

**MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY**

**CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEW JERSEY
CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 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, October 21, 2014 at 7:05pm.

Roll Call:

Present:

East-Ward Councilman Kerry J. Coley - Council Vice President
At-Large Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt
North Ward Councilwoman Tency A. Eason
At-Large Ward Councilwoman April G. Butler (*arrived 7:15pm*)
West Ward Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr.
South Ward Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson
At-Large Donna K. Williams - Council President (*arrived 7:25pm*)

Also Present:

Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office (*representing Deputy Municipal Clerk*)
Avram White, Esq. representing City Attorney
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Office
Joy Lascari, chief financial Officer (*arrived 7:10pm*)
Marty Mayes, Representing Administration
Lauressa Bradshaw, Clerk's Office

Absent:

Madeline Smith, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Mayor Dwayne Warren

Council Vice President Coley 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

Presentation by Ronald C. Lee - Orange Superintendent

Mr. Lee spoke and presented a handout regarding about an 11 million school bond for Capital Projects. He spoke of the state is not providing the funds and city must find the monies to improve and upgrade the schools. The following provides a breakdown regarding how an 11 million bond could be utilized:

Install building Security Control System	310,000
Playground Installations/Renovations	319,000
Boiler/HVAC Replacement & Upgrade	595,000
Rehabilitate Auditoriums & Sound Systems	245,000
Property Acquisition, Demo, Grading/Resurface	620,000
Upgrade of Intercom Systems	195,000
Masonry/Building Waterproofing	183,000
Renovation of 4555 Fairview-It/Registration	65,000
Tremont School Building-Renovation/Add	<u>7,668,000</u>
Restoration of YWCA Pool & Facility	11,000,000

- He reviewed the outstanding school debt relating to various bonds since 1998. The outstanding amount of school debt is \$1,675,557.00.
- The annual Town Hall Meeting is October 22, 2014 at Lincoln Avenue Schools; from 6:00-8:00pm.
- Mr. Lee continued to speak of the interest in acquiring property on Lincoln and Tremont Ave at the Old Police Station. It would be a Magnum Stem - 2nd High School. He would have to go out to the market place to raise dollars. The council will have to decide if the building would be returned to the school.
- He has been part of conversations about the YWCA. The school has heard the concerns from the community regarding the YWCA and they would like to be able to have the children of Orange utilize the Swimming pool. He would love to have a swim team again in Orange. It would be a 3-way partnership between the YWCA, the school and the city.
- Mr. Lee reviewed how much the average tax payer would pay if the 11 million bond would to be issued. Currently the total city Property Assessed Value is \$1,591,470,392. An estimated monthly impact to the tax base would be as outlined in the handout.
- Mr. Lee also reviewed the bonds that had been issued as far back as 1998 to 2008. The bonds had totaled \$21,657,914. The outstanding balance for all bonds is \$1,675,557.

- Councilwoman Eason asked what would the school system do with the Mt. Carmel Bldg if the “Old Police Station” was to be acquired. Mr. Lee commented that the school system will still utilize the Mt. Carmel for school years 7-12.
- Councilwoman Eason asked Mr. White to research and determine what is needed to be done to transfer the Mt Carmel bldg. Mr. White acknowledged and he will complete the research.
- Councilman Corbitt voiced his concerns about the costs and restoration of the YWCA. Mr. Lee responded that the investment would allow for the school to also utilize the YWCA during the day. He had received a letter to that regard.
- Councilwoman Eason thinks the YWCA is in Chapter 11.
- Councilman Coley asked about the old police station and if demolition is being considered and/or rehabilitation. Mr. Lee yes both options are being considered. Councilman Coley asked if money is to be received from the state. Mr. Lee responded.
- Councilman Johnson asked about what the plan is for the properties on Clareton Place. He stated that they were purchased with forward thinking. In anticipation of when Orange High School is expanded; they would have properties ready. Discussion was for the expansion of parking lots.
 - When the state said the Orange High School project is approved; by the school owing the property; it would expedited the project.
- Mr. Lee stated that the school system is continuing looking for funding.
- Councilman Coley asked how much time is needed to transfer this property – Old Police Station to the school. Mr. Lee stated these are two separate issues. Transferring the property to Tremont is part of the bond, but if that does not occur; they will be seeking other properties. The transfer does not have to occur with respects the bond. The process of raising monies for bond may take several months.
- Councilwoman Eason asked if the original designs for Cleveland Street to get the school renovated are to be used. Mr. Lee responded that the new proposal does include Cleveland School.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson asked if there was any special monies to assist the YWCA for special needs children. Mr. Lee responded that he is always looking for money.
- Council President Williams confirmed that he will be present at the council meetings every 3-4 months.
 - She inquired about the flag at Oakwood and to make sure that all of the flags are checked. He responded that he did handle that right away.
- In Superintendent’s closing statement, he invited everyone to the annual town hall meeting tomorrow; 10/22/2014. The focus this year is engaging parents. Conversation will be about a new parent academy; and they will be providing refreshments and babysitting services.
- Council President asked if there was any announcement for the evening schools. Mr. Lee responded that the district was awarded 2.5 million, partnering with Montclair State, from the Federal government to address parent community engagement and support of the school system.
- Councilwoman Eason asked if Spanish as a second language would be a subject that programming and classes would be needed. Mr. Lee that he will be asking the public their opinion.
- Patricia Arthur and Christina Motayo introduced themselves as Scholl Board of Education. Ms. Motayo is a new member of the School Board. Ms. Motayo stated she will do her best to make

