

**CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 19, 2015**

**This was a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Orange, Township held in the Council Chambers 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey, on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 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 (arrived at 8:12 P.M.)  
Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt, At-Large Councilman  
Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward Councilwoman  
Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler, At-Large Councilwoman  
Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr. West Ward Councilwoman  
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson., South Ward Councilman  
Council President Donna K. Williams, At-Large Councilwoman

**Also Present:** City Clerk, Joyce L. Lanier  
Finance Director, Adrian Mapp  
City Attorney, Dan Smith  
Legislative Research Officer, Mr. Townes  
Senior Clerk, Margarett Homere  
Fire Director, Kenneth Douglas  
Marty Mayes, Representing the Administration  
City CFO, Joy Lascari

**Absent:** Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.

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 17, 2014, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES MEETINGS**

**Motion by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler, seconded by Councilman Corbitt, to approve the Conference and Regular meeting minutes from March 17, 2015**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember: Coley

**Motion Carries.**

**REPORTS:**

Community Services fee collected for the month April 2015-17,375.00

**CONSTABLE REPORTS:**

None

**OPRA REQUEST:**

Month of April 2015- 116 Opra received, 113 items completed and 3 pending.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilman Coley reported

Councilman Corbitt. No report.

Councilman Eason reported that there will be two initiatives to change the ordinance to increase pay for side jobs for Police Officers.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler introduced the Acting Chief of the Fire Department Frank Angelus and he reported that they had started the emergency medical responder training, first aid and first responder training, training with NJ Transit, along with other programs. The Acting Chief answered questions from the Council.

Councilman Johnson, Jr. reported that the Housing Authority is having its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson provided a summary of her Library report, which had been made available to the residents at the meeting. She gave an update on the Library roof estimates and fund raising efforts.

Mr. Joshua Sakolsky, member of the Public Works Committee, reported that there was a meeting May 14<sup>th</sup> and they spoke about abandoned and vacant properties. They will invite PSE&G to speak to them about current issues. They would also like to meet with the County to speak to them about issues. Mr. Sakolsky requested that the Council Members reach out to the residents that they had appointed to the Public Works Committee and speak to them regarding their attendance; and if their situation had changed, have them resign their position so someone else can be appointed to the committee.

Council President Williams reported that the Finance Committee is working on the city budget.

Councilman Johnson reported on the public hearing that took place earlier; which the Council President could not attend. The Council President reported that the budget workshop will consist of the Council Members and the Budget Consultant going over the budget line by line.

The Council President directed the City Clerk to file reports.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

None

**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 (10) 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 Council President reported that Vice-President Coley had to leave due to a scheduling conflict.

The following residents and business owners made comments.

Mr. William Lewis commented that people that are appointed or elected have a responsibility to the public. Mr. Lewis reminded the Council that the South ward pays 42 percent of the city taxes and commented on the tax issues in the city. Mr. Lewis questioned some ordinances and spoke of his concerns.

Mr. Jeffery Feld commented that the bill list was once again posted incorrectly on the website. Ordinances that were on the building bulletin board for that meeting were removed from the board. Minutes have not been posted to the website.

Mr. Feld spoke on other concerns that he had with the bill list and amounts that were being paid out.

Ms. Katalin Gordon stated that there was referendum and that members of the board of education were to be elected but the members are still appointed; she wanted to know why. Questioned how the public works committee was created and what are their powers and responsibilities. Ms. Gordon had questions regarding the budget and employee salaries. Ms. Gordon does not approve of the answers that she has been given to her questions.

Mr. Bruce Meyer gave his opinion on the money that was being spent by the Council and the Administration law suits. Mr. Meyer does not believe that Orange does not follow the Faulkner Act laws as it should. Mr. Meyers thanked Councilwoman Summer-Johnson for participation in the library proposals and keeping the residents informed.

Mr. Peter Faltings, affiliated with the Washington Bay Group, who had put a bid in to purchase the tax liens from the city, asked that the Council vote positive on the resolution. He followed up with a warning that he would file litigation if the resolution was not voted on that evening.

Ms. Murphy Wilson commented on resolution 134-2015 stating she does not want the city to hookup to the East Orange water system.

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler, to close the citizen comments.

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilmember Coley,

**Motion Carries.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Corbitt commented on an incident where the recycling garbage truck did not cleanup after they picked up recycling from the South Ward.

