

This was a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Orange, Township held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey, on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 following the Conference meeting.

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

Roll Call:

Present: Councilman Kerry Coley, East Ward
Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Christopher Jackson, At-Large
Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr. West Ward
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson., South Ward
Councilwoman Donna K. Williams, At-Large
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large

Also Present: Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris Hartwyk, Business Administrator (BA)
Eric Pennington, City Attorney
Todd Warren, Police Director
Kenneth Douglass, Fire Director
Marty Mayes, Director of Planning/Public Works
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer
Marlin Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Margarette Homere, Senior Clerk,

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 14, 2016, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion to adopt the Conference and Regular meeting minutes from December 6, 2016 by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

The Regular and Conference meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS:

- **DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REVENUE COLLECTION**
City Clerk's Office – Month of December 2016- \$1,031.80

CONSTABLE REPORTS

Corey Perkins- December 2016- No activity

**OPRA REPORTS -December 2016 - 110 OPRA received 91 completed
19 pending**

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Ike Jenkins, Essex County Liaison to Orange, reported on assistance programs in Essex County. Mr. Jenkins answered question from the Governing Body. Police Director Todd Warren reported that the city has 8 recruits in the academy. He reported on the arrest that had made throughout the city. He reported on PAL schedule for January.

Council President direct Clerk to file reports

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Petition received from New Jersey American Water on January 8, 2017

The City clerk provided information on the petition.

BA Hartwyk spoke about the robo call that residents received asking residents to conserve water. He provided information on the water levels within the city.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The City Clerk made the following statement:

Pursuant to section 4-10 of the Code of the City of Orange Township, each person addressing the Council shall step up to the microphone, shall give his or her name in an audible tone for the record, and unless further time is granted by the presiding officer, shall limit his or her address to 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.

- Mr. William Lewis – Commented on the procedures of a Council meeting. Commented on the FBI investigation. He commented that the sanctuary city resolution will get the city in trouble.
- Mr. Jeffery Feld commented that the bill list was not posted this afternoon. Made a comment about the bending OPRA request. Commented that the city could have

saved \$20,000 in lawyer fees if they had followed the law. Commented that he felt that the State would also be investigating the city. He offered to give \$100.00 toward the \$4,000.00 school board election bill as a stakeholder from the city. He suggested that other stakeholders help with the cost.

- Mr. Oscar Ramirez came to the podium with his translator Roseanna Rodrigus and she translated that he was a member of the Organization Laundry Workers Center, she translated for the residents, “an immigrant worker supports the resolution that will keep the community safe.”
- Virgilio Aram also a member of the Laundry Workers Center, commented that many immigrants are afraid that they will be deported. He supports the resolution 15-2017 providing his reasons why.
- Mr. Charlie Wirere working with the faith based community and supports Resolution 15-2017 providing his reason.
- Mr. Segundo Mont, a construction worker in Orange supports Resolution 15-2017 and thanked the Council President for working within the immigrant community.
- Ms. Rebecca Doggett reported she was a member of the HUB she is in support of Resolution 16-2017 providing her reason.
- The Council President commented that Ms. Gordon will be given extra time to speak.
- Ms. Katalin Gordon spoke about the Public Works ordinance and explained the reasons for the ordinance. She asked for support for that ordinance. She requested that the Council President keep a list of questions that cannot be answered during a meeting so the residents don't have to keep repeating the same question in later meetings. Resolution 18-2017 she supports the resolution but had reservations. She did not understand why the city was hiring so many outside attorneys. She spoke of her support for Resolution 15-2017,
- Mr. Marcos Monroy commented that he supports Resolution 15-2017, stating his reason why.
- Ms. Anna Gigeanno a business owner in Orange, supports Resolution 15-2017 and the hard working immigrants of Orange.
- Dr. Mindy Fullilove reported on her research regarding immigrants and how it affects a community. She supports Resolution 15-2017.

