

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

**PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

**1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

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

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

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

Absent: Councilman Zazzali

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 – October 7, 2024.

Deputy Mayor Mega moved approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Zazzali

**3. 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.

**4. REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

a) Township Manager – The Township Manager reported Real Panthers Wear Pink raised approximately \$15,700 and the Township will present a check to Minette’s Angels at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting. The Township Manager reported the Tree Lighting Ceremony was scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

b) Township Clerk – The Township Clerk reported polls for the General Election were open at 6AM to 8PM.

c) Township Attorney – No Report.

d) Other Reports

Councilman Maceri – Councilman Maceri acknowledged the hard work and preparation of the Township Clerk during elections. He asked her to keep of the good work.

Deputy Mayor Mega – Deputy Mayor Mega concurred with Councilman Maceri’s remarks regarding the Township Clerk. Deputy Mayor Mega thanked the Fire Department for keeping the properties safe and sound during the Town’s dry conditions. Deputy Mayor Mega invited the residents to participate in the Historical Society’s upcoming fundraisers.

Councilwoman Peterson – Councilwoman Peterson shared the sentiments of her colleagues regarding the Township Clerk. Councilwoman Peterson encouraged residents to vote.

Mayor Skabich – Mayor Skabich announced the next Meet the Mayor was scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Mayor Skabich announced the High School Drama, “A Wicked Christmas Carol” was taken place on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16. She shared tickets were on sale at [cghs.booktix.com](http://cghs.booktix.com). Mayor Skabich concurred with the sentiments of her colleagues regarding the Township Clerk.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

a) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$72,500.00 from the NJDOT- Anderson Parkway.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$72,500.00 from NJDOT-Anderson Parkway; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$72,500.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

NJDOT-Anderson Parkway    \$72,500.00

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

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$7,004.00 from the NJ Division of State Library State Aid.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$7,004.00 from NJ Division of State Library, Library State Aid; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$7,004.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

NJ Division of State Library State Aid \$7,004.00

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

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

- c) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$18,997.72 from the State of NJ Opioid Settlement Grant.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$23,648.14 from the State of NJ-Opioid Settlement Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$23,648.14 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

State of NJ Opioid Settlement Grant    \$23,648.14

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

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

- d) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$31,194.18 from the State of Clean Communities Grant 2024.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$31,194.18 from the State of NJ-Clean Communities Grant 2024; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$31,194.18 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

State of NJ Clean Communities Grant 2024    \$31,194.18

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

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the State of NJ Clean Fleet Vehicle Grant 2024.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$1,000.00 from the State of NJ-Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Grant 2024; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$1,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

State of NJ Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Grant 2024    \$1,000.00

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

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

- f) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$57,022.84 from the NJDOT Myrtle Avenue.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$57,022.84 from NJDOT-Myrtle Avenue; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$57,022.84 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

NJDOT Myrtle Avenue \$57,022.84

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

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Zazzali

- g) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$19,790.83 from the State of NJ Recycling Tonnage Grant.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$19,790.83 from the State of NJ-Recycling Tonnage Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$19,790.83 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

State of NJ Recycling Tonnage Grant \$19,790.83

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

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

- h) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$204,481.13 from the NJDOT Sweetwood & David Grant.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$204,481.13 from the NJDOT Sweetwood & David Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$204,481.13 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

NJDOT Sweetwood & David Grant    \$204,481.13

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

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

- i) To consider resolution concerning the insertion of an item of special revenue in the amount of \$696.53 from the Body Armor Grant.

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

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, provides that the Director of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2024 when such items shall have been available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation of equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, Essex County, New Jersey, that it hereby requests that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insert of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024, which is now available as a revenue in the sum of \$696.53 from the Body Armor Grant 2024; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$696.53 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

Body Armor Grant    \$696.53

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

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

The Township Manager reported all of these grants totaled \$412,687.20 in additional revenue and constituted funding for projects ranging from road reconstruction to the purchase of police body armor. He reported this amount was not all that was granted, but these were the grants what were sent by wire at this time.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) To consider introduction of Pending Ordinance #24-940 – An Ordinance Setting the 2025 Maximum Allowable Rent Increase Pursuant to Chapter 208 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only:

**PENDING ORDINANCE NO. 24-940**

**AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE 2025 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE RENT INCREASE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 208 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the maximum allowable rent increase in the Township for the year 2025 pursuant to Chapter 208 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove is hereby set at 4.4%.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final reading, adoption, and publication in accordance with the law.