The Council President indicated that the resident's questions needed to be answered before they went on with Council comments. With regard to resolution 134-2015 it had been postponed because the Clerk's Office was waiting on comparisons from other municipalities or other alternatives. The Clerk's Office has not received anything from Administration so the resolution will be postponed again. With regard to the Tax Lien resolution, the resolution was not on the agenda because the Administration did not bring the resolution and backup to the Clerk's Office in a timely manner. Ms. Cooper, The City Chief of Staff, came to the podium and reported on the city finances and the importance of having the tax lien resolution passed and that every dollar that is collected by the city this year pushes down the tax levy of property owners next year. The city does not do background checks on companies that purchase tax liens; there is no requirement to do it; however, a background check was made on the Washington Bay Group.

The Council President provided information regarding the freezing of salaries. The Council President provided other answers to the resident's questions. Mr. Smith the city attorney spoke of the billed amount that was part of a settlement. Mr. Smith commented on the signed and not signed ordinance and resolutions by the law department.

Councilwoman Eason reported that the Budget Consultant had reported that the tax lien money would not affect this year's budget. The Councilwoman commented that she had reservations regarding the tax lien resolution. Councilwoman Eason asked for information from Carl Smith, the city tax collector.

Mr. Carl Smith, the Tax Collector, walked the Council through the process of the tax lien sales. Mr. Smith recommended that the tax lien sale resolution be passed. Mr. Smith stated that if the resolution is passed then the influx of money could be used for this year's budget or next year's budget. The property owners have time to pay the liens on their property and not lose their homes. Mr. Smith provided the Council with answers to their questions. Ms. Cooper, the Chief of Staff, came to the podium and reported that the Church that was on the resolution had paid their bill so they would be removed from the list of properties. The property owners that came in and paid there back taxes had also been removed from the list.

Councilwoman Eason read from a State Code regarding city owned vehicles, their use and the decals that should be on the vehicles and stated that the city is not following the State law regarding the use of the vehicles and the wording on the decals that are on the vehicles. Off-hour inventories should be taken to

make sure that the vehicles are where they should be. Councilwoman Eason directed Mr. Mayes, the Director of DPW, to immediately remove any decal that is on a city vehicle which is not in compliance with the State code.

Councilman Corbitt directed that the additional verbiage on the cars be removed within a week and come up with a plan for those individuals that do not comply.

Councilman Johnson, Jr. commented that the Council was not getting the respect that they deserved. The Council makes the best decisions based on the information that they have and the disrespect has to stop. The Council represents all the people of this city.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson reported that she had been trying to find ways to send information of her meetings to the South Ward residents, she had gone to Mr. Lee of the School System and he said they would not send a letter home with their students.

Councilwoman Eason commented that she goes door to door when she is having a meeting she wants her residents to attend. The Council President requested that Mr. Townes, the Legislative Research Office, to investigate why the schools cannot assist the Council with flyers and letters to parents.

The Council President commented on her dedication to the city, her integrity and openness to the residents.

The Council President asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

**Motion by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilman Corbitt, to have an Executive Session.**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

**Motion by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilman Corbitt, to enter into an Executive Session.**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

**Motion by Councilman Johnson, Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Eason, to reconvene.**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

**Motion by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, to extend the meeting past 10:30 P.M.**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

The Council President stated that the answers to the requested legal questions would be answered in the near future.

**ORDINANCES–SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

The Clerk read Ordinance 21-2015 by Title.

**21-2015 An ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township entitled Administration of Government amending the section regarding Fiscal Procedures.**

The Chair declared the time open for a hearing on Ordinance Number 21-2015.

Seeing no one, the Chair declared the time closed.

Motion to close the Public hearing on Ordinance 21-2015 by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

**Motion by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr., to adopt Ordinance Number 21-2015.**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

The Clerk read Ordinance 22-2015 by Title.

**22-2015      An ordinance amending Chapter 210 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township entitled development regulations regarding the Historic Preservation Commission.**

The Chair declared the time open for a hearing on Ordinance Number 22-2015.

Seeing no one, the Chair declared the time closed.

Motion to close the Public hearing on Ordinance 22-2015 by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

**Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr., to adopt Ordinance Number 22-2015.**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr.,  
Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman Coley

**Motion Carries.**

The Clerk read Ordinance 23-2015 by Title.

**23-2015      An ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township entitled administration of government dealing with procedural rules of the City Council.**

The Chair declared the time open for a hearing on Ordinance Number 23-2015.

Mr. Jeffrey Feld came to the podium and reported that 23-2015 was not signed off by a city attorney that past Friday. Mr. Feld provided other information on Court cases.

Ms. Katalin Gordon commented she does not approve of the ordinance providing her reasons.

The City Clerk reported that Councilman Coley arrived at 10:40 P.M.

Seeing no one, the Chair declared the time closed.

