common areas to provide more modern and updated aesthetics.

The tennis courts on Little Falls Road were resurfaced and restriped for pickle ball. The Township is in the process of collecting requests for proposals to resurface the basketball courts on Little Falls Road. It is our hope that this project is completed by early Fall. The Township is also in the process of obtaining design proposals for turfing Community Park. Here, we plan on installing a field that can accommodate multiple levels of baseball and softball through the use of adjustable sleeves, as well as a multipurpose field that can accommodate soccer, field hockey and lacrosse. There will be a buffer to address a bifurcation between natural grass and the turf field, mainly to preserve the longstanding tradition of sleigh riding down the hill adjacent to the snack stand.

This year, the Township bonded \$3.4 million to demolish and reconstruct the North End Fire House. The new building will reflect a brand new, two bay station for our volunteers to respond out of. The Township repurposed funds from the CARES Act to help offset some of this cost. As part of this repurposing, the Township will be replacing the EQ Tank for our Water and Sewer Department at a cost of around \$900,000. The Township provided new gym equipment to the members of the Center Company and an added storage area for them in the former hose tower.

All of these projects are reflective of our prudent budget management. This year, despite a drastic hike in interest rates, the Township paid down more on our debt than required and saw only a \$56 tax increase on the year for the municipal end. Cedar Grove buys what we need, not what we want and make sure that every project is performed to standards that meet what we would expect for our residents, all while protecting their tax dollars.

I look forward to working with the Manager, Clerk and my fellow Councilmembers to see what the next year will bring to the Township we are so fortunate to call home."

(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 Melissa Skabich 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, 2023 and terminating July 1, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Mega, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Skabich, Zazzali, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

Englewood Cliffs Mayor Mario Kranjac administered oath of office to Melissa Skabich.

Deputy Mayor Skabich made the following remarks:

“Good afternoon everyone and thank you all for being here on this special day. Thank you to Englewood Cliffs Mayor Mario Kranjac. It’s very special to me to have Mario swear me in. This is the second time now. He’s family and his dedication to serving Englewood Cliffs has played a major role in my desire to run for office. Thank you Mario. Thank you for giving up a beach day with your family. To everyone in the front row; Chairman O’Toole Senator Corrado, Assemblyman DePhillips and our Party Chair Al Barlas.

I want to take a moment to recognize outgoing Councilman Peter Tanella for his 19 years of service to the Town Council. It was a pleasure to serve with Pete. You will be missed. When I was first elected to the Council two years ago, Pete gave me some terrific advice. He told me, ‘When you have an idea, stay with it.’ And I did. That idea was a community garden in Cedar Grove and I’m proud to say that it became a reality this season thanks to former Town Manager Tom Tucci, the support of my current Council colleagues, the Cedar Grove Historical Society and the many volunteers who got it up and running and I also have to thank Town Manager Joe Zichelli, who in his first weeks into his new position, made the garden a reality. It’s really special place and I encourage you all to check it out.

While I’m talking about Mr. Zichelli, who is doing an amazing job as Town Manager. It was a pleasure to serve with you when you were on the Council and an even greater joy to watch you settle into your new role. You bring a contagious enthusiasm to everything you do for the Township and I know you will continue to do great things for Cedar Grove. We are also incredibly luck to work with our outstanding Town Clerk Dale Forde, who had some very big shoes to fill when Mrs. Stutz retired last year. (She) took on her role with a grace and kindness that we don’t see very often these days. It’s an absolute pleasure to work with you Ms. Forde.

To outgoing Mayor Joe Maceri, I’ve learned as much from your leadership this last year and I look forward to continuing to serve with you. To Councilman Zazzali, I’d like to once again welcome you to the team and I look forward to getting to know you better as we serve this wonderful town. To Councilwoman Mega, who has tirelessly served Cedar Grove in just about

every capacity you can imagine, we are so lucky to have you on the Council. To Mayor Peterson, who I had the honor of campaigning with two years ago, I am thrilled to serve as your Deputy Mayor. I've made no secret of the fact that I've admired you for years, and it my great honor to serve in this new role with you.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognize that this in the first time in Cedar Grove's history that women have outnumbered men for the Town Council. While I have would never take a dig at you guys up here because we truly operate as a team and I have a tremendous amount of respect for them, I'm very proud to be a part of the majority for the first time in history. Well done ladies! While I'm on the topic of history, those of you who know me well also know that I try to work Jersey City into pretty much every conversation I have. A quick hello to my Jersey City friends who are here today to support me. It's a source of great pride to me that I was raised someplace that was tough. Keep in mind, this was the gritty Jersey City Heights of the 80s and 90s, not the polished version that exists today.

