

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

2) ROLL CALL

		PRESENT	ABSENT
Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed	(West-Ward)	_____	_____X_____
Hon. Elroy A. Corbitt	(At-Large)	_____X_____	_____
Hon. April Gaunt-Butler	(At-Large)	_____X_____	_____
Hon. Linda Jones-Bell	(East-Ward)	_____X_____	_____
Hon. Edward B. Marable Jr.	(South Ward)	_____X_____	_____
Hon. Donna K. Williams	(At-Large)	_____X_____	_____
Hon. Tency A. Eason	(North Ward)	_____X_____	_____
Council President			

The Municipal Clerk announced that Council President Eason has a quorum.

ALSO PRESENT

Dwight Mitchell, RMC, Municipal Clerk	_____X_____	_____
Hon. Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Mayor	_____	_____X_____
Dan S. Smith, City Attorney	_____X_____	_____
Kevin D. Harris, Temp. Legislative Research Officer	_____X_____	_____
Antoinette Dismukes, Clerk's Office	_____X_____	_____

3) 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 July 5, 2012, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

5) REPORTS:

Community Services – Month of February- 2013 - \$16, 181.00
 City Clerk's Office – Month of February 2013 - \$537.00

CONSTABLE REPORTS:

Cuthbert Harris - Month of February 2013 - No activities
 Eddie Stone - Month of February 2013 - No activities

OPRA REQUEST REPORTS

Month of February 2013

OPRA Request: 23 Completed; 2 Outstanding

Council President Eason directs the Municipal Clerk to file reports.**6) COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

None

7) 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.****Council President Eason recognized the following citizens for comments.****William R. Lewis of 688 Mosswood Avenue stated his inquires, concerns and opinions:**

- Suggested the presence of Orange Legal Counsel at hearings.
- Ordinance 38-2013 and 39-2013: Ensure compliance with recommendations and comments from the Board of Education are considered.
- Presented the question: If the Mayor and the Council are members of the League of Municipality... How does the league pick a position if there is a conflict?
- Budget: Inquired into the statutory compliance dates for submittal?
- Resolution 117-2013: How will Council educate on (CBAC) Council Budget Advisory Board?

Jeff Feld of 268 Main Street stated his inquires, concerns and opinions:

- Recommended the termination of Finance Director Adrian Mapp.
- Recommended the City Council revisit RPM Tax Abatements.
- Stated Orange Housing Authority doesn't pay taxes on property.
- Revisit every Pilot Agreement and All contracts placed before the council.
- Commented on where is the funding for position the city is hiring for.

Orlando Peters of 219 Park Place stated his inquires, concerns and opinions:

- Lack of basic public works street cleaning services on his block.
- Stated Galaxy a sanitation company contracted by the city to pickup residential garbage. Galaxy leaves garbage debris on ground after dumping.

- Request for City Inspectors to tour properties in disrepair that are occupied.
- Conduct periodic follow-up to ensure matters are being addressed.

Katalin Gordon of 211 Park Place stated his inquires, concerns and opinions:

- City website needs to be updated on a frequent basis.
- Resolution 112-2013: No signatures, dates or attachments. Concerned that residents maybe double paying for equipment that is outdated or need additional parts to function that should have been foreseen prior to purchasing.

Gloria Stewart of 62 Hampton Terrace stated his inquires, concerns and opinions:

- Complimented Municipal Clerk Dwight Mitchell on his knowledge of Municipal Clerk duties.
- Stop Sign on William Street and Park Street was knocked down and still not removed.
- Requests plans and demolition start date and time of The Peppermint Club?
- What's the guideline for Tax Abatements?
- Budget: Number of Hires verses Terminated, Furlough and Lay off employees?
- Sanitation/Roads: Would like update on road repair and where specifically Pot-Holes?
- Redevelopment: Impact of redevelopment on Sewage, Water and Schools?
- Status of Business Administrator?

Council President Eason informed Mrs. Stewart the demolition start time is 8:00am. Council President Eason asked Director Marty Mayes to respond to the demolition and plans for The Peppermint Club. Director Mayes stated the redevelopment planning board and new owner of the property are in discussions of possible housing.

Rayfield Morton of 157 Grove Street stated his inquires, concerns and opinions:

- Commented on Taylor Street shooting. Collected and delivered six pages of petitions to place a barrier to protect community residents.
- Would like to schedule a Safety Strategy Meeting with the Police Director, the Administration, Fire Department and Council.
- Would like to know why the cameras were removed?

