

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

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2024

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

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

Also Present: Township Manager Zichelli, Township Attorney Lagana and Township Clerk Forde

The flag salute was led by Mayor Skabich.

Mayor Skabich 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 14, 2023, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) To consider approval of minutes of regular public meeting – September 9, 2024.

Councilman Zazzali moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by the following vote:

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

3. PUBLIC HEARING

- a) To consider adoption of Pending Capital Ordinance No. 24-939 – A Capital Ordinance providing funding for Various Sewer Utility Improvements for the Township of Cedar Grove and Appropriating \$124,766.46 for such purpose.

The Ordinance was read by title only as follows:

PASSED CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 24-939

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS SEWER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE AND APPROPRIATING \$124,766.46 FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

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

Councilwoman Peterson 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 Zazzali and passed by the following vote:

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

4. AWARD OF BID

- a) To consider resolution awarding bid for leaf disposal, loading and transportation to the Caputo Brothers Tree Service.

RESOLUTION AWARDING LEAF LOADING, DISPOSAL AND TRANSPORTATION BID TO CAPUTO BROTHERS TREE SERVICE

WHEREAS pursuant to advertising duly made, proposals were received for 2024 Leaf Loading, Disposal and Transportation, and were publicly opened and read by the Township Clerk on September 18, 2024 as follows:

	<u>Alternate 1</u> <u>12 months</u>	<u>Alternate 2</u> <u>24 months</u>
Frank Galbraith & Son Excavation and Demolition LLC	\$102,500.00	\$205,000.00
Caputo Bros. Tree Service	\$85,000.00	\$170,000.00
Britton Industries	\$149,000.00	\$299,000.00

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer, Qualified Purchasing Agent and Township Attorney have reviewed the bids and recommend awarding the bid to Caputo Bros. Tree Service of Cedar Grove, NJ, the apparent low bidder; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose through the Refuse Collection District Budget account #4-11-55-0560-2000; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the award of bid be made to Caputo Bros. Tree Service of Cedar Grove, NJ, New Jersey for the 2024 Leaf Loading, Disposal and Transportation in the amount of \$170,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper township officials be instructed to execute a contract on behalf of the Township.

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

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

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

Mayor Skabich 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 Skabich closed this portion of the meeting.

6. **REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

- a) Township Manager – The Township Manager requested an Executive Session for contract negotiation and potential litigation.
- b) Township Clerk – The Township Clerk reported her office would be open for late night voter registration on October 15th. The Township Clerk provided the dates, times and locations for Early Voting. She encouraged residents to call her office if there were any election questions.
- c) Township Attorney – No Report.
- d) Other Reports

Mayor Skabich – Mayor Skabich reported the Township used a new recycling app named Recycle Coach and encouraged residents to sign up. Mayor Skabich reported PSEG was continuing its gas main replacement program. Mayor Skabich reported MeterTek was still accepting appointments for water meter replacements. Mayor Skabich announced the Township scheduled paper shredding for October 12th from 8AM- Noon in front of the Fire Department. Mayor Skabich reported the Historical Society scheduled a Grab and Go Fish and Chips Fundraiser on October 16th. Mayor Skabich reported Morgan’s Farm scheduled the movie, “Inside Out 2” for their Movie Night on October 19th. Mayor Skabich reported the Essex County Utilities Authority scheduled its Annual Computer and Electronics Recycling date for October 19th from 9AM-3PM at 99 W. Bradford Street. Mayor Skabich reported leaf collection would begin on October 21st. Mayor Skabich reported Meet the Mayor was scheduled for October 21st from 2PM-3PM. Mayor Skabich reported the Essex County Utilities Authority scheduled its Annual Household Hazardous Waste recycling date for November 9th from 8:30AM-4PM.

Deputy Mayor Mega – Deputy Mayor Mega thanked the CGHS Football Team and Paul Innacone for inviting Council to the 9/11 Ceremony on September 27th. She shared the ceremony was very moving. Deputy Mayor Mega reported she attended two very nice ribbon cutting ceremonies; one at Morgan’s Farm and the other at BIGA, the new Pizza and Restaurant. She wished both businesses a great success. Deputy Mayor Mega reported the Historical Society sold out most of its items during the Apple and Pumpkin Sale and was gearing up for its Grab-N-Go Fish and Chips Fundraiser for October 16th. Deputy Mayor Skabich reported the Annual Panther Wear Pink Walk was scheduled for October 17th from 6PM-8PM at Panther Park. She mentioned proceeds go to Minette’s Angels Foundation.

Councilwoman Peterson – Councilwoman Peterson reported the Apple and Pumpkin Sale was amazing. Councilwoman Peterson requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel

Councilman Maceri – Councilman Maceri encouraged residents to participate in and/or donate to the 17th Annual Breast Cancer Walk. He reported the Town usually donates

approximately \$10K. Councilman Maceri reported it was a great opportunity to support Morgan’s Farm’s Fish and Chips Fundraiser.

Councilman Zazzali – Councilman Zazzali provided updates on the reconstruction of the North End Firehouse. Councilman Zazzali acknowledged the Morgan’s Farm volunteers.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – St. Catherine of Siena HSA.

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

St. Catherine of Siena HSA
39 E. Bradford Ave
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Off-Premise 50/50 Calendar Raffle to be held
Jan. 1, Jan. 17, Feb. 2, Feb. 21, Mar. 6, Mar. 20, 2025
at 9:30 AM at 39 E. Bradford 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.

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

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Cedar Grove High School – Music Matters.

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

Cedar Grove High School Music Matters
90 Rugby Road
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held
January 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM at
90 Rugby Road, 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 Zazzali moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mega passed by the following vote:

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

- c) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Cedar Grove Cheer Club.

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

Cedar Grove Cheer Club
63 Cedar Grove Parkway
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held
December 14, 2024 at 12:00 PM at
90 Rugby Road, 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 Zazzali moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mega passed by the following vote:

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

- d) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – St. Catherine of Siena HSA.

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

St. Catherine of Siena HSA
39 E. Bradford Ave
Cedar Grove NJ 07009

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Off-Premise 50/50 Calendar Raffle to be held
Jan. 17, Feb.14, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, Jun. 20, Jul. 18,
Aug. 7, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, 2025
at 8:00 AM at 39 E. Bradford 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.

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

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

8. 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 \$3,318,313.63.

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

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

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

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

1. Kate Hartwyk: Ms. Hartwyk thanked Mayor Skabich for mentioning the Essex County Utilities Authority recycling dates. Ms. Hartwyk announced upcoming County Fall events.
2. Steve Young: Mr. Young thanked the residents and Council for their support of the Apple and Pumpkin Sale over the weekend. He thanked the Council for helping out as well.

There being no one else present wishing to be heard, 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 October 7, 2024.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is personnel, potential litigation and contract negotiations.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public as soon thereafter as it is deemed in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Councilman Zazzali moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by a voice vote. All Members voted affirmatively.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Zazzali moved adjournment of the public council meeting, seconded by Councilman Maceri, and passed by a voice vote. All Members voted affirmatively.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

MELISSA SKABICH MAYOR

ATTEST:

DALE A. FORDE MUNICIPAL CLERK