As a teenager in our three-bedroom apartment on Lincoln Street, I would dream of a different life and the hard work it would take to get there. I was no stranger to hard work, watching my single mom leave very early in the morning to take the bus to lower Manhattan, where she was a legal secretary for her entire career. But for me, as someone who was born and raised someplace that was very different to where we are now, a town like Cedar Grove was my dream. I couldn't be prouder to raise my family in this wonderful community that I'm so fortunate to serve.

It's hard to believe that when my husband and I moved here in 2007 with our two pre-school aged boys that in a blink those boys would be in college, but here we are. It gives me great comfort to know that even though they don't live here for nine months out of the year, Cedar Grove will always be their home. Our family has doubled in size since our move and it's a source of tremendous joy how our children have built their lives here. To my husband Paul, and our boys Paul Chris and Evan and our feisty daughter Estelle, thank you for making my dreams come true. Thank you everybody."

(c) Comments from Councilmembers

Councilman Zazzali made the following remarks:

"Good afternoon members of the Cedar Grove community, Mayor Peterson, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Members of Council, Mr. Zichelli, Ms. Forde, Ms. Nabbie, Senator Corrado, Assemblyman DePhillips, and the entire front row, I truly appreciate the opportunity to be here with all of you. To my fellow Cedar Grove residents, thank you for your support and faith in me and for allowing me this opportunity. To my family, thank you for your unwavering support.

Mr. Tanella, your dedication to the community, as Councilman, is remarkable. It feels like I met you two years ago when our children were in preschool, but they drove here today so it must have been longer. Your past service and compassion for Cedar Grove is immeasurable. Thank you and I wish you nothing but the best.

Mayor Peterson, please know that I look forward to working with you on the Council. I had the opportunity to work with you briefly. I learned that you have a very deep investment in

Cedar Grove. Your involvement with the residents, the community, your organizations and this Council is very admirable.

Deputy Mayor Skabich, congratulations. I look forward to working with you on Council as well. Your positivity and hands-on energetic approach are assets to the Township and to the Council. Councilwoman Mega, it's been an interesting trip in the rain. I'm happy to begin this part of the journey with you on the Council. I hope the days ahead are a little sunnier. To my other rainy day friend, Councilman Maceri, thank you for your guidance during this process."

Councilman Maceri interjected to explain it rained every day that he, Councilman Zazzali and Councilwoman campaigned.

"I appreciate it. Mr. Zichelli, your understanding of municipal business and government, your eagerness to help and your speed with which you get of that done is reassuring to the Council to know that we have someone like you. Thank you. Ms. Forde, thank you for administering the oath of office today. It is something I will always remember. Thank you. Ms. Nabbie, I look forward to working with you during my time on the Council and I'm confident that your professionalism and legal guidance will serve the Council well.

I'd like to acknowledge the departments in the Town because the work that they do helps to keep the town safe, it makes it easier to sit up here (on Council) and it makes it easier to rest easy at home. I want to thank the Police Department, Fire Department, Cedar Grove Ambulance and Rescue Squad and Public Works Department for everything that they do.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you everyone. Thank you for coming out. Thank you for your support."

Councilman Maceri made the following remarks:

"Honestly, I'm so honored to be here and serve another four years as a Councilmember of Cedar Grove. I love this job. I love volunteering. I just want to acknowledge and thank again everybody that came, especially our dignitaries; Chairman O'Toole, Senator Corrado, Assemblyman DePhillips and Chairman Barlas. I want to thank my family. My mom and sister are here and my dad. My in-laws are watching from home. They couldn't be here. I wanted to thank my immediate family; my wife Josephine -we met in Fourth Grade. She is my best friend. She is my biggest support. Without her support and sacrifice, I would not be able to do what I do. Our sons, Matthew and Michael who are here. When I first got sworn into office, they were five and four. Now, one is slightly taller than me and the other one is catching up. It's been a long way and I'm so proud of you guys and I appreciate you standing next to me during this important day. I appreciate you understanding the importance of public service and all the time that it takes. Me and mom love you very much.