Councilman Corbitt stated the Township of Orange has a "NOT ORANGE" Organization to decrease gun violence and are planning to address the violence on Taylor Street specifically. Councilman Corbitt invited Mr. Morton to attend their meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2013 and join together to address the problem. Councilman Corbitt also made reference to turning an abandon Warehouse on Taylor Street to a Sub-Police Station.

Council President Eason inquired to the Police Director, Hakeem Simms, as to the whereabouts of the township barriers? Also, can the city get barriers from the County? In addition, Council President Eason pointed out some of the residents complained

about how the barriers look. As well adding there needs to be another proposed solution to work in conjunction with the barriers.

Police Director Hakeem Simms stated he will look into the location of the barriers. Further stating, the cameras were a loaner, however, the police department will be installing new communications equipment inclusive of cameras.

Mr. Simms also announced a new city and police six month pilot initiative called S.T.R.I.K.E.: Secure – Track – Remove – In Orange Violence – Keeping It Safe. Additionally, Mr. Simms informed the council that the Police Department will be implementing various methods to curtail violent acts. As such, one way streets oppose to two way to decrease and target high crime areas; tracking methods of criminal activity have also been integrated; rescheduling police officers and the task force have been aggressively working to secure the city.

Councilwoman Williams stated the Council has been looking at short and long term plans to address the crime in the city.

Murphy Wilson of 362 Heywood Avenue stated her inquires, concerns and opinions:

- Where is the extra two million dollars coming from to finance the Pump Station?

Council President Eason asked Director of Finance Adrian Mapp to respond.

Mr. Mapp stated the funding source is provided by a Bond.

Naeema Campbell, Briana Hankerson, Marco Dorce of Orange Ink, 406 Thompkins Street, Orange New Jersey 07050.

- Invited the City Council to attend their First Photographic Art Exhibit on Saturday, March 30, 2013 at 7:00PM.

Councilman Marable Jr. inquired into the day and hours of the art gallery because he has been receiving complaints from the residents in the area of noise and vehicles parking.

Motion to Close Citizen Comments:

Motion: Corbitt **Voice Vote** **Second:** Williams

8) COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman Jones-Bell

Councilwoman Jones-Bell had no comments.

Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman Gaunt-ButlerCouncilwoman Gaunt-Butler stated her concerns:

- Commented on her extreme disturbance with an issue amongst the council. Stating most of the governing body received an email pertaining to the matter. Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler states that she has spoken to the Mayor, Council Members and other community people about the term Council and its unfortunate the interpretation of Council is looked upon as one person. Emphatically stressing that the Council is a seven member body not a one member body. In direct correlation with transparency. Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler expects updates, status reports and any form of communications deemed necessary to express what's going amongst the council.
- Announced the Elks Club is hosting a Breakfast for the Orange Democratic Municipal Committee with guest speaker Christopher Durkin, Saturday, March 23, 2013 for \$20.
- Stated she is disturbed with the financial hardship the community is experiencing. Stating the Finance Committee and the Council is working diligently on behalf of the community.
- Announcing after speaking with the community responding to their requests, there will be a series of "Conversations with the Council" starting April 9, 2013 with the venue to be determined.

Council President Eason recognized Councilman Marable Jr.Councilman Marable Jr. stated his concerns:

- Smoke-Free Project and the notion that the ordinances will carry significant penalty; expectation that the initiative will be self-policing; More importantly concerned with the Police Department ability to enforce as well as take time away from other pressing matters of the city to enforce.
- Wasteful spending with duplicate training within Public Works and how employees are selected. As well as how monies are being rationalized.
- Very disappointed with the lack of accountability within the Administration (particularly the Finance Department and CFO) as it relates to the lack of a budget submission and its problems dating back two years.
- 400 Oakwood Avenue: Presented letter from the Law Office of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis. Mr. Robert Beckelman, Oakwood Avenue Attorney submitted a letter on 3/13/2013 and 3/16/2013 stating the owners position of said property and notes the Tax Abatement does not expire until 9/1/2020 directing the question to the city attorney, Mr. Dan Smith, "What is the Administration position?"

City Attorney, Dan Smith stated 400 Oakwood Avenue is still in negotiations however it does not preclude the owner of 400 Oakwood Avenue from their obligation as set forth in their agreement. As well, the City has not taken a position on the agreement because it's still in negotiations.

