

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

PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

DECEMBER 2, 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, 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. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

- a) Presentation to Minette's Angels

The Township Council presented a \$16,500 check to Mr. Ken McKenna of Real Panthers Wear Pink. The donation was the most the Township ever made during its annual Breast Cancer Walk for the past 10 years.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) To consider approval of minutes of regular public meeting – November 4, 2024.

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

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

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Zazzali

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- a) To consider adoption 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 ordinance was read by title only as follows:

PASSED 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**

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

Councilman Maceri 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 Councilwoman Peterson and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

- b) To consider adoption 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 ordinance was read by title only as follows:

PASSED ORDINANCE NO. 24-941

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

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

- c) To consider adoption 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 ordinance was read by title only as follows:

PASSED 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

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

Councilman Zazzali 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 Maceri and 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 reported the Tree lighting was scheduled for December 6, 2024 at 6 PM at Community Park. The Township Manager requested an Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.
- b) Township Clerk – The Township Clerk acknowledged the Board workers and Master Board worker for the awesome job they did leading up to and during the General Election.
- c) Township Attorney – No Report.
- d) Other Reports

Councilwoman Peterson – No Report. Councilwoman Peterson requested an executive session to discuss personnel.

Deputy Mayor Mega – Deputy Mayor Mega wished her daughter a Happy Birthday and wished her husband a Happy Anniversary. Deputy Mayor Mega reported she was proud to sit on Council and present Minette's Angels with a donation. She shared that she liked how the community came together to donate to a worthy organization. Deputy Mayor Mega said Pompton Avenue looked great with the decorations on the telephone poles as the Town geared up for the holiday. Deputy Mayor Mega reported the Recreation Department had another successful and sold out show to Radio City Spectacular. Deputy Mayor Mega reported the 58th Annual Tree Light was scheduled for December 6th at Community Park at 6 PM.

Councilman Maceri – Councilman Maceri said the community comes together and should continue to do so. He reported UNICO fed over 500 families for Thanksgiving. Councilman Maceri reported North End School was collecting winter supplies from today until December 20th. He reiterated that Cedar Grove came together especially during the holidays. He reported items would be sent to the Human Needs Pantry. Councilman Maceri commended the Cedar Grove Football Team. He said the Team did a tremendous job this season. Councilman Maceri announced Santa was coming to the O'Toole Community Center on December 13th. He commended Competitive Cheer for sponsoring the event. He reported the Tree Lighting was schedule for December 6th. Councilman Maceri wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Zazzali – Councilman Zazzali hoped everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Councilman Zazzali shared that as the holiday season was approaching, so was the cold weather. He reminded residents to keep their car doors locked and to not to leave the car keys in the car.

Mayor Skabich – Mayor Skabich reported she, Deputy Mayor Mega and Councilwoman Peterson attended the Interfaith Service last week. She thanked Reverend Sarah of Cedar Grove Community Church for organizing the event. Mayor Skabich reported the Football Team had a great season. She commended the Team, staff and coaches for playing with dignity. Mayor Skabich reported

there were tickets available for the Competitive Cheer Santa event at the O’Toole Community Center through Instagram and/or Facebook. She encouraged residents to get the 7PM show sold out.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) To consider resolution concerning 2025 Official Holidays.

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 following official holidays shall be observed by the Township of Cedar Grove for the year 2025.

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

January 1	Wednesday	New Year’s Day
January 20	Monday	Martin Luther King Day
February 17	Monday	President’s Day
April 18	Friday	Good Friday
May 26	Monday	Memorial Day
June 20	Friday	Juneteenth
July 4	Friday	Independence Day
September 1	Monday	Labor Day
October 13	Monday	Columbus Day /Indigenous People’s Day
November 11	Tuesday	Veteran’s Day
November 27	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
November 28	Friday	Thanksgiving
December 25	Thursday	Christmas Day

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

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.

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

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, also known as the Open Public Meetings Act, requires that the governing body compile and disseminate a schedule of meetings to be held by it during the coming year 2025;

WHEREAS, meetings of the governing body are held in the Municipal Building, 525 Pompton Avenue at 7:00 p.m. and are open to the public with the exception of executive sessions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following schedule of the meetings of the Township Council is hereby approved for publication:

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS shall be held in the Council Chambers the first Monday of each month, excluding holidays, according to the following schedule:

January 6	June 2
February 3	September 8
March 3	October 6
April 7	November 3
May 5	December 8

STAFF COUNCIL MEETINGS shall be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room the third Monday of each month, excluding holidays, according to the following schedule:

January 13	June 23
February 10	September 22
March 17	October 20
April 21	November 17
May 19	December 22

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body shall conduct meetings according to a summer meeting schedule for the months of July and August as follows:

TYPE OF MEETING	DATE
Regular	July 14
Regular	August 4

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that official action will be taken at Regular Meetings and may be taken at any Staff Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that closed/executive sessions may take place at Regular Meetings or Staff Meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the annual Re-organization Meeting shall be held on Tuesday, July 1st at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the schedule of meetings shall be posted on the Bulletin Board on the first floor of the Municipal Building Lobby.