- Ms. Karen Wells commented on Resolution 16-2017 stating that she was here regarding the Highland Ave Train Station and how this process had started in 2014 and how plans were drafted up by another architectural firm. Plans were also submitted by another planner in 2015. How many designs and plans do the tax payers have to pay for?
- Ms. Gloria Stewart requested that Council Members speak into their mics so residents can hear them better. Spoke about the city broadcasting system and how it does not serve the residents. She does not see the Council meeting being repeated like other events in the city are. She requested that the person that is in charge of the program give a report on what they do and how they do it. She requested that when there is an event on the street that the Police redirect traffic so it flows better and is safer. She supports the elected School Board members. Ms. Stewart also supported the March election time to be 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
- Mr. Tyrone Tarver Resolution 23-2017 commented on the benefits of having the March election polls open all day and reminded everyone that the money would help pay for the extended hours. If the current board does not agree to the longer hours the money will not go to the Board of Education. He disagreed with Council Members that felt that the money could be spent better. He commented that almost 1 billion dollars had been spent over the past eight years with no improvements in test scores. The four thousand dollars should be approved.

**Motion to close citizen's comments by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.
The Motion was unanimously approved.**

Answers to some of the questions.

- The Council President addressed the Business Administrator Hartwyk regarding a report on channel 35. He said that the programming can be changed and it will be added to the budget. He will speak with the Police Director regarding traffic flow during events.
- The City Attorney will investigate a fund raiser for the four thousand dollars.
- Director Mayes spoke about the Highland Avenue Train Station development and what had been so far and what needed to be done. He stated that there are no architectural plans and that is why resolution 16-2017 is needed. The other firm just provided a scoop that was prepared for the grant application.
- Council President Williams Resolution 21-2017 regarding hiring an outside legal firm, asked the City Attorney why it could not be handled in house. Attorney Pennington stated that no one has the legal expertise to handle it.
- Regarding Resolution 18-2017 about fining the owner each day he does not take care of violations. The BA will look into the matter. Director Mayes stated that 302

Carteret Terrance had been spoken about for a while and the city is coming up with a plan for abandoned properties.

- The Council President will work on a plan for a list of questions that have to be researched before any answer can be given
- The Clerk stated that the administration was given the agenda but it was not put on the website.
- Resolution 21-2017 The City Attorney provided some information as to what to expect from the hired attorney.
- The Council President stated that with regard to Resolution 15-2017 Each Council Member can respond to residents regarding that resolution.

Motion to close the public hearing by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

The Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilwoman Wooten regarding Ms. Gordon saying that the Council is not appointing members to the Public Works committee. Councilwoman Wooten stated that the Council had appointed members to that committee. Councilwoman Wooten asked the resident what they were going to do to make things better instead of complaining. What are you going to do to change things?
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson commented about being spoken to with respect and explained why she laughed when Mr. Feld said that the residents don't read. She reported on the film on Martin Luther King that was shown at the Library and on all the new books that the children were able to take home. She reported that the South Ward meeting will be at the Haywood Avenue School on Thursday. She reported on the agenda for that meeting. She reminded the residents that they can get answers to their questions from their Council Person as well as coming to meetings to ask questions. Councilwoman Summers-Johnson spoke about respect for one another.

Motion to extend the meeting by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Eason, Jackson, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Wooten, Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

- Councilman Johnson spoke about chapter 4-20 from the city code book stating that the Mayor should report annually to the Council and public on the work of the

previous year and the condition and requirements for the current year. That report is due every January.

- Councilman Johnson requested that the Mayor come to a meeting and give the residents and Council a report.
- Councilman Jackson agreed with Councilman Johnson and asked the Mayor to come to a meeting and visit with the residents, telling them his plans for 2017.
- Councilman Jackson – Resolution 15-2017 about the resolution and how the Federal law governs. He also commented about how safe residents are in Orange and how they Council will standup for the residents. He will not support 15-2017
- Councilwoman Eason commented that everyone should be calm, no one had said that anyone was going to get deported why pull your children out of school when nothing has happened. The citizen cannot be afraid of the next 4 to 8 years. She will not support Resolution 15-2017 as it is written now. She commented that Mr. Tarver had not been to the Board of Education to speak with them.
- Councilman Coley spoke about the street lights at the Walter G development. They are still not working. Councilman Coley asked how soon the wells will be back on line. BA Hartwyk gave an update on the progress of the repairs on the wells.
- BA Hartwyk spoke about the requirement of the resolution that was passed on health care. That resolution was a state required first step in order to change health care coverage. No decision had been made at that point. There would be an average saving of \$600,000 to one million dollars for the city. The coverage would be the same or better then what the State is offering. Each employee’s contribution would be decreased.
- Council President Williams spoke about the inspirational weekend everyone had celebrating Martin Luther King and she quoted part of a speech of his. She spoke about Resolution 15-2017 and how she supports that resolution.

