

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

**COUNCIL STAFF MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

**1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR**

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and made the required announcement concerning the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Adequate notice of this meeting was duly provided to the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger, filed with the Township Clerk, and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building's lobby in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Present: Councilmember Maceri, Mega, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Skabich

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

Absent: Mayor Peterson

Deputy Mayor Skabich requested a Moment of Silence for the passing of William Homa, former Finance Director/Tax Collector, who served the Township of Cedar Grove for 41 years.

- 2. TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – The Township Manager reported the luminaries were resurfacing for Christmas time. The Township Manager reported that he met with the Assistant Commissioner of the DEP who provided a lot of resources. He reported the DEP paid for fencing, signage and 1<sup>st</sup> responders' training. The Township Manager reported he needed to schedule a meeting with Council and the Board of Education to discuss the usage of the gym and fields. He reported the Township was turfing Community Park.
- 3. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – The Township Attorney requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
- 4. TOWNSHIP CLERK** – The Township Clerk discussed the process for moving the May Municipal Election to the November Non-Partisan General Election.
- 5. COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilwoman Mega – Councilwoman Mega reported that residents requested the townwide garage sale be extended to two days, have a better layout, list of participating home and map.

Councilman Maceri – Councilman Maceri reported some of the constituents were asked for a road overlay. The Township Manager reported he planned to increase the milling and paving budget next year. He provided a list of streets to be done down the pike. The Township Manager reported he scheduled a meeting with PSE&G to discuss the replacement of every gas line in town.

Councilman Zazzali – No Report.

Deputy Mayor Skabich – No Report.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) To consider resolution concerning refund of PILOT payment.

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

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined upon investigation of the Township Manager that the following PILOT payment be refunded:

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Owner &amp; Location</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
78	13	Ambrose Alexander 1 Juniper Court Cedar Grove, NJ 07009	\$5,794.25	Duplicate Payment
			\$5,794.25	

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to issue a refund in the total amount of \$5,794.25.

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

The Township Manager reported that the owner and the owner’s mortgage company paid of the PILOT. He reported the owner should be refunded money.

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Alpine Learning Group Foundation.

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**

Alpine Learning Group Foundation  
777 Paramus Road  
Paramus NJ 07652

**EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE**

Casino Night to be held  
October 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM at  
691 Pompton Ave, 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.

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

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

- c) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Parents Guild of Lacordaire Academy.

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**

Parents Guild of Lacordaire Academy  
be held  
155 Lorraine Avenue  
at  
Upper Montclair NJ 07043  
07009

**EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE**

On-Premise Merchandise Draw Raffle to  
November 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
Il Tulipano, 1131 Pompton Ave, Cedar Grove NJ

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

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

NO: None  
ABSENT: Mayor Peterson

## 7. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The Bill Resolution was read by title and amount as follows:

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 \$416,741.22.

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

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

## 8. CONTRACT AND AGREEMENTS

- a) To consider resolution renewing CGP&H's Affordable Housing Administrative Agent contract until December 31, 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 Township Manager is hereby authorized and directed to renew and execute the agreement with Community Grants, Planning and Housing LLC of Cranbury, NJ to serve as the Township's Affordable Housing Administrative Agent until December 31, 2023.

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

The Township Manager reported this firm was charged with overseeing deeds that were restricted to affordable housing. He reported he did not like the contract sent so the Township was going out to RFP.

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

## 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Deputy Mayor Skabich opened this portion of the meeting to anyone wishing to be heard.

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

#### AUTHORIZATION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings' Act (N.J.S.A.10:4-12 (b) (1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a Meeting of the Mayor and Council in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove are of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of any action in the Executive Session of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council of September 25, 2023.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is personnel matters.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public as soon thereafter as it is deemed in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

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

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m. by acclaim.