

**CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEW JERSEY
CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2014**

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, August 6, 2014 at 7:05pm.

Roll Call:

Present:

East-Ward Councilman Kerry J. Coley
At-Large Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt
North Ward Councilwoman Tency A. Eason
West Ward Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr.
South Ward Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson

Also Present:

Madeline Smith, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Dan S. Smith City Attorney
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance (arrived at 7:15pm)
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Office
Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office
Marty Mayes, Representing Administration

Absent:

At-Large Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler
At-Large Council President Donna K. Williams

The Deputy Municipal Clerk asked all to stand for a Moment of Silence.
Council Vice President ask to honor former Councilman and football coach Nick Varanelli.

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

Topic - Plaque Presentations

Councilman Johnson, Jr. presented Pastor Verenander Lloyd Hughes with a plaque for service at Bethel Baptist Church, and celebrating his life and accomplishments as a resident of Orange. Pastor Hughes thanked the Council and the residence of Orange. Each Councilmember made kind remarks and thanked the pastor for his service in the City of Orange.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION CON'T.

Councilman Johnson, Jr. presented a plaque to the International Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Organization. Celebrating April 23, 2014 as the International Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Day in the City of Orange Township. Mr. Gary White thanked the Council and accepted the plaque on behalf of the organization. Each Councilmember made kind remarks.

Councilwoman Eason presented a plaque to the family of the late Lewis Desmond Hassel in memory of Mr. Hassel's life and accomplishments. Mrs. Hassel thanked the Council for the plaque and shared fun memories of her husband. Each Councilmember gave their condolences and made kind remarks and shared their experiences with Mr. Hassel.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

The Council Vice President stated that any Resolutions and Ordinances can be discussed now.

- Councilman Corbitt commented on Resolution 174-2014 stating that there was no need for an appointment to this board and that the entire Council can attend the meetings there would be no violations of the Sunshine Law. He also stated that he has had conversations with the leadership of the organization and they would be able to confirm that.
- Councilman Corbitt asked Mr. Mayes to explain the \$2,500 for emergency tree removal on Page 13 of the Bill List.
- Mr. Mayes explained that there were three tree removals from three property lots. One property was located on Duane Street which was an empty lot with many trees. One of the trees fell onto a neighbor's home, second was a tree stump across from the High School that had been there for 15 years and the last tree was located in a vacant & abandoned lot and fell into neighbor's backyard.
- Councilman Corbitt asked Mr. Mayes if it was a common practice for the City to go around the town and check trees that might to be taken down.
- Mr. Mayes responded by saying that the City does tree removal on an annual basis using the City's Equipment. He also stated that if City's Equipment could not do the removal and it required a skilled climber then the City would contract out the job.
- Councilwoman Eason asked Mr. Mapp to step to the podium; referring to Page 24 of the Bill List to explain contractor services.
- Councilwoman Eason asked Mr. Mapp if the item was a duplicate and that it should be removed.
- Mr. Mapp stated that only one of the items should be removed if it was a duplicate because at least one invoice needs to be paid.

- Councilwoman Eason agreed.
- Mr. Mayes stated that the invoice was not a duplicate and that it was the opening for two different pools one for Met Calf and another for Central Park.
- Councilwoman Eason asked Mr. Mapp to explain an invoice for \$300 on Page 25 of the Bill List.

- Councilman Corbitt asked Mr. Mapp for clarification on an item for \$19.00 on the same Page of the Bill List.
- Mr. Mapp responded by saying it was a requisition which resulted in a purchase order that was approved by the management of the Court.
- Councilman Corbitt requested to see the invoice.
- Mr. Mapp responded saying that the item would be pulled and the invoice would be sent to the Clerk's office.

- Councilman Johnson, Jr. asked Mr. Mapp to explain dollar amount \$36,736.00; referring to Page 27 of the Bill List.
- Mr. Mapp responded saying that it was for water usage by the Board of Education that had been taken as deductions from the taxes collected on behalf of the Board of Education.
- Mr. Mapp stated they have discovered that the Board of Education had not been paying for water or sewer and are making every attempt to correct things as they are discovered.

- Councilman Corbitt asked Mr. Mapp to speak more on the water usage of the Board of Education.
- Mr. Mapp responded stating that the calculation was done by tax collector in cooperation with United Water. Mr. Mapp stated that most of the school properties were metered. He stated that United Water needed to take corrective action.
- Councilman Corbitt requested the City's Tax Collector, Mr. Smith to answer questions regarding the Bill amount and the process that was used to arrive at the amount in question.
- Mr. Smith responded saying that it was based upon an analysis that was done with United Water, Wendy Schafer.

- Councilwoman Eason stated that to her understanding, during the process when the schools did its budget they didn't budget for water. She stated that she was concerned about the City producing a bill, then taking the Board of Education's money that they have already allocated for children and programs and things of that nature. She stated while speaking with Mayor this week she thought that the week of the 26th they should all sit in a meeting and decide how that process would work so that it did not impact the children in Orange. The Mayor suggested that it's spread out over a time period and not do it immediately. She suggested before anything is done there can be a sit down with the Board of Education, Business Administration, the Board President and Councilmember to figure out a process that does not affect the school's budget without the City taking money because they already have access to the money. She suggested that Mr. Mapp speak with the Mayor.
- Mr. Mapp stated that's a reasonable suggestion but until that is done and there is some kind of agreement with the two entities; Finance has to do what it's obligated. It doesn't mean there can't be a settlement, a resolution that would meet the needs of both parties.

- Councilman Johnson, Jr. requested a review of Resolution 193-2014.
- Councilman Johnson, Jr. requested that the Resolution be discuss it in a budget meeting.
- Mr. Mayes stated that the resolution in question was very time sensitive.
- Councilwoman Eason stated that the Resolution should be discussed in an executive session to allow Mr. Mayes to answer questions.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson requested a review of Resolution 182-2014. She stated that she would like to have it removed until consulting with legal Council.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Council President Williams entertained a Motion to Adjourn

MOTION: Corbitt

Voice Vote

SECOND: Eason

ADJOURNMENT:

8:10PM

Madeline F. Smith, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Donna K. Williams
Council President