

THIS WAS A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

The Chair led all assembled in a Salute to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilman Kerry Coley, East Ward
Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt, At-Large
Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr. West Ward
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson., South Ward
Councilwoman Donna K. Williams, At-Large
Council President April Gaunt-Butler, At-Large

Also Present: Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Lewis Edwards, III, Administrative Representative
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Dan Smith, City Attorney
Kevin Harris, Legislative Research Officer
Margarette Homere, Senior Clerk,
Kenneth Douglas, Fire Director,
John Wade, Acting Police Director
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer
Marty Mayes, Director of DPW

The City Clerk announces that the requirement of N.J. S.A. 10:4-9 et. seq., The Sunshine Law had been met. A notice of this meeting was sent to the Record-Transcript and published in the Star Ledger on July 16, 2015, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES MEETINGS

November 16, 2015- Conference & Regular Minutes

Motion to adopt November 16, 2015 minutes by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason

The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

REPORTS:

Department monthly revenue collection - None

CONSTABLE REPORTS - None.

OPRA REQUESTS – None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson will give a Library report at the first meeting in February.

Director Mayes did not have an update on Vose Ave.

Finance report- Councilwoman Williams stated that there is a temporary budget that has been reviewed and approved by the budget consultant.

The Council President asked for a Police report from Acting Director Wade.

Director Wade gave an update on ticketing throughout the holiday seasons. The Director thanked the Council for approving the IT projects at the Police station and gave a report on the upgrades. Director Wade answered questions from the Council.

Fire Director Douglas provided the Council with a year-end report on the 2015 Fire services, equipment and employees. Director Douglas answered questions and took suggestions from the Council Members.

Council President directs Clerk to file reports

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS – None.

A representative from Essex County Mr. Ike Jenkins came to the podium and gave an update on County services and events for the residents of Orange. Mr. Jenkins answered questions from Council.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The City Clerk made the following statement.

“Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall sign one (1) book. There will be two (2) columns in the book, one (1) for Agenda Items (not including public hearings/final adoption of ordinances) or General Issues. If they check Agenda Items or General Issues, they will be allowed to speak for a maximum of five (5) minutes. .

The public is expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner, any derogatory, abusive or threatening statements will not be permitted. The Chair will immediately rule such conduct out of order and terminate any further comments.”

The following residents and business owners made comments.

- Ms. Tony Abrams reported that the Library printer has not been working for the past month and should be fixed so the residents can use it. Reported that there was a hole in the sidewalk

in front of Duncan Donuts. Reported on another hole by the Hudson St. parking lot. The 92 bus use to stop in front of the Fire House and it had been moved. Now the bus stop is too far away. Reported on other bus stops that are of a concern to her.

- Mr. Jeffery Feld asked if Mr. Edwards was still employed by the city and OPRA responses from departments in Town Hall are not forthcoming. This is not an issue with the Clerk's office but with the departments that will not respond to OPRA request providing examples. Mr. Feld was concerned about the figures on the Bill List and the litigation costs on the Bill List. The Council does not provide information on how much does the city pay out to the parties, how much do we pay out to defend them, how much do we pay for other attorneys. There are no details for these expenses. Mr. Feld provided the Council with some suggestions.
- Mr. Walter Elliot thanked two Orange Police Officers for helping with a traffic accident that he had observed and how they had taken control of the situation.
- Ms. Katlin Gordon – Resolution 1-2016 spoke about her concerns about the cost by the vendor for the audit. Resolution 2-2016 spoke about her concerns about the cost by the vendor for the elevator maintenance. Asked what the Council can do if the Administration does not enforce existing codes.
- Mr. Josh Solkolski, agreed with the Council that the ID card resolution should be researched more. Asked where does the city website sit administratively; who has responsibility for it. Stated that the grant applications for the Fire Departments were essential. He had issues with the street cleaning efforts by the city and the sink holes that are not being repaired.
- Ms. Gloria Stewart commented that the Mayor should be at these meetings. Would like the City to have a BA. Questioned the status of Acting Director Wade; by law he can only have that title for so long. She appreciated the efforts of the Fire Director. Ms. Stewart would like to have a report on the condition of the city water. Ms. Stewart spoke of other concerns. She asked for an explanation for having a city ID card. Asked about the direction of the YWCA. Channel 35 seems to be used for campaigns not to keep the residents informed.

Motion to Close Citizen Comments by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

The Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Responses to some questions and concerns:

- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that the Library Director told her that the printer is new and needs to be wired to all the computers and he would be in contact with the printer people tomorrow. She will follow-up with the Director
- Director Mayes stated that he has noted the street issues and will address them. Director Mayes reviewed the list of concerns that the residents presented but could not give an update. He will respond at the next meeting. The Council President requested that Director Mayes find out why there are delays with OPRA request.
- Mr. Smith, the City Attorney, had no comment about the bills that are submitted by other attorneys. He stated that the attorney's POs are submitted and approved by the Council.
- Ms. Lascari the City CFO, requested the Bill List page numbers and figures so she could provide accurate answers.

