

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP WAS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Hon. Elroy A. Corbitt (At-Large)
Hon. Tency A. Eason (North Ward)
Hon. April Gaunt-Butler (At-Large)
Hon. Edward B. Marable Jr. (South Ward)
Hon. Donna K. Williams (At-Large)
Council President

ALSO PRESENT

Madeline F. Smith, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Dan S. Smith, City Attorney
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Officer
Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office

ABSENT

Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed (West-Ward)
Hon. Linda Jones-Bell (East-Ward)
Hon. Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Mayor
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance
Joy F. Lascari, Chief Financial Officer

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 18, 2013, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

REPORTS:

OPRA REPORTS

Month of April, 2014 - 37 OPRA Requests received 141 items completed and 5 items pending.

- Councilwoman Williams inquired about the 5 OPRA requests pending.
- Deputy Smith responded saying it is from the Clerk's Office.

DEPARTMENTS REPORTS

- Clerk's Office- Month of April 2014- \$1,123.28
- Community Services –Month of April 2014- \$17,780.50
- Building, Plumbing, Electrical , Elevator and Fire Division
Month of April 2014 - \$37,414.00

CONSTABLE REPORTS

- Cuthbert Harris-Month of April- no activities
- Mohamad Toure- Month of April- no activities
- Darnell Brodie – Month of April – no activities

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

- Councilman Corbitt requested that Director Simms be included in the next meeting.
- Councilwoman Williams confirmed Director Simms for the June 4th meeting.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler has no reports for the Fire Department.
- Councilman Marable stated that the library asked for twice of what that state mandatory funding would be which is approximately over 1 million dollars.
- Councilwoman Eason stated that the Personnel Committee has an AD for a Municipal Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

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 TEN (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.

PUBLIC REMARKS:

Jeffery Feld, 268 Main Street, Orange, NJ 07050

- Expresses that he has been fighting the Warren Administration and other Administrations for several years. Also two of his documents were placed into a trial record, which included a death threat that he received by email that is being investigated.
- Mr. Feld expresses that there is a mole in City Hall involving the federal election fraud that needs investigation.
- He stated that he was accused of being a bigot and he refuses to be intimidated and that he will fight City Hall to the depth.
- Mr. Feld stated through his research that in order to obtain a pilot, one does not need a redevelopment agreement and that we need a task force.
- He thinks that the Warren Administration should report back as to how these several properties at Oakwood will be taxed.
- He stated that he made an OPRA request to the City but the agreement does not exist in the building and he seeks an explanation as for why the City's website is down.
- Mr. Feld mentioned that the bill list on the website stated that only \$300,000 in expenses are being paid, however the bill list listed about 1.3million dollars. Then he inquired "what is the extra million dollars for?"

Jamie Anderson, Tremont Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050

- Thanks the council and citizens for their support in December 2013.
- Hopes that the council and administration can unite and move the city forward.

William R. Lewis, 688 Mosswood Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050

- Mr. Lewis stated that the court fine is now up to \$729,000 and climbing.
- He also stated that the council needs to know their position and stand in their place.
- He makes suggestions to the council members and implied that the council faces their problems instead of running from them.

Katalin Gordon, 211 Park Place, Orange, NJ 07050

- Elaborated on her research about the budget and questioned if the city finance committee and the council has a schedule of the very large items appropriate time and would like to know if there is such a list, if not would they create one for the next year.
- She believes that it's outrageous that the administration and the council have not enforced the contract.
- Ms. Gordon addresses Councilwoman Eason's comment stating that the citizens do support the council.

Cynthia Johnson 470 Kneed Street, Orange, NJ 07050

- Ms. Johnson questioned the council's knowledge about what goes on in their ward.
- She stated that banks are trying to take people's homes so they can build other business.
- She mentions a group she founded called Urban Communities United that helps address the issues with distressed homeowners and with that comes the home defenders institute.
- She asked the question "how do we teach our community to defend themselves in court?" and stated that property values are declining and crime is increasing.

Gloria Stewart, Orange, NJ 07050

- Encourages Ms. Johnson to continue the fight and recognizes the four new council members and gives kind remarks.
- She shares her opinion about the undercover cop cars and stated that the black cars are not needed and if the cops do their jobs they will catch the suspects in the original cars and would not have to be patrol undercover.

- Ms. Stewart addresses the damage in the fire station's building and request that Oakwood Avenue be paved.

Kevin Garrett, County Representative

- Turtleback Zoo construction is the new turtleback zoo educational building for programs, camps, etc.
- The zoo's operating hours are as follows: Mondays – Saturdays 10:00am -4:30pm Sundays 11:00 am – 5:30pm. Admission fees are \$11 for adults, \$8 for children and senior citizens and free admission for children under the age of 2yrs.

