

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2023

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

Present: Councilmember Mega, Skabich, Tanella, Mayor Maceri

Also Present: Township Manager Zichelli, Township Attorney Giacobbe, Township Clerk Forde

Absent: Deputy Mayor Peterson

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 Meetings Act.

2. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

a) Certification of Municipal Election

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

I, Dale A. Forde, Township Clerk of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct canvass of the voters of the Township of Cedar Grove at the Municipal Election held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

I certify that the number of votes opposite the names of the candidates is the correct number of votes received by said candidate from the legally qualified voters of the Township of Cedar Grove in said Municipal Election.

**FOR TWO (2) COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE SEATS FOR
FULL FOUR YEAR TERMS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2027**

Joseph Maceri	475
John Zazzali	475

**FOR ONE (1) COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE SEAT FOR
UNEXPIRED TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2025**

Michele Mega	485
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Total Number of Registered Voters: 11,365
Total Number Voted in this Election: 535

Total Number Needed by Top Vote-Getter (50% plus 1 of total votes cast):	269
Total Number Received by Top Vote-Getter for a full term:	475

Total Number Received by Top Vote-Getter for unexpired term: 485

The elected Council Member-At-Large for a four year term for the Township of Cedar Grove are as follows:

Joseph Maceri
John Zazzali

The elected Council Member-At-Large for an unexpired term for the Township of Cedar Grove is as follows:

Michele Mega

Councilwoman Mega, who was elected to fill the unexpired term ending July 1, 2025 was administered the Oath of Office on May 24th by Township Manager Zichelli.

b) Proclamation presented to Eagle Scout Robyn Ulrich

Councilwoman Skabich presented a Proclamation to Eagle Scout Robyn Ulrich on becoming the first female Eagle Scout from the Township of Cedar Grove.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) To consider approval of minutes of regular meeting of May 1, 2023.

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

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

4. PUBLIC HEARING

a) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance #23-912 – An Ordinance for Adoption of the Floodplain Mgt Regulations of the Township of Cedar Grove.

Mayor Maceri opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Maceri 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 Councilman Tanella and passed by the following vote:

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

b) To consider adoption of Pending Ordinance #23-913 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 162, Insurance, by Adding Article II Proof of Liability Insurance for Business and Rental Unit Owners.

Mayor Maceri opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Maceri 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 Councilman Tanella and passed by the following vote:

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

- c) To consider Pending Ordinance #23-914 – Salary Ordinance of Unrepresented Employees.

Mayor Maceri opened the public hearing on this item. There being no one present wishing to be heard, Mayor Maceri 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 Councilman Tanella and passed by the following vote:

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

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

Mayor Maceri 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, Mayor Maceri closed this portion of the meeting.

6. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

- a) Township Manager – The Township Manager congratulated the Mayor on his re-election. He congratulated Councilman-Elect Zazzali and Councilwoman Mega. He reported he had the honor of swearing in Councilwoman Mega who he had seen serve the community. The Township Manager reported Anderson Parkway was completely repaved. The Township Manager reported he was currently considering two new NJDOT grants. The Township Manager reported the cupola was 98% completed and came in under budget and ahead of time. The Township Manager reported the pickleball courts on Little Falls Road were restriped. The Township Manager reported the RFP for Little Falls Basketball Court would be posted in two weeks. The Township Manager reported there were six plots left in the community garden and asked interested residents to email him.

- b) Township Clerk – The Township Clerk reported a Municipal Election was scheduled for Tuesday, June 6th from 6AM-8PM and all Polling Locations were open.
- c) Township Attorney – No Report.
- d) Other Reports

Councilwoman Skabich – No report. Councilwoman Skabich welcomed and congratulated Councilwoman Mega on her election and shared she was thrilled to sit on Council with her. Councilwoman Skabich congratulated Mayor Maceri and shared she looked forward to serving with him for the next four years. Councilwoman Skabich shared it was Councilman Tanella's last public meeting and she was honored to sit on Council with him. Councilwoman Skabich said Eagle Scout Robyn Ulrich made an amazing accomplishment. Councilwoman Skabich said she pushed for the community garden and was lucky enough to be one of the folks who got a bed. Thanked the volunteers who got it ready for the public to enjoy. She encouraged the public to contact Manager Zichelli if they wanted a spot.

Councilman Tanella – No Report. Councilman Tanella said he knew Councilwoman Skabich pushed for a community garden which would serve the community for a long period of time. Councilman Tanella congratulated Mayor Maceri and Councilwoman Mega on their re-election and election respectively. He said Councilwoman Mega would serve the community well from this side of the aisle. He congratulated Councilman-Elect Zazzali on his election.