sure the kids get what they deserve in the community to help the children. She strongly believes the parents need to be involved in the education.

- Ms. Arthur stated she is committed to the cause. She hopes the bond, when presented, would be approved.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

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

- Councilman Corbitt inquired as to the issues regarding Ordinance 20-2014. Mr. Mobley responded that in careful review Ordinance 19-2014 which was requesting an application be submitted for \$1,500,000.00 would be rescinded and Ordinance 20-2014 requesting \$1,250,000.00 (The \$50,000.00 would respond to litigation. In addition to legal costs and expenses for bond counsel.) would respond to the total monies needed to pay the debt to Scarfar.
- Councilman Corbitt inquired about Resolution 262-2014 to Acting Chief Dowd about the purchase of a Ford Truck. The monies would come from the Fire Prevention Fund. The monies come from fees and violations. Councilman Corbitt stated that is good; there may be monies left over in the last bond that was approved.
- Councilman Johnson inquired about Resolution 262-2014 asked Acting Chief Dowd if the purchase of this vehicle was part of the plan regarding the bond. Acting Chief Dowd responded that all of the vehicles essentially need to be replaced. He decided to replace this; it was used to assist the Public Works Department it. This vehicle also has a plow. It will be helping out 2 departments.
- Councilwoman Eason inquired about Resolution 273-2014 – She inquired as to if Rutgers has re-introduced the government program. Council President responded that they do offer some classes. And the resolution does list Rutgers and other places where classes can be taken. The League also has indicated that courses could be offered.
- Councilwoman Eason asked about Resolution 272-2014. She had taken one item off the bill list last council meeting for \$1500.00. She inquired if items to be paid actually get paid before the city council approves the bill list? Mr. Mapp, Director for Finance, stated that he believes there are less than approximately 5% that would fall into the category of “hand checks”; bills that get paid before the council approves them.
- Councilman Johnson inquired about Resolution 263-2014. He inquired as what will the lawn mowers be used for. Director Mayes responded they will be used to cut the grass mainly in the parks. The lawn mowers were listed in the bond ordinances.
- Councilman Johnson inquired about Resolution 267-2014. He asked what would be the anticipated start date, if the resolution is approved. Director Mayes stated it would be done depending upon the weather. Councilman Johnson asked how much time it takes to complete the job. Director Mayes responded that “flaggers” will be used instead of police officers; and it is incorporated in the resolution. Councilman Johnson informs the administration that individuals are anticipating this project to get it done in the spring. Councilman Coley stated that flaggers cannot stop traffic. Director Mayes stated that Police and flaggers will both be utilized.

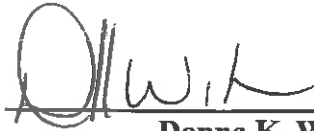
A motion was made by to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Eason, and seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler.

A voice vote took place and all council members were unanimous in adjourning the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Approved Date: December 16, 2014



Madeline F. Smith, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk



Donna K. Williams
Council President