Karen Wells, Highland Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050

- Expresses her frustration about the lack of technology especially the outdated city website.
- Also the post office needs a self service machine because the lines are too long.

A motion was made to the close Citizen's Comments by Councilman Corbitt. It was seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilwoman Eason advises newly elected council members to go pick up their signs from around town also that the post office lacks consistency when supplying demands.
- Councilman Marable stated that he hopes no later than May 21st, 2014 they will have two scheduled budget meetings and urges council to make time for the meeting. He addresses the post office back up and claims it as a federal problem and also addresses Mr. Lewis' comments about him not playing his role as South Ward Councilman and says he was unaware about the meeting sponsored by Councilman Corbitt.
- Councilman Corbitt addresses Mr. Anderson's comments about the elections also he stated that as long as you sit back and do nothing, you don't get criticized as much as when you do something. He stated that he asking the Board of Education permission to hold a council meeting in the valley is false. He asked for a town hall meeting not a council meeting, also he expresses his rights and privileges as Councilman At-Large.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler stated the approaching of Memorial Day and gives thanks to the armed forces. She also echoes Mr. Anderson comments and states that she is hopeful of Orange's best days.
- Councilwoman Williams calls forth Mr. Mapp to explain the document that lies before the council and previously stated the council will be putting forth some suggestions in the budget also inquired Mr. Smith about a court hearing on May 21st, 2014. It's a case named Tucker vs. Smith that is a motion to dismiss and she then addresses other upcoming events.

Deputy Municipal Clerk moved the agenda.

ORDINANCES–SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

9-2014 A Bond Ordinance providing for various capital acquisitions and improvements by and in the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey (the "City"); appropriating \$8,772,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$8,833,400 bonds or notes of the City to finance part of the costs thereof.

Councilman Corbitt made a motion to table Ordinance 9-2014. It was seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Williams

Nays: Marable

Abstain:

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed, Jones-Bell

Motion Carries

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION /FIRST READING

13-2014 An ordinance of the City of Orange Township amending Chapter 210, Development Regulations Ordinance Zoning and Land Development (adopted May 2, 2006) of the City of Orange Township, by adding a section within Article V: Development Standards Chapter 210-38 entitled. Outdoor Landscape Water Conservation Guidelines.

A motion to adopt in first reading was made by Councilman Corbitt. It was seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Williams

Nays: Marable

Abstain:

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed, Jones-Bell

Motion Carries

The Public Hearing for the second reading will be held on June 17, 2014.

CONSENT AGENDA

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 REQUESTS, IN WHICH EVENT, THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE OF THE AGENDA.

RESOLUTIONS *131-2014-*137-2014

***131-2014 A resolution authorizing the cancellation of credit balances due to tax overpayments per the attached list.**

- *132-2014** A resolution authorizing amnesty to waive interest for property taxes, water charges and sewer charges from June 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014.
- *133-2014** A resolution amending resolution 64-2014 of support for safety, revitalization and traffic calming projects along Freeway Drives East and West. (Removed from agenda for a separate vote.)
- *134-2014** A resolution authorizing the acceptance of Community Development Block Grant funds for the year 2014.
- *135-2014** A resolution authorizing the agreement for 1 copier for Fire Department to Toshiba Business Solutions Inc., 1 Woodbridge Center, Suite 340 Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095 for sixty three (63) months, commencing May 1, 2014 for annual amount not to exceed \$2,200.00.
- *136-2014** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on May 20, 2014 dated May 15, 2014 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 1,341.901.32). (Removed from agenda for a separate vote.)
- *137-2014** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Netta Architects, 1084 Route 22 West, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092 to provide professional Architectural, surveying, design and construction inspection services for the exterior repairs and rehabilitation of Orange City Hall in the amount not to exceed \$42,000.00

A motion to adopt the consent agenda with changes was unanimously approved by Councilman Corbitt and seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

- *133-2014** A resolution amending resolution 64-2014 of support for safety, revitalization and traffic calming projects along Freeway Drives East and West

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Corbitt. It was seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Marable, Gaunt-Butler, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed, Jones-Bell

Motion Carries

- *136-2014** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on May 20, 2014 dated May 15, 2014 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 1,341.901.32).

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Corbitt. It was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Williams

Nays: Marable

Abstain: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed, Jones-Bell

Motion Carries

There was no other pending business.

The meeting was adjourned by a unanimously vote at 9:55 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council meeting Conference & Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey at 7:00 P.M.

**Madeline F. Smith
Deputy Municipal Clerk**

**Donna K. Williams
Council President**