Mayor Peterson, congratulations, I look forward to working you again this year. I'm glad that you're keeping the tradition of the Weekly Mayor Meeting. It was actually a great success. I enjoyed doing it so much that I told Township Manager Zichelli that I was going to do it once a month as a Council Member for the public to come and speak to a council member. Not to diminish what the Mayor is going to do every week. I just want to be able to also help. So please take it as additional help. I learned a lot. There are a lot of people in Cedar Grove who are a little intimidated to come to a meeting. They enjoyed coming, talking and airing out some of their questions. It was great because we had the Town Manager who is available to answer

most of those questions and getting answers that they needed right away. I want to keep that tradition going.

Congratulations to our new Deputy Mayor Skabich. Congratulations to being the majority now. I think that is excellent for this Town. I look forward to working with you. You've done a great job and you've hit the ground running years ago as you did last year. I think you're going in your new role. To my running mates, Councilwoman Mega, congratulations. We're all excited that your joining Council this year. I look forward to all of the great work you're going to do. I enjoyed our time campaigning together. I learned a lot from you and I learned a lot about you. I'm looking forward to your work on the Council. Councilman Zazzali, I've known you for the last five years. I enjoyed our time campaigning and I look forward to the next four years on Council.

To the very important people in Cedar Grove. The people who work here every day for our residents and all of our Department Heads. First, I'll start with our Town manager as I mentioned before what an outstanding job I want to thank him for his leadership, commitment to the residents, his work ethic and with everything that he does for the town. Our Township Clerk, Ms. Forde, this year you've been a tremendous asset for me personally and for the Council. You've been there the first six months when we didn't have Mr. Zichelli and you were very helpful um and getting the information to the residents and I appreciate everything that you do for us. I also want to take the opportunity to all the professionals and department heads. I mentioned the Police Chief was here, the Fire Chief was here, First Responders, DPW, our Rec Department for all the great work that they do and to all the volunteers that dedicate their time for each of our committees boards and commissions. Lastly to our residents I want to wish everybody a safe and fun summer. Happy Fourth of July and Happy Birthday to the three special people here. Councilman Tanella, Deputy Mayor Skabich and to my number one, my wife Josephine. Thank you everybody."

Councilwoman Mega made the following remarks:

"What an honor it is to sit up here as an elected Councilwoman representing my hometown. The Town I was raised in and the same town that myself and my husband Tom decided to raise our children in. I first owe thanks to the residents for placing their trust in me to represent them and constantly advocate for their best interests. I assure all of our residents that I will work day in and day out to maintain the shared values that drive our collective love for Cedar Grove.

I want to thank my family, starting with my husband Tom, daughter Alyssa and son Nick. You all support me in my desires to continue serving, whether it is currently as a coach or Councilwoman. I could not do this without having you here to support me. For that, I thank you. I owe thanks to my parents and my in-laws for their continued support as well.

To our state representatives, Senator Corrado and Assemblyman DePhillips, Chairmen O'Toole and Al Barlas, thank you for coming to the Reorganization Meeting, but more importantly thank you for the service you provide to the Township throughout the year. I know firsthand, whenever an issue is brought to your attention, you provide answers and solutions that effective and efficient. On behalf of the residents of our Township, we are so grateful for your service to our community and I look forward to working with you now in my new capacity.

Councilman Tanella, you will be missed. Your service of 19 years to the Township is remarkable and there is no doubt that you have left an impact on Cedar Grove that will continue to be seen. I wish you the best in your retirement, but I am confident I will still see you around.

To my fellow Councilmembers, congratulations. Congratulations to Councilman Maceri and Councilman Zazzali on winning the election. I was fortunate enough to campaign with you both and see firsthand your commitment and dedication to the Township. I am certain you both bring valuable assets to this Governing Body and I look forward to serving on this dais with you. To Mayor Peterson and Deputy Mayor Skabich, congratulations. I know your leadership will bring the Township into the future in a way that will set Cedar Grove apart from every other municipality in Essex County. I look forward to working with all of you and seeing how much we can get done – which I know will be a lot.