Council President Eason recognized Councilman CorbittCouncilman Corbitt stated his concerns:

- In agreement with Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler sentiment on the relations between the council and administration however noting it comes with the territory of the job.
- As to the budget stating it's not the council responsible to submit the budget it's the administration. Unfortunately, the Council can only request and wait.
- Echoes Mr. Rayfield Morton sentiment on the safety of Taylor Street and made inquiry into the cameras. Requesting a response from Director Hakeem Simms of the Police Department on the installation of the cameras.
 - Director Simms responded the cameras will be installed next week, March 26 & 27, 2013.
- Inquired with Mr. Marty Mayes about Lincoln and Central Avenue (Particularly Lincoln) four to five street lights are out.

Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman WilliamsCouncilwoman Williams stated her concerns:

- Made inquiry to Marty Mayes, Director of Public Works and Planning as to the street lighting that is out along Scotland Road entire over and under path. What are the updates? Can the council have a report by April 4, 2013 Council Meeting? Also, who is responsible for sidewalk debris removal of two homes that experienced a fire on Central Avenue?
 - Dir. Mayes responded to replace all the lighting along Scotland Road is a cost upward of \$150,000. Further stating although the lighting is not bright 50% of the lighting is back on. County Representative Ken Garrett stated Scotland Road is a city road not County. In response to debris removal, the city is accepts responsibility and are in the process of accepting demolition contractors to demolish said properties.
- Recommended to schedule a meeting with the Finance Department regarding 400 Oakwood Avenue.
- Announced that Vice President Biden spoke at the National League of Cities about possibly implementing Resource Officers within the school system. Noting grants are going to be made available for Resource Officers and Psychologists in schools.
- Inquired into the funds that were to be allocated or was awarded a grant to the Terrell Fund to build a Friendship House in the amount of 1 Million?

Through Council President Eason, Municipal Clerk responded to Councilwoman Williams inquiry stating he was a councilmen in the East Ward at the time and stated there was an award upward of \$750,000 not 1 Million dollars and was made aware through the Community Development Block Grant.

- 39-2012** An Ordinance approving long term tax abatement with Orange Condominium Urban Renewal, L.P. for thirty (30) market rate, for sale condominiums Phase 1B of the Tony Galento Transit Village Project.

MOTION TO LIFT FROM TABLE:

Remained Tabled until April 2nd, 2013 Council Meeting.

10) ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION /FIRST READING

- 7-2013** An ordinance to comply with “Smoke-Free Air Act” Chapter 393, of the State of New Jersey to prohibit Smoking on Public Property.

a) Motion to adopt in first reading: Corbitt Second: Jones-Bell

On the Motion, Councilwoman Williams stated should the Council if there is a disagreement with the fees proceed with a vote?

Councilman Marable Jr. stated the Law Enforcement and Municipal Court component; significant implications for Orange residents on a criminal side; as well as possible significant fines. Councilman Marable would like 7-2013 Ordinance to be withdrawn until further investigation.

Mr. Kevin Harris, Temporary Legislative Research Officer advised for Ordinance 7-2013 to be withdrawn until further investigation.

Council President Eason entertained the Motion to WITHDRAW ORDINANCE 7-2013 by the Council.

11) 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.

The Municipal Clerk stated that these resolutions have been removed for a separate vote as follows: *109-2013, *112-2013, *113-2013 and *116-2013

The Municipal Clerk announced resolutions 115-2013 and 119-2013 has been withdrawn by the Administration.

***115-2013** A resolution for emergency temporary appropriations to the Calendar Year 2013 Budget

***119-2013** A resolution authorizing settlement in the matter of Hodges V. City of Orange, et al.

RESOLUTIONS: *110-2013-*111-2013, *114-2013, *117-2013-*118-2013, *120-2013-*125-2013

- *110-2013** A resolution authorizing the refund of taxes due to county board judgment in the amount of \$2,841.60 to Alexandra Giraldo, 181 Stirling Avenue, Block 6702, Lot 018.
- *111-2013** A resolution authorizing the refund of 4th quarter 2012 taxes paid by Chase c/o CoreLogic due to a duplicate payment in the amount of \$2,980.31 for the property known as 181 Stirling Avenue, Block 6702, Lot 18.
- *114-2013** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to remove various vacant properties from its existing City of Orange Township abandoned properties list.
- *117-2013** A resolution establishing Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee and appointing member to serve on the committee for the Calendar Year 2013 Municipal Budget process.
- *118-2013** A resolution re-appointing Tekeste Ghembremichael as a member to the Rent Leveling Board in the City of Orange Township, New Jersey.
- *120-2013** A resolution celebrating Women's History Month (Sponsored by: Council Member Donna K. Williams)
- *121-2013** A resolution expressing gratitude and thanks to Police Officers Ada Vasquez for act of heroism and bravery.
- *122-2013** A resolution expressing gratitude and thanks to Police Officers Anthony Holmes for act of heroism and bravery.
- *123-2013** A resolution renaming the corner of Main and Hickory Streets in the City of Orange Township, New Jersey Macon T. Cotton Plaza.
- *124-2013** A resolution changing monetary amount of Petty Cash Fund.

