

CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEW JERSEY
CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2015

This was a conference meeting of the City Council of Orange Township, located at 29 North Day Street, Orange, NJ. The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:09 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present:

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

Also Present:

Deputy Municipal Clerk Madeline Smith
Senior Clerk Margarette
Finance Director Adrian Mapp (arrived at 7:20)
CFO Ms. Joy Lascari
City Attorney Dan Smith
Mr. Mayes, Representing Administration
Legislative Research Officer Kevin Harris
Fire Director Douglas

The Deputy Municipal Clerk asked all to stand for a Moment of Silence.

SPECIAL NOTICE: 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 and one (1) for General Issues. Each person signing the book will check Agenda Items or General Issues. If they check only Agenda Items or General Issues, they will be allowed to speak for five (5) minutes. If they check both General Issues and Agenda Items, they will be allowed to speak for ten (10) minutes.

Sunshine Law

The Deputy Municipal Clerk announces that the requirement of N.J. S.A. 10:4-9 et. Seq. "Sunshine Law" has been met. A notice of this meeting was sent to the *Star Ledger* and published in *the Record-Transcript* on July 17, 2014, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Joe Portelli - Update on RPM Redevelopment.

Mr. Portelli, Vice President of Development, from RPM gave a summary on the two building developments which consisted of 62 affordable housing units, 51 market rate units, with retail on the main floor; 24 'for sale' condo units with a plaza, new pickup and drop-off areas in front of the train station. Mr. Portelli reviewed work that had been done and reported a completion by the Fall of 2015. RPM has hired local residents for this project.

Councilwoman Eason requested some donated landscaping for the front of the Post Office.

Mr. Portelli answered questions from the Council members.

The Council President asked if any Council Member wished to discuss any resolution or ordinance.

Councilman Coley - resolution 115-2015 - is there any plan of action for these properties or are they just put on an abandoned property list.

Director Mayes reported that the goal is to package these properties and put a plan together to remediate the situation; Mr. Mobley was working on that.

Councilman Coley wants a plan of action that would have the city sell properties for a profit instead of putting them on an abandoned property list.

Councilwoman Eason spoke of properties that were still on the list but the buildings were no longer there.

The Council President asked if there was an answer to her questions regarding vacant land and the abandoned property list. The law department had not gotten back to Director Mayes but Attorney Smith will get back to everyone at the next meeting.

Councilman Johnson, Jr. commented that he was pleased that Mr. Mobley was involved with the plan because he thought it was all under Code Enforcement and suggested that Mr. Mobley come to a meeting and discuss the State laws and City plans regarding abandoned properties.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler questioned resolution 114-2015 as to why the Council did not get the actual plan. Mr. John Wade, from the office of Emergency Management came to the podium and gave a brief overview of what his duties have been in the last year working with Emergency management.

Mr. Wade gave a summary of actions for specific Orange needs. The plan is being worked on by Essex County municipalities and the Administration needs Council's approval to move forward.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler questioned resolution 116-2015 regarding entering into a Co-op agreement and buying fire equipment in the same resolution. Director Douglas reported that the Fire equipment on the resolution is being purchased with Bond money. Mr. Mapp, Finance Director, reported that the city needed to belong to that co-op and agreed that the purchase of fire equipment and joining a co-op could have been accomplished on two different resolutions.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler questioned the reason for having an hourly rate and a lump sum rate on resolution and if all the law firms that were being retained have adhered to the pay to play regulations Attorney Smith explained why the two rates were used and reported that the law firms that were on the resolutions had submitted their pay to play.

Motion by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, to adjourn.

By consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M

Madeline Smith
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Donna K. Williams
Council President