Councilwoman Peterson moved that the ordinance be passed on first reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a pending ordinance with a public hearing of December 2, 2024, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mega, and passed by the following vote:

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



- b) To consider resolution concerning the cancellation of tax refund.

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

**A RESOLUTION CANCELLING SMALL BALANCES ON TAX, WATER, AND SEWER UTILITY ACCOUNTS UNDER TEN DOLLARS (\$10) FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-17.1 provides that a municipality may authorize the cancellation of a tax refund or delinquency of less than then (\$10.00) dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, in consultation with the Township’s auditors, it is recommended to cancel amounts less than (\$10.00) dollars in the interests of best practices.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that authorization is hereby given to process the cancellation of balances less than (\$10.00) dollars for 2024.

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

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

- c) To consider resolution authorizing the participation in litigation to address the constitutionality and/or validity of New Jersey’s Affordable Housing Mandates.

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN LITIGATION TO ADDRESS THE CONSTITUTIONALITY AND/OR VALIDITY OF NEW JERSEY’S AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANDATES**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale (Bergen County) is coordinating litigation or potential litigation to review, challenge and/or declare unconstitutional certain mandates from the State of New Jersey concerning the obligations of municipalities relating to affordable housing; and

**WHEREAS**, affordable housing can be a benefit to every municipality within the State of New Jersey if such obligation is shared fairly and proportionately among all municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale is seeking additional municipalities to join in such litigation in order to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of same; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in such litigation would permit each municipality to benefit from any relief awarded by the Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale has provided a preliminary cost estimate for such litigation of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for each year of 2024 and 2025 for an estimated commitment from each participating municipality of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, public interest favors participation in such litigation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Cedar Grove is hereby authorized to join as a party the above referenced litigation and is hereby authorized to contribute \$10,000.00 in 2024 and another \$10,000.00 in 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Manager is authorized to execute such Agreements with Counsel to be selected by the Borough of Montvale so as to effectuate participation in such litigation, including but not limited to any Retainer Agreement, Confidentiality Agreement, or such other documents as may be necessary to effectuate participation in said litigation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that participation in such litigation shall not be deemed a rejection of any current obligation while such litigation is pending.

The Township Manager reported this resolution authorized Cedar Grove to enter into a lawsuit with 25 other municipalities in the State of New Jersey to fight the next round of affordable housing obligations and hopefully successfully litigate the State's 4<sup>th</sup> Round Obligations. He reported the resolution authorized \$10,000 be spent in 2024 and \$10,000 be spent in 2025. He reported whatever was not spent out of the Township's retainer would be returned. He reported that while there are now 26 municipalities in the lawsuit, there would be more joining now that the 4<sup>th</sup> Round Obligations have been released.

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

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

- d) To consider resolution awarding contract of Police Upfitting Equipment through State Contract to Northeast Communications.

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

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF POLICE UPFITTING EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE STATE CONTRACT NO. 17-FLEET-00749 TO NORTHEAST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., OF 244 EAST UNION TURNPIKE, WHARTON, NEW JERSEY, 07885, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$67,772.57.**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove wishes to proceed with upfitting four (4) Ford Explorers for the Cedar Grove Police Department with lights, sirens, cages, push bars, consoles, and other police related equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the total cost of this shall not exceed \$67,772.57; and

**WHEREAS**, there are sufficient funds available in the 2024 Capital Budget Account Number C-04-55-6078-2415.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that a contract be awarded to Northeast Communications, Inc, for upfitting police vehicles.

Deputy Mayor Mega moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

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

- e) To consider introduction of Pending Ordinance #24-941 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 217 Section 16 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove, Entitled Sewers; Service Charges.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only:

**PENDING ORDINANCE NO. 24-941**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 217 SECTION 16 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE ENTITLED SEWERS; SERVICE CHARGES**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove is anticipating continued cost increases relating to the provision of sewer related services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove’s Sewer Utility is required to be self-liquidating and sustainable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that:

- 1) Chapter 217 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove is amended to include the provisions contained herein.

