

**BUDGET HEARING MINUTES  
MAY 20, 2014**

**A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET 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, MAY 20, 2014 AT 6:50PM.**

**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)

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed (West-Ward)  
Hon. Linda Jones-Bell (East-Ward)

**PLEASE STAND FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The 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 May 8<sup>th</sup> 2014, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler to open the public hearing.

The audience was asked to conduct themselves in a proper manner.

**Public Hearing:**

William R. Lewis, 688 Mosswood, Orange NJ 07050

- Mr. Lewis provided a brief analysis on the budget. He inquired about how budget issues are handled.
- He stated the Council needs to do their job.

Jeffrey Feld, 268 Main Street, Orange NJ 07050

- Last Thursday he attended the budget meeting and he was concerned regarding recent CFO comments about the status of the budget and operating issues.
- The budget did not contain a mission statement from the mayor.
- The budget did not contain comparative numbers of 2013 staff to 2014 staff
- He believes the surplus will be invaded. He suggests asking the budget consultant.
- The budget should be analyzed to compare expenses against income.
- He inquired as to what the severance obligation would be for future police retirees.
- He communicated concern for the mayor settling a 2010 obligation.
- Other budget comments: Fix parking meters, increase use of technology (Upgrade), find out the number of properties in the city that have not been paying taxes for the past 5 year and create our own tax force.

Ms. Karen Wells, Highland Avenue, Orange NJ 07050

- The technology is old and it needs to be upgraded to a modern day system.
- Buy the Municipal upgraded technologies from companies such as DELL etc...
- The system is very dysfunctional that taxes cannot be paid online and the city is wasting money on paper.
- Tax payers are incurring additional cost because of outdated technology.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler to close the public hearing.

**Roll Call**

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed, Jones-Bell

**Council Comments**

**Public Hearing**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt agrees with most of the statements made and states that the numbers do not add up and that is a major frustration.

- The council needs to focus on the books and bringing the tax rates down, and fund the Police and fire departments accurately.

Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler agrees with the citizens of the city and in order for her to agree with the budget, things have to be reconciled.

Councilman Edward B. Marable, Jr., stated to his council members, he will make recommendations for reductions for the budget available to any citizen or resident who wants it. The Council needs to complete their end of the bargain.

Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, partially agrees with the public and stated: “We can make all the changes but how do we enforce them?”

- “For the past 2 years, we have been seeking help from the public but unless you get involved, this Council is powerless and then you come out here saying what the Council should do, but what you need to do is support us.
- She stated to the public, “You know what your administration is all about, so help us enforce what needs to get done.”

Hon. Donna Williams stated the budget will be reviewed line by line, and invites the public to the other meeting. She also stated that the council are advocates for the public and had asked for the administration to air this meeting and implied that the council are citizens on the block and they feel what the other citizens feel.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt, and seconded by Councilwoman Eason to close the public hearing.

**Roll Call**

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed, Jones-Bell

**By a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

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**Madeline Smith**  
Deputy Municipal Clerk

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**Donna K. Williams**  
Council President