- Mr. Smith, the City Attorney, requested specifics as to which laws the Administration was not enforcing. If they are not enforcing the law then they should come before the Council and explain. The courts would be one option for the Council to pursue if the laws was not being followed. Director Mayes stated that he was aware of the specifics that Ms. Gordon was concerned about and he had spoken to her about it a number of times. Her concern is having someone in charge of abandoned properties and he had gone to the Council regarding these issues for a number of years. The city needs to have someone to oversee the abandoned properties.
- Council President Gaunt-Butler stated that it was the Administration's responsibility to manage the website.
- Mr. Mayes stated that the street drainage issues and holes are being addressed at a meeting on Thursday. The Council President gave Director Mayes a list of questions that needed to be answered by the Administration.
- Acting Police Director Wade reported on neighborhood watches and the status of the homeless population stating that the city provides services for the homeless.
- Councilman Coley stated that the city ID would be another ID that can help city resident in their efforts to open bank accounts and establish a second piece of ID.
- The Council President reported that the supporting documentation for the YWCA from the Administration has not been presented to the Council so that is what the Council is waiting for. Director Mayes stated that most of the information is ready but does not know when it will be presented to the Council. The Council President stated that the information must be given to the Council in a timely manner; not the day before or the day of the Council meeting.
- The Council President had the City Clerk report on the Black-out time when a candidate cannot use the city broadcast to forester their campaigns. When asked the about the law, the City Attorney said he would research it.
- Fire Director Douglas informed the residents about the 'Assistance to Fire Fighters' grant.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson reported that she had attended a funeral for EMT that had saved her life. She spoke about Sonya Rodgers who had lost her third son to gun violence. Thanked 'True Youth' program that provides a camp for girls during the winter break.
- Councilman Johnson commented that a few city employees have been seen distributing campaign literature during work time while using city vehicles; which is against the employee hand book. Attorney Smith stated that if there was a complaint registered with the law office they would look into it. Johnson requested that a memo be sent out to remind employees about what the employee hand book states about campaigning.
- Councilwoman Eason spoke about the abandoned properties and that residents don't want to fix them up or sell them because of the tax break they get. Director Mayes did not know about that but that the City needed someone to manage those abandoned properties. Councilwoman Eason stated that the tax break issue should be looked into. The Councilwoman stated that the Board of Education would only help put money into the repair of the YWCA only if the city needed their financial help.

- Councilwoman Williams requested a clear and concise City policy and procedure for deleting e-mails belonging to employees and elected officials. Williams commented to Mayes that she did not recall any plea from Mayes asking for a abandoned building supervisor during the budget hearings. She questions Mayes on the number of code enforcement employees and made suggestions on what he needed to do. She spoke of the loss of Mr. Phillips and sent condolences to his family members.
- Councilman Corbitt thanked the clerk for her follow up and gave Director Mayes a list of issues directed for the Mayors that needed to be followed up on. Corbitt spoke about getting revenue for the city and asked questions about code enforcement revenue. Director Mayes did not have the figures. Councilman Corbitt spoke about some of his ideas that he had about how to drive revenue. Director Mayes stated that contracts now contain a statement that Orange residents have to be hired on redevelopment projects.
- Councilman Coley asked who authorized the overtime for employees to work the Saturday after Christmas. Director Mayes was not sure but it may have been the Deputy Director Wingfield. It may not have been overtime because some employees work on Saturdays and he reported on some of their duties but did not know all that they do. There is a grant that was being used to pay some of those employees. Councilman Coley reported that on that Saturday he saw city employees in city cars handing out the Mayor's campaign literature for the Mayor's cousin. Director Mayes stated that he was on vacation so he would get back to the Councilman. The Councilman asked the City CFO where was the city regarding the budget and she replied that the city was on tract. Upon request The Councilman gave his estimate on the cost of litigation for the city and he hoped that the litigation would be over soon. Councilman Coley made a statement about talking down to the residents when they are coming to the podium, as it happened that evening. The Councilman also stated that even if 30,000 residents showed up for ID cards that would be around \$500,000.00 of revenue for the city.
- Council President Gaunt-Butler commented that campaign season is now in effect and campaigning business should will be left out of the Council meetings.

ORDINANCES–SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES INTRODUCTION/ FIRST READING

The Clerk reported that Ordinance 55-2015 was withdrawn.

55-2015 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 88-1 entitled fees for Certificates of Habitability (Rentals) and Certificates of Occupancy (Sales Inspections.) (Postponed from November 16, 2015 Regular Meeting)

The City Clerk read Ordinance Number 1-2016 by Title.

1-2016 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200 entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”, Section 200-52-1 Handicapped Parking Spaces (239 North Center Street)

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason that Ordinance 1-2016 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held February 2, 2016

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

The City Clerk read Ordinance Number -2015 by Title.