Working hand in hand with our Council, I am excited to work with our Town Clerk Dale Forde and Township Attorney Nylema Nabbie. As someone who sat in the public for many Town Council meetings, I notice the attention to detail that exists from you both and how prepared you both always are. Again, I look forward to working with you and thank you for the guidance you have already given me as I learn this new role. It goes without saying that we cannot do what we do without the staff that supports the daily operations here in Cedar Grove. We have an exceptional Police Department, with 31 dedicated men and women working every day to protect our Township. We have the best Volunteer Fire Department who responds to calls around the clock, saving lives and property in the process. The Cedar Grove Ambulance and Rescue Squad has a rich history that is still being preserved by responding to medical calls. Our Police, Fire and Rescue Squad make it a point to be imbedded in our community and that shows the level of dedication they have to this Township and the people. Our DPW is a staff of fantastic employees who work throughout the year in all elements to keep our streets clean, roads open and town maintained. Our excellent staff at Towns Hall who, often times, are the first interactions that our residents encounter. I thank you all for your service to the Township. You all make a great team.

Our team did a great job Thursday night. If you attended the fireworks, like so many did, you would have seen our fantastic staff all working together to put on a great fireworks display. I thank everyone who worked the event and those that attended to make it such a great night! All of these departments I mention and their efficiency starts with great management and leadership. I owe thanks to Mr. Zichelli, our Township Manager, first for swearing me in and second for his oversight and management that pays extremely close attention to detail, demand results and promotes solutions. If there is a problem, often times, there is a solution and before people know a problem exists the solution has been put into action. I am sure when, or if, he sleeps, but we are grateful for your service to the Township and I look forward to working with you over the years to come. By the way, I must add that I am impressed how the lawn looks out front of Town Hall. I know that is a passion of yours and I think it would impress the grounds crew from Yankee Stadium. To close, I thank everyone again for coming today and for their support. I am very dedicated to community, from being a Recreation Advisory Board Member, Coaching, Vice President of the South End FSA, President of MMS, FSA, the APT and the B&G, serving on the Board of Education and now serving as a Councilmember. I can assure the residents that I will work hard every day to promote their best interests and represent my hometown in a way that we can all be proud of. Thank you.”

- d) Presentation to the Honorable Peter H. Tanella, Esq.

Mayor Peterson presented a Proclamation, on behalf of the Council, naming Peter Tanella Honorary Mayor for the Day and declaring July 1, 2023 as Peter H. Tanella, Esq. Day. Deputy Mayor Skabich presented the Key to the City. Councilman Maceri presented Councilman Tanella with his nameplates as Councilman, Deputy Mayor and Mayor. Councilwoman Mega presented Councilman Tanella's first Oath of Office as Councilman for an unexpired term and Councilman Zazzali presented Councilman Tanella's first Oath of Office as Councilman for his full four year term.

Senator Corrado and Assemblyman DePhillips presented a Proclamation on behalf of the State Legislature.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) To consider resolution appointing Mayor's designee Isabel Spagnardi as 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 Isabel Spagnardi is hereby appointed as the Council Class I member to the Planning Board of Cedar Grove effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2024.

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

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (b) To consider resolution appointing John Zazzali as Class III 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 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, 2022.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson

NO: None

- (c) To consider resolution appointing Michele Mega as 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 Michele Mega be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Liaison Member on the Cedar Grove Historical Society, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (d) To consider resolution re-appointing Kerry Peterson as 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, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (e) To consider resolution re-appointing Kerry Peterson as Council Liaison member to the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention 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, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (f) To consider resolution appointing Joseph Maceri as 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 Joseph Maceri be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Member on the Library Board of Trustees for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (g) To consider resolution appointing Melissa Skabich as 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, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (h) To consider resolution appointing Michele Mega as 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 Michele Mega be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Liaison Member on the Recreation Advisory Board for a one-year term, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (i) To consider resolution appointing Kerry Peterson and Melissa Skabich as Council Liaison members to the 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 Kerry Peterson and Melissa Skabich are hereby appointed to serve as the Council Co-Liaison members to the Cedar Grove Board of Education, effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (j) To consider resolution re-appointing members to Zoning Board of Adjustment.