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

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

- c) To consider resolution concerning reappointment of the Public Agency Compliance Officer.

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

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 requires that each public agency annually designate an officer or employee to serve as its Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that Dale A. Forde is hereby reappointed as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Township of Cedar Grove.

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

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

- d) To consider resolution concerning renewal of Amusement Business License.

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

WHEREAS, the following businesses have applied for renewal of their Amusement Business License for 2025:

APPLICANT	TRADE NAME	LICENSE FOR
Second Gen Catering Co., Inc.	The Grove	Night Club

WHEREAS, the application has been reviewed, the fee has been paid, and the Fire Prevention Bureau, Code Enforcement Official, the Police Department have all made inspections and certify that the above locations comply with local ordinances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Township Clerk be directed to renew the licenses of the above-named establishment.

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

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning appointment of representatives to Community Development Block Grant 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 Alexandra Handel, Municipal Engineer and Rebecca Roth, Finance Director are hereby appointed to serve as Cedar Grove’s representatives to the Community Development Block Grant Committee for 2025.

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

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

NO: None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) To consider resolution designating official newspapers of the Township for 2024.

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 Verona/Cedar Grove Times, Star Ledger, and The Herald News are hereby designated as the official newspapers of the Township of Cedar Grove for 2025.

The Township Clerk reported the Star Ledger was no longer producing hardcopies of its newspaper effective February 1, 2025. She reported she was awaiting guidance from the State before removing the Star Ledger as one of Cedar Grove’s official newspapers. She reminded the Council that they asked State representatives to consider the Township using its website or a digital website to publish legal notices. She requested that she continue to use the Star ledger until the State directive is made.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the schedule of meetings shall be posted on the Bulletin Board on the first floor of the Municipal Building Lobby.

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

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning appointment/re-appointment of Township Officials.

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, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby re-appoint the following Township officials, commencing January 1, 2025:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs | Township Attorney |
| 2. | Kristin Corrado | Township Prosecutor |
| 3. | Peter D. Russo | Public Defender |
| 4. | Theresa Platvoet | Court Administrator |
| 5. | Courtney Demarest | Deputy Court Administrator |

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

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

i. Township Attorney

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AS TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TO CLEARY GIACOBBE ALFIERI, JACOBS OF 169 RAMAPO VALLEY ROAD, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY, 07436 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Attorney for the Township of Cedar Grove and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1, et. seq., under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 29, 2024; as follows

Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs

Oakland, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the provision of legal services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, and Jacobs of Oakland, New Jersey, is hereby reappointed for the calendar year 2025 to provide specialized legal services in connection with representing the Township of Cedar Grove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

ii. Municipal Prosecutor

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR TO KRISTIN M. CORRADO, ESQ., OF 142 TOTOWA RD STE 2, TOTOWA, NJ 07512 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove needs to retain a municipal prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, the practice of law is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is for one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, Kristin M. Corrado, Esq., submitted a proposal not to exceed \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manger has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, Kristin M. Corrado, Esq., has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies they have not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate in Township of Cedar Grove in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit them from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Mayor and Township Clerk may award a contract to Kristin M. Corrado, Esq. of Totowa, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an official notice of this action shall be published in accordance with the statute.

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

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

NO: None

iii. Public Defender

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Public Defender for the Township of Cedar Grove, and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 states "no local unit shall be required to advertise for bids for professional services", and

WHEREAS, PETER D. RUSSO is an attorney-at-law in the State of New Jersey and comes under the “professional services” provision of the Local Public Contracts Law:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that it does hereby re-appoint **PETER D. RUSSO** to serve as the Public Defender commencing January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate Township officials be authorized to execute an agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this appointment shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

iv. Court Administrator

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 Theresa Platvoet be re-appointed to serve as the Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2025 and terminating December 31, 2025.

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

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

NO: None

v. Deputy Court Administrator

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 Courtney Demarest be re-appointed to serve as the Deputy Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2025 and terminating December 31, 2025.