Councilwoman Mega made the following remarks:

“Good evening, everyone here and watching at home. First let me say thank you to everyone who voted me into this role of Cedar Grove Councilwoman. I thank you all for your trust in me to serve the community of Cedar Grove. I would also like to thank my family and friends who were able to attend my swearing in as well as Mr. Zichelli who I had the honor of swearing me in.

I have already attended a few Township events. Thank you to our wonderful volunteer Cedar Grove Fire Department who put on an excellent Junior Firefighter Day. Everyone seemed to have a good time and there were plenty of happy children. Thank you to our Cedar Grove Recreation Department, Cedar Grove Police Department and DPW for the Memorial Day Parade which several organization and volunteers from Cedar Grove participated in. Of course, thank you to the residents out there who were cheering on our parade walkers. This past weekend, we had our 32nd Annual Clean Sweep event which again several organizations and volunteer groups from town participated in and it was another successful event. Thank you to all involved. I thank the community again for voting me into this role and I look forward to working with the Township Manager, the Mayor and Council serving Cedar Grove the best I possibly can. A real special thank you to Councilman Tanella.”

Mayor Maceri – Mayor Maceri reported during Clean Sweep, the DPW already had the Town in tip-top shape. He thanked and acknowledged the hard work of all of the workers

of the DPW. The Mayor congratulated Councilwoman Mega on her election. He shared it was a pleasure campaigning with her and he looked forward to working with her on Council. The Mayor congratulated Councilman-Elect Zazzali and he looked forward to working with him as well.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) To consider resolution concerning 2023 salaries of unrepresented municipal employees.

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

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove did adopt Ordinance No. 23-914 fixing salary grades and ranges, wages and fees of the officers and employees of the Township of Cedar Grove; and

WHEREAS, said ordinance provides that the Township Council shall, by resolution, fix the salary of each officer and employee 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 Fiscal Year 2023 for the officer and employees covered under Section One, Group I, of the Salary Ordinance.

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

The Township Manager explained this resolution was for a wage adjustment for government employees who not represented by collective bargaining agreements or contracts.

AYE: Councilmember Mega, Skabich, Tanella, Mayor Maceri

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Peterson

- b) To consider resolution appointing Christopher Tufaro as the Tax Collector.

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for the position of Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-131, the Governing Body or Chief Executive shall provide for the appointment of a municipal tax collector; and

WHEREAS, the compensation of the tax collector shall be fixed in the manner otherwise provided by law; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Tufaro is currently the Deputy Tax Collector for the Township of Cedar Grove and possesses the statutorily required Certified Tax Collector (“CTC”) certifications; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council deems it in the best interest of the Township to promote Christopher Tufaro to fill the vacant term existing for the position of Tax Collector;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove hereby authorizes the Township Manager to offer a promotion to Christopher Tufaro as Certified Tax Collector of the Township of Cedar Grove.

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

AYE: Councilmember Mega, Skabich, Tanella, Mayor Maceri

NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Peterson

- c) To consider resolution appointing Phil and Jean Jaeger as the Official Historians.

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PHIL AND JEAN JAEGER AS THE OFFICIAL HISTORIANS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE

WHEREAS, Phil and Jean Jaeger have provided dedicated volunteer service to the Township of Cedar Grove for the better part of thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Phil and Jean Jaeger have taken great pride and interest in seeking to preserve, protect and present Cedar Grove’s History; and

WHEREAS, Phil and Jean Jaeger have shared their interest and passion with the public through presentations and programs; and

WHEREAS, Phil and Jean Jaeger present their knowledge through authored books and regular newsletters; and

WHEREAS, The Cedar Grove Historical Society and the Township of Cedar Grove have benefited from their membership, leadership, and participation; and

WHEREAS, Phil and Jean Jaeger’s volunteer service to the Township is a cornerstone upon which Cedar Grove history will be preserved; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that Phil and Jean Jaeger are hereby designated as the Official Historians of the Township of Cedar Grove and are entitled to all the privileges associated thereto.

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

Mayor Maceri said Mr. and Mrs. Jaeger provided over 25 years of dedicated service to the Township, residents and visitors of Cedar Grove. He said it was an honor to adopt the resolution acknowledging them as Cedar Grove Historians.

The Township Manager said he had the honor of sitting on the Historical Society when he was a Councilman. He said he attended many of its events and each time, he left with more knowledge than that last time. He said Mrs. Jaeger was a teacher for many years and still was a teacher. He said this was a little token of the Town’s gratitude.