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 Ed Christenson and Joseph DeBlasio are hereby re-appointed to serve as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for four-year terms effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alex Conte is hereby re-appointed to serve as the Alt. #2 member on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2025.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (k) To consider resolution concerning re-appointing re-appointing/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, 2024:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Kerry Peterson | Mayor |
| Joseph Zichelli | Township Manager |
| James Hoffmann | Construction Official |
| Amy Monaco | Health Official |
| John Kennedy | Police Chief |
| Mike Grasso | Fire Chief |
| Sandy Huber | Ambulance & Rescue Squad |
| Jerry Vitiello | Supt. of Public Works |
| Alexandra Handel | Municipal Engineer |

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (l) To consider resolution concerning re-appointing members to the Rent Leveling Board.

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE RENT LEVELING BOARD

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, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (m) To consider resolution appointing Joseph Maceri as Council Liaison to the Verona-Cedar Grove Flood Advisory Control 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 be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Liaison member to the Verona-Cedar Grove Flood Advisory Board for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (n) To consider resolution appointing Thomas Tucci as Certified Public Works Manager and NJIIF representative.

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

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CERTIFIED PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER
("CPWM") AS A COMMISSIONER TO THE NEW JERSEY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSURANCE FUND ("NJIIF")**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that Thomas J. Tucci Jr., is hereby appointed the Certified Public Works Manager for a nominal sum of one-dollar (\$1) per year and is also hereby appointed as Commissioner to the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund ("NJIIF") replacing Township Manager Joseph Zichelli, Esq. as representative for the Township of Cedar Grove.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

- (o) To consider resolution appointing Joseph Maceri and John Zazzali as Council Liaison members to the Cedar Ridge Senior Citizens Bldg.

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 and John Zazzali be hereby appointed to serve as the Council Liaison members to the Cedar Ridge Senior Citizens Building for a one-year term effective immediately and terminating July 1, 2024.

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zazzali, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution authorizing inclusion in the Essex County Urban Community Development Program for the Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INCLUSION IN THE ESSEX COUNTY URBAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2024-2026 (OCTOBER 1, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026)

WHEREAS, certain Federal funds are potentially available to the County of Essex under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, commonly known as the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG); and

WHEREAS, certain Federal funds are potentially available to the County of Essex under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; commonly known as the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME); and

WHEREAS, substantial Federal funds are provided to the County of Essex through Subtitle B of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act are allocated to prevent homelessness and to enable homeless individuals and families to move toward independent living, commonly known as the Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG)

WHEREAS, the current Uniform Shared Services and Consolidated Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.) provides a mechanism through which counties and municipalities may enter into agreements for the provision of joint services; and

WHEREAS, by July 7, 2023 each municipality must notify the Essex County Division of Housing & Community Development of its intent to continue as a participant in the Urban County entitlement programs noted above as part of the Urban County Requalification Process; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township of Cedar Grove and its residents to participate in said entitlement programs; and.

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove desires to renew its participation in the Essex Urban County for conducting certain community development activities for Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026 (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026); and

WHEREAS, a letter has been drafted by the Mayor to the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development notifying the County of the Township's desire to renew its inclusion as a participant municipality in the Essex Urban County entitlement program for Federal Fiscal Years 2024 to 2026 (October 1, 2023- September 30, 2026) and for successive three (3) year periods, as provided in the Housing and Community Development Act, until terminated; and

WHEREAS, the Township of and the Essex Urban County desire to enter into a Cooperation Agreement for Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026 (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026) which authorizes the automatic renewal of the agreement for successive qualification periods of three years, and shall remain in effect at least until the CDBG, ESG and HOME funds from each of the federal fiscal years of the agreement's specified qualification period, and each successive

qualification period for which the agreement is renewed, are expended and the funded activities completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that it hereby authorizes the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the attached Cooperation Agreement in accordance with the provisions of law; for the Federal Fiscal Years 2024 to 2026 (October 1, 2023- September 30, 2026), and for successive three (3) year periods, as provided in the Housing and Community Development Act, until terminated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, and a copy to this resolution be forwarded to the Essex County Division of Housing & Community Development no later than July 31, 2023.

APPROVED, this 1st day of July, 2023

Councilman Maceri moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Mega, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Skabich moved adjournment of the public council meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Mega, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich, Mayor Peterson
NO: None

The public meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

KERRY PETERSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

DALE A. FORDE MUNICIPAL CLERK