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

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

NO: None

- c) To consider resolution concerning reappointment of Auditor.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES AS TOWNSHIP AUDITOR TO NISIVOCCIA LLP OF 200 VALLEY ROAD, MOUNT ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, 07856 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Auditor for the Township of Cedar Grove and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1, et. seq., under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 29, 2024; as follows

Nisivoccia LLP

Mount Arlington, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the provision of auditing services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the auditing firm of Nisivoccia, LLP of Mount Arlington, New Jersey is hereby reappointed as Township Auditor for the calendar year 2025 to provide audit services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk's Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

- d) To consider resolution concerning reappointment of Bond Counsel.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AS BOND COUNSEL TO GIBBONS PC OF ONE GATEWAY CENTER, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, 07102 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000

WHEREAS, there exists a need for specialized legal services with the authorization and issuance of bonds and/or notes for the Township of Cedar Grove; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1, et. seq., under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 29, 2024; as follows

Gibbons PC	Newark, New Jersey
Parker McCoy	Mount Laurel, New Jersey
Wilentz, Goldman, & Spitzer	Woodbridge, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the provision of legal services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the law firm of Gibbons P.C. of Newark, New Jersey, is hereby reappointed for the calendar year 2025 to provide specialized legal services in connection with the authorization and issuance of bonds or notes by the Township of Cedar Grove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning reappointment of Tax Appeal Attorney.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AS TOWNSHIP TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY TO CLEARY GIACOBBE ALFIERI, JACOBS OF 169 RAMAPO VALLEY ROAD, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY, 07436 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Tax Appeal Attorney for the Township of Cedar Grove and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1, et. seq., under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 29, 2024; as follows

Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs
 Marmero Law
 Florio, Kenny, Raval LLP

Oakland, New Jersey
 Woodbury, New Jersey
 Lyndhurst, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the provision of legal services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, and Jacobs of Oakland, New Jersey, is hereby reappointed as Tax Appeal Attorney for the calendar year 2025 to provide specialized legal services in connection with representing the Township of Cedar Grove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

- f) To consider resolution concerning 2025 DPW Salaries.

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

A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH SALARIES, WAGES, AND FEES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CEDAR GROVE FOR 2025

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 2025 for the Department of Public Works.

REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FISCAL YEAR 2025			
GRADE	POSITION/CLASSIFICATION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
3	Maintenance Worker (1) to (4)	\$40,302	\$69,585
4	Equipment Operator (1) to (4)	\$46,603	\$72,529
5	Sewer Plant Operator (1)	\$48,933	\$75,118
6	Mechanic Auto/Sewer/Water (1)	\$52,427	\$87,121

7	Engineering Aide	\$54,758	\$87,884
8	Road Department Foreman (1)	\$66,695	\$107,327
	Parks/Grounds Dept. Foreman (1)		
	Water Department Foreman (1)		
	Sewer Department Foreman (1)		
9	Superintendent (1)	\$95,427	\$127,439

SALARIES

EMPLOYEE	SALARY	JOB TITLE
Eugene Calabrese	\$66,646	Maintenance Worker (1)
Jason Albrecht	\$40,302	Maintenance Worker (1)
Timothy King	\$75,171	Maintenance Worker (1)
Marcus McMickle	\$41,482	Maintenance Worker (1)
David Cramer	\$49,480	Maintenance Worker (1)
Michael McElroy	\$62,318	Sewer Plant Operator
Jose Mendieta-Ramos	\$47,201	Maintenance Worker (1)
VACANT	\$41,482	Maintenance Worker
Brian Storms	\$49,812	Maintenance Worker (1)
VACANT	\$54,446	Maintenance Worker
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VACANT	\$73,177	Equipment Operator (1)
David Webb	\$72,824	Equipment Operator (1)
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Frank Martorelli	\$55,567	Auto Mechanic
James Lavin	\$78,584	Sewer Plant Operator
Vacant	\$70,000	Sewer Mechanic
Michael Gialanella	\$78,795	Water Mechanic
David Burdett	\$78,442	Sewer Mechanic
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Daniel Donovan	\$98,462	Senior Engineering Aide/Director of Zoning
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Jeffrey Bailey	\$79,509	Parks Foreman
Thomas Resciniti	\$93,003	Road Foreman
Robert Mesce	\$71,731	Road Foreman
Peter DiGeronimo	\$116,850	Automotive Superintendent
Michael Grasso	\$121,980	Water/Sewer Superintendent
Jerry Vitiello	\$128,056	Director of Public Works

The Township Manager reported this resolution authorized employee salaries for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Department of Public Works in accordance with their new employment agreement.

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

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

- g) To consider appointment of representatives to New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund.

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, that the following Township Manager designee and municipal official are hereby re-appointed as the Commissioner and Alternate to the New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund for the calendar year 2025:

Commissioner – Thomas Tucci
Alternate – Joseph M. Zichelli

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

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

9. 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 \$193,650.35.