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

- d) To consider resolution concerning annual renewal of inactive ABC license for 2023-2024.

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

WHEREAS, the following corporation has applied for the renewal of its Alcoholic Beverage License for the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, namely:

<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>TRADENAME</u>	<u>FEE</u>
0704-33-005-011	30 Pompton Holdings, LLC 30 Pompton Ave.	N/A	\$2002.

WHEREAS, the above corporation has submitted application for renewal to the Township Clerk, and said application complies with the State Laws regulating the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the licensee filed the required verified petition to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control of the State of New Jersey requesting authorization for the local issuing authority to consider its renewal application for the 2023-2024 license term pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control of the State of New Jersey has authorized the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove to consider the application of 30 Pompton Holdings, LLC for renewal of its license for the 2023-2024 license term as an inactive license and to grant or deny said application in the reasonable exercise of their discretion and;

WHEREAS, the licensee must file an amendment to said license applications pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:2-2.4 to activate the license during the 2023-2024 term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the application for renewal of existing alcoholic beverage license from 30 Pompton Holdings, LLC be approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue said license to the applicant for the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning annual renewal of active ABC licenses for 2023-2024.

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

WHEREAS, the following individuals and corporations have applied for the renewal of their Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, namely:

<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>TRADENAME</u>	<u>FEE</u>
0704-31-012-001	Cedar Grove Lodge #2237 of B.P.O Elks 405 Bowden Road	Cedar Grove Elks Club	\$ 150.00
0704-33-002-006	Pompton Restaurant Assoc. 1131 Pompton Avenue	Il Tulipano	\$2,002.00
0704-33-003-004	Second Gen Catering Inc. 691 Pompton Ave.	The Grove	\$2,002.00
0704-33-007-006	Edward Fitzpatrick, Inc. 292 Grove Avenue	The Grasshopper	\$2,002.00
0704-33-008-009	Down Neck LLC 597 Pompton Ave.	Lombardi's	\$2,002.00
0704-44-009-008	Cedar Grove Wine Cellar LLC 420 Pompton Ave.	Cedar Grove Wine Cellar	\$1,174.00
0704-44-001-009	Shree Nath, Inc. 597 Pompton Avenue	Cedar Grove Liquors	\$1,174.00

WHEREAS, the above individuals and corporations have submitted their municipal fee for renewal to the Township Clerk, and received the required tax clearance certificate; and

WHEREAS, said applications comply with the State Laws regulating the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the applications for renewal of existing alcoholic beverage license from the above mentioned individuals and corporations be approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue said licenses to the applicants for the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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

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

- f) To consider resolution concerning submission and execution of NJDOT Local Aid grant application and agreement.

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

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CARLSON PARKWAY AND SMITH PLACE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Engineer Alexandra P. Handel and Township Clerk Dale A. Forde are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2024-Reconstruction of Carlson Parkway an-00151 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

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

The Township Manager reported this was one of two NJDOT grants for which he wanted the Township to apply. He announced this grant was for Carlson Parkway and Smith Place. He said it would be submitted after Council’s consideration.

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

- g) To consider resolution concerning submission and execution of NJDOT Local Aid grant application and agreement.

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

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Engineer Alexandra P. Handel and Township Clerk Dale A. Forde are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as LAIF-Cedar Grove Township-00076 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Manager and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Cedar Grove and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

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

The Township Manager explained this was a slightly different grant with different parameters so he and the Engineer were trying to identify the street for which the grant would apply.

- AYE: Councilmember Mega, Skabich, Tanella, Mayor Maceri
- NO: None
- ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Peterson

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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 of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the summary of bills, having been duly audited and found to be correct, are hereby ordered paid and that warrants be drawn by the Treasurer in the aggregated amount of \$721,754.76.

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

- AYE: Councilmember Mega, Skabich, Tanella, Mayor Maceri
- NO: None

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Peterson

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

Mayor Maceri opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard on any item on the agenda.

1. Kate Hartwyk, Essex County Liaison: Ms. Hartwyk announced the County’s upcoming events. She announced the Summer Music Concert series. The Music Series concert in Cedar Grove was scheduled for Tuesday, July 25th. She explained the information was available on the County’s website. She explained all of the events were free to the public.
2. Steve Young: Mr. Young thanked Councilman Tanella for his years of service and dedication to the Township. Mr. Young shared he had four special education students assisting him in the community garden. He shared the students worked very hard and never complained. He thanked the Board of Education and the High School for the opportunity to work with the students.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

JOSEPH MACERI MAYOR

ATTEST:

DALE A. FORDE MUNICIPAL CLERK