ORDINANCES–SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES INTRODUCTION/ FIRST READING

The Clerk reported that Ordinance 2-2017 had been withdrawn.

2-2017 An ordinance to amend and supplement Chapter 188 Taxi Cabs of the Code of the City of Orange Township.

The Council President reported that Ordinance 3-2017 had to be amended and it will come back at the next meeting.

3-2017 An ordinance to amend and supplement Chapter 4, Article XIV, 4-63.2 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township

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.

RESOLUTION NUMBERS*15-2017-*23 -2017

- *15-2017** A resolution affirming that the City of Orange shall be a welcoming and inclusive city for all Residents irrespective of background or immigration status. **(Removed to be tabled)**
- *16-2017** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Neighborhood Planning and Architectural Design, Inc. (NPAD), 132 South Harrison Street, East orange, New Jersey 07018 to provide professional architectural, surveying, design and construction inspection services for the Highland Ave. Train Station Improvements in an amount not to exceed 47,500.00. **(Removed to be amended)**
- *17-2017** A resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel the property taxes for four properties owned by the Housing Authority of the City of Orange Township as per the attachment for property taxes in the amount of \$42,379.68 plus accrued interest, due to exempt property status. **(Withdrawn)**
- *18-2017** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to add 302 Carteret Terrace to its existing City of Orange Township abandoned properties list.
- *19-2017** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to remove 358 High Street from its existing City of Orange Township abandoned properties list.
- *20-2017** A resolution authorizing a contract with Millennium Strategies, LLC, 60 Roseland Avenue, Caldwell, New Jersey 07006, as Grant Consultant for the City of Orange Township for the period commencing January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00
- *21-2017** A resolution retaining Critchley, Kinum & Denoia, LLC, as Special Counsel to represent the City of Orange Township in connection with matters pertaining to Governmental inquiries and investigations regarding the City of Orange Township and its employees.

- *22-2017** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on January 17, 2017 dated January 13, 2017 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 2,962,006.69). **(Removed for separate vote)**
- *23-2017** A resolution authorizing the transfer of \$4,000.00 from the City Council's Municipal Budget to the Board of Education of the City of Orange Township for the purpose of defraying part of cost of the election for the Board of Education of the City of Orange Township for March 14, 2017. **(Removed for separate vote)**

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda by Councilwoman Summer-Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Eason, Jackson, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Wooten, Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

(Resolutions that were taken off for separate vote)

Motion to table Resolution 15-2017 by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Eason, Jackson, Summers-Johnson, Wooten,

Nays: Johnson, Jr., Williams

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

The Clerk read Resolution 16-2017 by Title.

16-2017 A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Neighborhood Planning and Architectural Design, Inc. (NPAD), 132 South Harrison Street, East orange, New Jersey 07018 to provide professional architectural, surveying, design and construction inspection services for the Highland Ave. Train Station Improvements in an amount not to exceed 47,500.00.

The Council President had the 4th paragraph amended to read NPAD.

Motion to approve Resolution 16-2017 as amended by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Jackson.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Eason, Jackson, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Wooten, Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

The Clerk read Resolution 22-2017 by Title.

22-2017 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on January 17, 2017 dated January 13, 2017 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-9.
(Grand Total: \$ 2,962,006.69).

The Clerk read the new amount of 2,961,056.69 by removing a PO amount \$950.00.

Motion to approve Resolution 22-2017 as amended by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Eason, Jackson, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Wooten, Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

The Clerk read Resolution 23-2017 by Title.

23-2017 A resolution authorizing the transfer of \$4,000.00 from the City Council's Municipal Budget to the Board of Education of the City of Orange Township for the purpose of defraying part of cost of the election for the Board of Education of the City of Orange Township for March 14, 2017

Motion to approve Resolution 23-2017 by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilman Coley.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Jackson, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Wooten, Williams

Nays: Eason

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

Councilwoman Eason – Resolution 15-2017 asked Councilman Jackson to help amend the resolution. He agreed to help.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

By consensus the regular meeting adjourned at 11:17 P.M.

Approved:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Donna K. Williams
Council President