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

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

10. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

- a) To consider resolution concerning award of for professional services – 2025 Affordable Housing Administrative Agent.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING SERVICES AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT TO CGP&H, LLC, OF 1249 SOUTH RIVER ROAD, SUITE #301, CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY, 08512 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of an Affordable Housing Administrative Agent for the Township of Cedar Grove and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1, et. seq., under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 29, 2024; as follows

CGP&H

Cranbury, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the provision of such services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the firm of CGP&H is hereby reappointed as Township Affordable Housing Administrative Agent for the Township of Cedar Grove for the calendar year 2025 to provide affordable housing administrative agent services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

- b) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services – 2025 COAH Legal Services.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGAL COUNSEL TO MICHAEL JEDZINIAK, ESQ. OF HILL WALLACK LLP OF 21 ROSZEL ROAD, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 08540, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove has a need to retain affordable housing legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, the practice of law is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is for one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, Michael Jedziniak, Esq., of Hill Wallack, LLP, submitted a proposal not to exceed \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manger has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, Hill Wallack, LLP has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies they have not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate in Township of Cedar Grove in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit them from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Mayor and Township Clerk may award a contract to Michael Jedziniak, Esq., of Hill Wallack, LLP for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an official notice of this action shall be published in accordance with the statute.

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

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

NO: None

- c) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services – 2025 Affordable Housing Planning Consultant.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANNING CONSULTANT TO CME ASSOCIATES OF 1 MARKET STREET, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, 08102 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove needs to retain affordable housing planning consultants; and

WHEREAS, the practice of planning services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is for one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, CME Associates of Camden, New Jersey, submitted a proposal not to exceed \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manager has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, CME Associates has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies they have not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate in Township of Cedar Grove in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit them from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Mayor and Township Clerk may award a contract to CME Associates of Camden, New Jersey for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an official notice of this action shall be published in accordance with the statute.

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

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

NO: None

- d) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services – 2025 Planning/Zoning Board Attorney.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR PLANNING BOARD ATTORNEY AND ZONING BOARD ATTORNEY TO JAMES BRYCE, ESQ. OF MURPHY MCKEON PC OF 901 ROUTE 23 SOUTH, 2ND FLOOR, POMPTON PLAINS, NEW JERSEY, 07444, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove has a need to retain legal counsel to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the practice of law is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is for one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, James Bryce, Esq., of Murphy McKeon PC submitted a proposal not to exceed \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Manger has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, Murphy McKeon has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies they have not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate in Township of Cedar Grove in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit them from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Mayor and Township Clerk may award a contract to James Bryce, Esq., of Murphy McKeon for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an official notice of this action shall be published in accordance with the statute.

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

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

- e) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services – 2025 Planning/Zoning Board Engineer.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AS ENGINEER TO THE PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TO SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF 96 US-206 #101 FLANDERS, NEW JERSEY, 07836 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of an Engineer for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Township of Cedar Grove and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1, et. seq., under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 29, 2024; as follows

Suburban Consulting Engineers	Flanders, New Jersey
Neglia Engineering	Lyndhurst, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the provision of engineering services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that Suburban Consulting Engineers of Flanders, New Jersey is hereby reappointed Board Engineer for the Planning Board and Board Engineer for the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Township of Cedar Grove for the calendar year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk’s Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

- f) To consider resolution concerning award of contract for professional services – 2025 Planner.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING SERVICES AS PLANNING BOARD PLANNER AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT PLANNER TO KASLER ASSOCIATES OF 34 LITTLE BROOK ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, NJ, 07081 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the appointment of a Township Planner for the Township of Cedar Grove Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment and funds are available for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such services were solicited pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1, et. seq., under a fair and open process; and

WHEREAS, qualifications/proposals for said appointment were received and publicly opened by the Township Clerk on October 29, 2024; as follows

Kasler Associates	Springfield, New Jersey
Neglia	Springfield, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the provision of planning services is a recognized profession, regulated by law requiring extensive and specialized training and, as such, is an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the firm of Kessler Associates is hereby reappointed as Township Planner for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment for the calendar year 2025 to provide specialized planning services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and agreement can be reviewed in the Township Clerk's Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law of New Jersey shall be published in the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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

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

NO: None

10. 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 reported the Morgan's Farm Historic House was apart of the Essex County Historic House Tour on December 7th and 8th. She mentioned upcoming events sponsored by the County.

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 December 2, 2024.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed are personnel and contract negotiation.
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 Deputy Mayor Mega, and passed by the following vote:

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

MELISSA SKABICH MAYOR

ATTEST:

DALE A. FORDE MUNICIPAL CLERK