~~§217-16. Service Charges~~

- ~~C. The quarterly charge will be \$5.50 per thousand gallons of consumption.~~
- ~~D. The minimum bill per quarter will be \$90.75.~~

§217.16. Service Charges

C. The quarterly charge will be \$5.83 per thousand gallons of consumption.

D. The minimum bill per quarter will be \$96.20.

- 2) The Township Clerk shall publish this Ordinance in accordance with the methods proscribed by law.
- 3) Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.
- 4) Each section of this Ordinance is independent and the holding of any section or part thereof as unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any reason or cause shall not be deemed to affect the validity or constitutionality of any other sections or parts hereof.
- 5) This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as provided for by law.

Councilman Maceri moved that the ordinance be passed on first reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a pending ordinance with a public hearing of December 2, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilman Zazzali

- f) To consider introduction of Pending Ordinance #24-942 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 259 Section 10 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove Entitled Water; Consumption and Rates and Charges.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only:

#### **PENDING ORDINANCE NO. 24-942**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 259 SECTION 10 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE ENTITLED WATER; CONSUMPTION AND RATES AND CHARGES**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove is anticipating continued cost increases relating to the provision of water and water related services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cedar Grove's Water Utility is required to be self-liquidating and sustainable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that:

- 6) Chapter 259 of the Code of the Township of Cedar Grove is amended to include the provisions contained herein.

~~§259-10. Consumption and rates and charges. [Last amended 10-16-2017 by Ord. No 17-817]~~

B. ~~The quarterly charge will be based on a rate of \$5.87 per one thousand (1,000) gallons. When consumption charges at the foregoing rates are less than \$29.35, the minimum quarterly charge will be \$29.35.~~

§259-10. Consumption and rates and charges. [Last amended 10-16-2017 by Ord. No-17-817, 05-04-2024 by Ord. No. 24-930]

B. The quarterly charge will be based on a rate of \$6.22 per one thousand (1,000) gallons. When consumption charges at the foregoing rates are less than \$31.11, the minimum quarterly charge will be \$31.11.

7) The Township Clerk shall publish this Ordinance in accordance with the methods proscribed by law.

8) Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

9) Each section of this Ordinance is independent and the holding of any section or part thereof as unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any reason or cause shall not be deemed to affect the validity or constitutionality of any other sections or parts hereof.

10) This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as provided for by law.

Councilman Maceri moved that the ordinance be passed on first reading, published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times as a pending ordinance with a public hearing of December 2, 2024, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mega and passed by the following vote:

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

g) To consider resolution authorizing transfer of refunds.

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

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 40A: 4-58 & NJSA 40A: 4-59 provide that appropriation transfers may take place during the last two months of the fiscal year and the first three months of the succeeding year; and

**WHEREAS**, Cedar Grove Township has unexpended balances in appropriations which can be transferred.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby

authorized to make the following transfers in accordance with NJSA 40A: 4-58 & NJSA 40A: 4-59:

**WATER OPERATING**

ACCOUNT	TO	FROM
Debt Service-BAN Principal 4-05-55-0520-2161	\$76,145.00	
Health Insurance 4-05-55-0510-2336		\$76,145.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$76,145.00</b>	<b>\$76,145.00</b>

**SEWER OPERATING**

ACCOUNT	TO	FROM
Debt Service-BAN Principal 4-07-55-0550-9972	\$154,000.00	
Health Insurance 4-07-55-0535-2911		\$154,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$154,000.00</b>	<b>\$154,000.00</b>

Deputy Mayor Mega moved adoption of the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

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

**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 \$5,325,495.05.

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

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

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

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

1. Kate Hartwyk, County Liaison - Ms. Hartwyk reported on upcoming County events in the month of November.

- 2. Chad Matejicka – Mr. Matejicka asked the Council to consider an indoor facility for sports.

Mayor Skabich said the Town could look into alternatives since there were not currently any plans for a community center in the Township’s budget.

The Township Manager reported it would not be prudent to make a decision at this time with the Board of Education considering expansion. He shared that the Board of Education’s plans could include some discussion on expanding space.

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

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MELISSA SKABICH      MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DALE A. FORDE      MUNICIPAL CLERK