Motion to close the Public hearing on Ordinance 23-2015 by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler reported that she had voted incorrectly and wanted to vote yes on the last ordinance.

**Roll Call:**

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

Nays:

Abstain: None.

Absent:

**Motion Carries.**

**Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason, to adopt Ordinance Number 23-2015.**

Councilman Corbitt stated that this was the only forum that people had to express their views. Councilwoman Eason stated that the residents should speak of their concerns with their Councilperson, most of their concerns can be addressed by their councilperson. Not everything has to be resolved at the Council meeting. You can come to the Council members any time, not everything can be resolved at these meetings. The Council President reported on some spelling corrections in the ordinance.

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Coley, Eason, Johnson, Jr.,  
Council President Williams

Nays: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Summers-Johnson  
Abstain: None.

Absent:

**Motion Carries.**

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION\FIRST READING**

**None**

**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 Council, seconded by Council, to approve the Consent Agenda (with the corrections as noted) by the Township Council as follows:**

**RESOLUTIONS NO. \*144-2015-\*153-2015**

**Resolution 134-2015 postponed May 5, 2015 Meeting**

**134-2015** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with PS&S, LLC, 67B Mountain Boulevard Extension, PO Box 4039, Warren, New Jersey 07058 for professional engineering services for emergency water interconnection design, bid phase and construction

management to enable the City of Orange Township to receive water on an emergency basis from the East Orange Water Commission (EOWC) for a lump sum fee of \$25,000.00.  
**(Postponed)**

- \*144-2015** A resolution authorizing the Chamber of Commerce, Division of Merchants to conduct sidewalk sales in the City of Orange Township, New Jersey on Jun 4, 5 and 6, July 9, 10 and 11, August 6, 7 and 8 in the event of rain the sale shall take place on June 13, July 18 the August 15, 2015.
- \*145-2015** A resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to refund subsequent water charges paid by the outside lien holder, U.S. Crestar Capital LLC for property known as 146 North Essex Ave., Block 1503, Lot 034 in the amount of \$152.25.
- \*146-2015** A resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to refund taxes paid by Amy Douglass for property known as 177 Stirling Drive, Block 6702, Lot 017 in the amount of \$2,273.44.
- \*147-2015** A resolution honoring Xivandell Emmanuel (Sponsored by Councilman A. Corbitt)
- \*148-2015** A resolution celebrating May 29, 2015 as Haitian Heritage Day in the City of Orange Township in observance of Haitian Heritage Month (Sponsored by: The Orange City Council)
- \*149-2015** A resolution celebrating the life, work & achievements of Vicky Wright.  
(Offered by: The Orange City Council)
- \*150-2015** A resolution celebrating the life, work & achievements of Rudolfo “Rudy “Giordano”  
(Offered by: Hon. Tency A. Eason & Orange City Council)
- \*151-2015** A resolution celebrating the life of Anthony “Tony” Monica. (Offered by: Hon. Harold J. Johnson, Jr., and the Orange City Council.) **(Removed for separate vote)**
- \*152-2015** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on May 19, 2015 dated May 15, 2015 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 4,217,053.16). **(Removed for separate vote)**
- \*153-2015** A resolution certifying that the City Clerk has met the provisions set-forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8(1)(a) & (b) to read the CY 2015 Budget by title only.

**Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason, to approve the Consent Agenda (with the corrections as noted)**

**Roll Call:**

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

Nays:

Abstain: None.

Absent:

**Motion Carries.**

The Chair read Resolution 151-2015 by Title.

**\*151-2015 A resolution celebrating the life of Anthony “Tony” Monica. (Offered by: Hon. Harold J. Johnson, Jr., and the Orange City Council.)**

**Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason, to approve Resolution 151-2015.**

**Roll Call:**

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

**Motion Carries.**

The Chair read Resolution 152-2015 by Title.

**\*152-2015 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on May 19, 2015 dated May 15, 2015 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 4,217,053.16).**

**Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, to approve Resolution 152-2015.**

**Items for payment were removed from the bill list until some details were provided to Council. It was noted that if Galaxy does not appear they will not be paid. Johnson reported that Galaxy would be**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Councilmembers: Corbitt, Eason, Summers-Johnson, Council President Williams

Nays: Coley, Gaunt-Butler,

Abstain: Johnson, Jr.,

Absent: None.

**Motion Carries.**

**OTHER PENDING BUSINESS - None**

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

By consensus the regular meeting adjourned at 10:59 P.M

***JOYCE L. LANIER***

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**Joyce L. Lanier**  
**Municipal Clerk**

***DONNA K. WILLIAMS***

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**Donna K. Williams**  
**Council President**

\*\*Original Copy of the Minutes can be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk.