

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

**CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEW JERSEY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 3, 2015**

**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, February 3, 2015**

Council President led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:**

East-Ward Councilman Kerry J. Coley  
At-Large Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt  
North Ward Councilwoman Tency A. Eason  
At-Large Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler  
West Ward Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr.  
South Ward Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson  
At-Large Council President Donna K. Williams arrived 7:30p.m.

**Also Present:**

Dan S. Smith City Attorney  
Mayor Dwayne Warren arrived 8:01p.m.  
Marty Mayes, Representing the Administration  
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer  
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Officer  
Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office  
Tia Thomas, Clerk's Office

**Absent:**

Madeline Smith, Deputy Municipal Clerk

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.

**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.

**APPROVAL OF MUNUTES**

December 16, 2014 – Conference & Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADOPT**

Motion by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson & Summers-Johnson

Nays: none

Absent: Councilwoman Williams

**Motion Passes**

**REPORTS**

None

**OPRA REPORT**

None

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Housing Authority**

Councilman Johnson, Jr., gave a report on the meeting held on January 15, 2015 on the following:

- All agenda items were covered
- All commissioners adopted agenda from two previous meetings, minutes and the treasury reports.
- Annual Plans for 2015 that was on the bill list were all passed by majority votes.
- Executive Director Walter McNeal highlighted various projects that the housing authority had been working on.

**Library Committee**

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated she had no report, but announced that on February 21, 2015 at 5:30pm at the Library would be hosting a program for the History of Blacks in Film for African Heritage Month which would be sponsored by Mayor Warren, Orange Municipal Council & The Orange Library.

**Planning**

Councilwoman Eason stated that there was no report.

**ABC**

Councilwoman Eason stated that there was no report.

**Police Department**

Councilman Corbitt stated that Police Director Sims would give a year-end report.

Director Sims reported that in 2014 decrease in violent crimes.

Robbery 29% Assaults 6%, homicide 100%

Increase in thefts. It can be decrease by educating the public.

Increase in summonses and hopefully helps to decrease the offenses in motor vehicle infractions.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson asked how to effectively establish a crime watch.

Director Sims stated that Lieutenant Orlando Soto was in charge of the crime watch and that she should call.

Councilman Corbitt spoke on the increase in summons and needed clarification and asked about the public urinating in public and if summonses would be given out for that as well.

Director Sims stated the increase summons came from 14% moving violations and 12% parking and stated that the department was working on the Quality of life crime.

Councilman Corbitt asked about what would be done about noise control.

Director Simms responded stating that when the citizens call the officers respond and will likely give a summons after the first warning.

Councilman Johnson asked about measuring the noise decibel.

Dir Sims stated that it would be determined upon the equipment and the ordinance, but what they looked at was the disturbance to other neighbors and the judgment of the police officers.

Attorney Smith commented on the areas of law as it pertained to the noise and how the officers may make their judgment.

Director Sims spoke about having very productive conversations with Director Douglas and stated he was looking forward to working together with him for the betterment of the City of Orange.

Council President commented on Identity Theft and putting information out to the public as she had received calls pertaining to it.

Director

### **Fire Department**

Councilman Gaunt-Butler stated she had no report, but that she did have a meeting with the new fire Director, Kenneth Douglas.

Director Kenneth Douglas addressed the public as well as the Council Members thanking the Council Members he had thus far and stated that the was looking forward to meeting the others. He stated that he would like to meet with them to discuss his assessment of each of their Wards as from the Fire Department's perspective.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler stated that the Director had been very accommodating had some very good ideas on how to move forward in the operations of the Orange Fire Department. She stated that that she expected some great things.

### **Finance Department**

Council President Williams stated that there was no report.

### **Personnel Committee**

Council President stated that there was no report, but that she had sent an email to the Council as per their request.

### **Investigative committee**

Council President stated that there was an investigative hearing scheduled for the day before that had been rescheduled for December 9, 2014 at 7:00P.M to be held in Council Chambers.

**Public works committee**

Director Mayes stated that there was no report.

Councilwoman Eason commented on traffic lights that were out.

Mr. Mayes stated that he look into it.

Councilman Johnson asked about a working hotline for snow emergency.

Mr. Mayes stated that he was not aware of the issue and would look into it.

Council President thanked his department for the quick response.

**Communications and Petitions**

None

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

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.

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

- Mr. Lewis commented on the time in the military.
- Mr. Lewis spoke on his credentials.
- Mr. Lewis commented on Ordinance 2-2015.
- Mr. Lewis commented Resolution 37-2015.

**Ashley Cartrite, 427 Lincoln Avenue, Orange, NJ**

- Mr. Cartrite commented on 2-2015.
- Ms. Cartrite on the meeting not being televised.

**Mr. Dennis Property Owner, Orange, NJ**

- Mr. Dennis stated that Attorney, Dan Smith occupied space in the building that he owned.
- Mr. Dennis commented on the time allowed for resident to speak being limited.
- Mr. Dennis asked if Council knew their authority to investigate budgetary issues.

**Jeffrey Feld, Local Businessman, 268 Main Street, Orange, NJ**

- Mr. Feld commented on items from the last council meeting.
- Mr. Feld commented on OPRA.
- Mr. Feld commented on the Agenda.
- Mr. Feld commented on items on the Bill List.
- Mr. Feld commented on retroactive payments to OMEBA.
- Mr. Feld commented on transparency and the meeting being televised.

**Katlalin Gordon, 211 Park Place, Orange, NJ**

- Ms. Gordon commented Ordinance 2-2015.
- Ms. Gordon commented on snow removal on her street and the parking regulations at that time.
- Ms. Gordon commented on OPRA.

**TaQuisha Knight, OMEBA & Finance Member of Orange, NJ**

- Ms. Knight commented on Resolution 33-2015 and asked about the delay.
- Ms. Knight commented on the members being happy about the increase and not having to give anything back.

**MOTION TO CLOSE CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt- Butler to close Citizen's Comments. The motion carries unanimously to close Citizen's Comments.

- Council President stated the contract regarding OMEBA had not been before the council and that there had been various attempts to schedule a meeting but the weather had kept them from meeting. She stated that it was a contractual and would be discussed in executive session that night.
- Councilwoman Eason suggested that the contract resolution got voted on that night.
- Council President addressed Ms. Gordon's complaints on snow removal and OPRA compliance.
- Council President stated that Ordinance 2-2015 will be a public session that night and questions would be answered at that time.
- Council President addressed Mr. Dennis question regarding council's authority on budgetary investigation.
- Council President addressed Mr. Feld's questions regarding the Re-development Plan and the firm that had been hired and request that Mr. Mayes gave a response.
- Mr. Mayes gave a response and gave a list of some of the projects that would be under the Central Orange Re-Development Plan.
- Council President addressed the question on the S&W not being attached to the bill list.
- Mr. Mapp, Director of Finance responded stating that the Finance Department did not enter the information and was focus on closing out the end of the year.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson commented on Black History Month.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson sadly announced that on January 22<sup>nd</sup> she received a call to see Ms. Lisa Watts in the hospital. She was Life Guard with Orange Recreation and a Para Professional with the Orange Board of Education for over twenty years. Ms. Watts lost her battle with colon cancer.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson thanked the Administration for getting the Proclamation done in time to be read by her daughter at the memorial.
- Councilman Corbitt stated to Mr. Mayes that there had been a pair of sneakers hanging over lines at Bell Street.
- Councilman Corbitt commented on the great job the City had done on snow removal.
- Councilman Corbitt stated he could not support Ordinance 2-2015.

- Councilwoman Eason asked about a County Liaison being present that night.
- Council President stated that January 31<sup>st</sup> had been his last day and was expecting his replacement soon.
- Councilwoman Eason commented on the snow removal in the North Ward.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on a forum put together by the City's Planner Mr. Don Meisel at City Hall with students from Rutgers University on City Planning.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on the Council Meeting not being broadcasted. Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on Ordinance 2-2015 stating sensor the public and sensor the City Council.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on the Salary & Wages not being on the Bill List.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler stated that Orange High School Freshman Boys were 9-0.
- Councilman Johnson commented on the S& W not being on the Bill List and that the Administration needs to do better in that department pertaining to the City's Finances.
- Councilman Coley commented on the Budget deadline and having the Budget introduced to the governing body as soon as possible.
- Mr. Mapp stated that they were on target for the date.
- Council President commented on a Facebook comment on a resident getting sick from shoveling snow.
- Council President commented on the various passing of individuals in Orange. Council President stated that Ms. Stewart's absence from the meetings was due to her husband being sick.
- Council President commented on the Bill that had been passed where agencies would be able to speak to each other.
- Councilwoman Eason asked that Retired Police Officer Daniels placed on the list for prayer due him fallen ill.
- Councilwoman Eason asked about a Park being ready for the Spring.
- Mr. Mayes confirmed with a yes.

### **ORDINANCES—SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

1-2015      An ordinance amending Chapter 4 XVI of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township regarding the Administration Government.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Jeffrey Feld, Local Businessman, 268 Main Street, Orange, NJ**

- Mr. Feld commented salary disclosure as it pertained to the ordinance.

### **MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and Seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler

### **ON THE MOTION.**

Councilman Johnson stated that there were some areas in the Ordinance that needed to re-worded and that he had discussed it with the Legislative Research Officer, Kevin Harris.

Council President stated that the Council would voting on the change in item C "The City shall make the following items for the current calendar year and two previous calendar years.

Council President confirmed that they were able to move forward with City Attorney, Dan Smith regarding the change in "C".

Mr. Smith responded stating it was ok.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson & Williams

Nays: none

**Motion Passes**

**MOTION FOR TO ADOPT FINAL READING**

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and Seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler.

Council President read the amendment in item "C"

- o "The City shall make the following items for the current calendar year and two previous calendar years".

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson & Williams

Nays: none

**Motion Passes**

2-2015      An ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township entitled Administration of government dealing procedural rules of the City Council.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Jeffrey Feld, Local Businessman, 268 Main Street, Orange, NJ**

- Mr. Feld stated that it needed to be pulled from the Agenda.
- Mr. Feld commented on the Ordinance and suggested that that none agenda items needed to be at the end of the meeting.
- Mr. Feld suggested that the Council look at other Municipalities agenda.

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

- Mr. Lewis stated that the State adopted the Agenda that was developed by the Orange City Council.

**Katalin Gordon, 211 Park Place, Orange, NJ**

- Ms. Gordon thanked the Council Members who were against the Ordinance.
- Ms. Gordon commented on the Ordinance stating that the residents had rights.
- Ms. Gordon made some other suggestions as a medium for the residents to voice their concerns.

**MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and Seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler

**ON THE MOTION.**

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson commented that there needed to other avenues for the residents to voice their concerns to avoid them speaking for a long period of time at the council meeting. She stated that was one of the reasons why she had her meeting in the South Ward.

**MOTION FOR FIVE MINUTE RECESS**

Motion by Councilwoman Eason and Seconded by Councilman Johnson.  
The motion carries unanimously

**MOTION TO RE-CONVENIENE**

Motion by Councilwoman Eason and Seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson

**MOTION FOR FINAL READING**

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and Seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler.  
The motion carries unanimously

**MOTION TO TABLE FOR RE-CONSIDRATION**

Motion by Councilwoman Eason and Seconded by Councilman Corbitt.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson & Williams

Nays: Gaunt-Butler

**Motion Passes**

**ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION /FIRST READING**

None

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

**The Deputy Clerk Read:** 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.

**MOTION TO ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler to approve the Consent Agenda (with exceptions as noted) by the Township as follows:**  
**Approval of Resolutions: 36-2015, 40-2015, 41-2015 & 43-2015**

\*The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as modified.