2-2016 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, Entitled ‘Vehicles and Traffic’, Section 200-33 No Parking Certain Hours on Watchung Avenue.

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason that Ordinance 2-2016 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held February 2, 2016

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries

The City Clerk read Ordinance Number 3-2016 by Title.

3-2016 An ordinance adopting the Vose Avenue Redevelopment Plan

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson that Ordinance 3-2016 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held February 2, 2016

Councilwoman Williams asked Director Mayes if there had been a public presentation on this. Director Mayes stated he did not feel there was one but would not mind if a presentation was made. The Developer, Mr. Kimberly Wright was present so the Council President had him come to the podium. Mr. Wright stated that he was planning to build market rate housing. The building will be composed of 40 units, a gym, recreation room, Landry room, parking areas, all high end items. Mr. Wright spoke about his goals regarding the development. He reported that he would be the sole owner of the development. It was determined that the Developer would do a presentation before the first meeting in February. Mr. Wright answered questions from the Council Members.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion Carries

The City Clerk read Ordinance Number 4-2016 by Title.

4-2016 An ordinance amending the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township creating a City of Orange Township Identification Card Program for residents of the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Council Member Kerry J. Coley)

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Williams that Ordinance 4-2016 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held February 2, 2015

Council President Gaunt-Butler stated that it has good intensions but feels it needs more research on the cost of the program.

Motion to table Ordinance 4-2016 by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilman Corbitt

Roll Call:

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: Coley, Johnson, Jr.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

The City Clerk read Ordinance Number 5-2016 by Title.

5-2016 An ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter 150 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township entitle "Peace And Good Order" by creating Chapters regulating the sale of toys gun. (Sponsored by Council Member April Gaunt-Butler and Council)

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Williams that Ordinance 5-2016 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held February 2, 2015

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA**The City Clerk read the following statement.**

All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so request, in which event, the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence of the agenda.

**Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Williams.
to approve the Consent Agenda.****Roll Call:**

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion carries.**RESOLUTIONS NO. *1-2016- *9-2016**

- *1-2016** A resolution authorizing a contract with O'Connor Davies, LLP (O'Connor Davies" and its division, McEnerney, Brady & Company, LLC (McEnerney Brady) to serve as municipal auditors to perform the calendar year 2015 audit, and to assist with the preparation of the Annual Financial Statement along with ancillary accounting services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.
- *2-2016** A resolution authorizing an agreement between the City of Orange Township and Elevator Maintenance Corp., 580 Elm Street, Kearny, New Jersey 07032 to provide preventive maintenance for the elevator at City Hall, 29 North Day Street and the Freddie Polhill Law & Justice Complex, 29 Park Street, Orange, New Jersey in an amount not to exceed \$7,200.00.
- *3-2016** A resolution authorizing Change Order No. 4-Final from Vektor Corporation, Inc. for the project known as the Roadway Improvements to Snyder Street, Fairview Avenue and Jackson Street to adjust the contract quantities to meet final as-built conditions in the amount not to exceed \$162.87.
- *4-2016** A resolution re-appointing Torkwase Y. Sekou, Esq. as Temporary Judge of the Orange Municipal Court for a one (1) year term effective January 6, 2016 through January 5, 2017.
- *5-2016** A resolution recommending and encouraging the Administration to repeat televised broadcasts of City Council (Sponsored by Council Member Elroy A. Corbitt)cil meetings.

- *6-2016** **A resolution celebrating The Life, Work & Achievements of the Honorable Carol Y. Clark (Sponsored by Council Member Elroy A. Corbitt)**

- *7-2016** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on January 5, 2016 dated December 30, 2015 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 3,953,666.30).
(Removed for separate vote)

- *8-2016** **A resolution applying and accepting the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Grant Funds under the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program. Assistant to Fire Fighters Grant Program.**

- *9-2016** A resolution authorizing the adoption of Current Fund and Water/Sewer Utility Fund temporary budget appropriations for the months of January through March 2016 prior to the adoption of CY2016 budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.
(Removed for separate vote)

Item removed for a separate vote.

The Clerk read Resolution 7-2016 by Title.

- 7-2016** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on January 5, 2016 dated December 30, 2015 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 3,953,666.30).

Motion to approved Resolution 7-2016 by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Summers-Johnson, Williams
Nays: Gaunt-Butler Johnson, Jr.,
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

The Clerk read Resolution 7-2016 by Title.

- 9-2016** A resolution authorizing the adoption of Current Fund and Water/Sewer Utility Fund temporary budget appropriations for the months of January through March 2016 prior to the adoption of CY2016 budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.

Motion to approved Resolution 7-2016 by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Corbitt.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the bulk tax sale lien by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

Motion to reconvene by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Williams

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS - None.

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Coley.

By consensus the regular meeting adjourned at 10:12 P.M

APPROVED:

**Joyce L. Lanier
Municipal Clerk**

**April Gaunt-Butler
Council President**