- *125-2013 A resolution appointing Kevin D. Harris as permanent Legislative Research Officer.**

MOTION TO ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion: Corbitt **Second:** Jones-Bell

The Municipal Clerk announced the roll call as follows:

Yeas: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Marable Jr., Williams and Eason

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: Abdul-Rasheed

Council President Eason ruled the Motion was Carried by Six Yeas; No Nays; No Abstentions; One Absences

Council President Eason entertained a Motion to extend the Meeting at 10:30pm.

Motion: Jones-Bell **Second:** Williams

The Municipal Clerk announced the roll call as follows:

Yeas: Jones-Bell, Marable Jr., Williams and Eason

Nays: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler

Abstentions: None

Absences: Abdul-Rasheed

Council President Eason ruled the Motion was Carried by Four Yeas; Two Nays; No Abstentions; One Absences

The Municipal Clerk stated those resolutions that were removed will now be considered for a separate vote.

- *109-2013 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on March 19, 2013 dated March 12, 2013 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$787, 950.96)**

On the Motion, Municipal Clerk Dwight Mitchell changed the Grand Total from the above mentioned to (\$787,582.56) stating there was a double posting.

Motion: Corbitt **Second:** Williams

The Municipal Clerk announced the roll call as follows:

Yeas: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Williams and Eason
Nays: Marable Jr.
Abstentions: None
Absences: Abdul-Rasheed

Council President Eason ruled the Motion was Carried by Five Yeas; One Nays;
No Abstentions; One Absences

- *112-2013** **A resolution authorizing Change Order No. 13 to modify the contract for the project known as the Mountain Well Improvements and Chestnut Street Treatment Facility and Pump Station Replacement due to unforeseen conditions, in the amount not to exceed \$35,256.74.**

Motion: Corbitt **Second:** Williams

The Municipal Clerk announced the roll call as follows:

Yeas: Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Williams and Eason
Nays: Corbitt and Marable Jr.
Abstentions: None
Absences: Abdul-Rasheed

Council President Eason ruled the Motion was Carried by Four Yeas; Two Nays; No Abstentions; One Absences

- *113-2013** **A resolution authorizing the awarding of a contract for the purchase of police department uniforms for Orange Police Department Personnel to Universal Uniform Sales Co., Inc., 33 William Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for a one year contract.**

Motion: Corbitt **Second:** Williams

The Municipal Clerk announced the roll call as follows:

Yeas: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Williams and Eason
Nays: Marable Jr.
Abstentions: None
Absences: Abdul-Rasheed

Council President Eason ruled the Motion was Carried by Five Yeas; One Nay;
No Abstentions; One Absences

- *116-2013** **A resolution for the Transfer of Appropriation Reserves.**

Motion: Corbitt **Second:** Gaunt-Butler

The Municipal Clerk announced the roll call as follows:

Yeas: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Williams and Eason

Nays: Marable Jr.

Abstentions: None

Absences: Abdul-Rasheed

Council President Eason ruled the Motion was Carried by Five Yeas; One Nay; No Abstentions; One Absences

12) OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

Councilman Corbitt commented he doesn't understand why with such a light agenda they had to extend the meeting.

Council President Eason stated in the middle of business the Council must closeout the Agenda.

13) MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion: Jones-Bell

Voice Vote

Second: Gaunt-Butler

Adjournment Time: 10:35pm

Dwight Mitchell, RMC.
Municipal Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President

MINUTES APPROVAL

Passed on May 7, 2013

Conference & Regular Meeting on March 19, 2013

Councilman Abdul-Rasheed cannot vote, because he was not present.

Motion to adopt: Corbitt

Second: Jones-Bell

The roll call by Municipal Clerk was as followed:

Yeas: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Marable Jr., Williams and Eason

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: Abdul-Rasheed

Council President Eason ruled the Motion was carried by Six Yeas; No Nays; No Abstentions and One Absence.