

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

COUNCIL STAFF MEETING

MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2025

1. ROLL CALL – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT BY MAYOR

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

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

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

Absent: Mayor Skabich

Deputy Mayor Mega 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 12, 2024, 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 Executive Session – December 16, 2024

Councilman Zazzali moved approval of the minutes without release, seconded by Councilwoman Mega, and passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Peterson, Zazzali, Deputy Mayor Mega

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Skabich

ABSTAIN: Councilman Maceri

b) To consider approval of Executive Session – January 6, 2025

Councilman Zazzali moved approval of the minutes without release, seconded by Councilwoman Mega, and passed by the following vote:

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Mayor Skabich

3. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – The Township Manager reported since the Township switched to Edmunds, the Budget Hearing could be done in one night. He asked the Governing Body if Monday, January 27, 2025 at 5:00 PM was feasible. The Township Manager requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

4. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY** – No Report. The Township Attorney requested an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

5. **TOWNSHIP CLERK** – No Report.

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Peterson – Councilwoman Peterson reported that a resident informed her that a magazine with the Township Seal on it was mailed to her home. Councilwoman Peterson asked if authorization had been given to the editor for its use. The Township Clerk reported she had spoken with the editor, but he never requested use of the Seal. She reported that she would address the issue of using the Township Seal with the editor.

Councilman Maceri - No Report.

Councilman Zazzali – No Report. Councilman Zazzali asked what events were being offered to the seniors. The Township Manager reported the Recreation Department was working on a selection of board games at the South End Fire House and trips to Atlantic City and Papermill Playhouse for seniors.

Deputy Mayor Mega – Deputy Mayor Mega reported she, on behalf of the Mayor, appointed Mia Faieta to fill the unexpired term of Kathleen Stutz on the Library Board of Trustees. Deputy Mayor Mega directed the Township Clerk to advise the Library Director of Ms. Faieta's appointment.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) To consider resolution concerning approval of raffle application – Little Falls Education 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

Little Falls Education Foundation
PO Box 30, Main Street
Little Falls NJ 07424

Little Falls Education Foundation
PO Box 30, Main Street
Little Falls NJ 07424

EVENTS, DATES TIMES & PLACE

Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle to be held
February 21, 2025 at 7PM– 11PM at
1131 Pompton Ave. Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

Casino Night to be held
February 21, 2025 at 7PM– 11PM at
1131 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.

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
NO: None
ABSENT: Mayor Skabich

- b) To consider resolution awarding contract for Electronic Recycling Services to Greenchip Recycling.

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 CONTRACT FOR ELECTRONIC RECYCLING SERVICES TO GREENCHIP RECYCLING, 540 KINGSLAND AVE., BROOKLYN, NY 11222.

WHEREAS, the Township of Cedar Grove has a need to retain electronic recycling services; and

WHEREAS, the marketing of recyclable materials recovered through a recycling program, or the marketing of any product intentionally produced or derived from solid waste received at a resource recovery facility or recovered through a resource recovery program, including, but not limited to, refuse-derived fuel, compost materials, methane gas, and other similar products are an exception to the bidding requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 (s); and

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

WHEREAS, Greenchip Recycling of Brookly, NY has submitted a proposal for electronic recycling; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5, Greenchip Recycling 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 in the Solid Waste Operating Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove that the Township Manager and Township Clerk may award a contract to Greenchip Recycling for Electronic Recycling Services.

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
NO: None
ABSENT: Mayor Skabich

- c) To consider a binding resolution accepting the Round 4 Present and Prospective Need obligations as calculate by the NJ Department of Community Affairs.

The Township Attorney recommended the Governing Body finish the rest of the agenda, to into Executive Session to discuss this matter, then readdress it in open session.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Cedar Grove, County of Essex, New Jersey, that the attached summary of bills having been duly audited and found correct be and they are thereby ordered paid and that warrants be drawn on the Treasurer in the aggregate amount of \$4,384,675.76.

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
NO: None
ABSENT: Mayor Skabich

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There being no one present wishing to be heard, Deputy Mayor Mega 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 January 13, 2025.

2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed are personnel and potential litigation.
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. No Further Action will be taken.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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
NO: None
ABSENT: Mayor Skabich

11. RETURN TO STAFF MEETING

Councilman Maceri moved that Agenda Item: #7(c) be removed from the Agenda and reintroduced during the Special Meeting scheduled for January 27, 2025 at 5:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Zazzali and passed on the following vote:

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to discuss, the staff council meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by acclaim.