

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

**CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2014**

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, NJ 07050, on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 8:40 PM.

Lawrence Paterson led all assembled in a Salute to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

Present:

At-Large Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt
At-Large Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler
East-Ward Councilwoman Linda Jones-Bell
South Ward Councilman Edward B. Marable, Jr.
North Ward Councilwoman Tency A. Eason
At-Large Council President Donna K. Williams

Also Present:

Madeline Smith, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Dan S. Smith, City Attorney
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Officer
Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office
Mr. Director Marty Mayes, Represents the Business Administration

Absent:

West Ward Councilman Hassan Abdul-Rasheed
Mayor Hon. Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.,
Joy F. Lascari, Chief Financial Officer

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 18, 2013, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Lawrence Paterson 8th grade, an Orange resident introduced himself to the audience.

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 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Deputy Clerk Madeline Smith asked for the approval of the January 7, 2014 conference and regular meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt made a motion to adopt the January 7, 2014 conference and regular meeting minutes. It was seconded by Councilwoman Linda Jones-Bell.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members

Yeas: Council members: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Jones-Bell, Marable, Williams

Nays: None

Absent: Tency A. Eason

Councilman Abdul-Rasheed cannot vote because he was absent on January 7, 2014.

Deputy Clerk Madeline Smith asked for the approval of the January 28, 2014 Executive Closed Session meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt made a motion to adopt the January 28, 2014 Executive Session meeting minutes. It was seconded by Councilwoman Jones-Bell.

ROLL CALL:

Council woman Jones-Bell & Councilman Marable cannot vote because they were not present at the January 28, 2014 meeting. Councilman Abdul-Rasheed was absent.

MOTION:

Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler made a motion to amend and adopt the January 28, 2014 Executive Session meeting minutes. It was seconded by Councilwoman Tency A. Eason.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members

Yeas: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Eason and Williams

Nays: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

Deputy Clerk Madeline Smith asked for the approval of the January 28, 2014 conference and regular meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt made a motion to adopt the January 28, 2014 conference and regular meeting minutes. It was seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members

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

Nays: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

Council woman Jones-Bell & Marable cannot vote because they were not present at the January 28, 2014 meeting.

Deputy Clerk Madeline Smith asked for the approval of the February 4, 2014 conference and regular meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt made a motion to amend and adopt the February 4, 2014 conference and regular meeting minutes. It was seconded by Councilwoman Jones-Bell.

MOTION:

Councilwoman Eason made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members

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

Nays: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

Clerk's Office Reports

None

OPRA REPORTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

None

CONSTABLE REPORTS

Council woman Gaunt-Butler gave an abbreviated response in regards to the recent reverse 911 situation. She stated that the location is not found and that it is a piece of software that needs to be acquired by an outside vendor and that it would be an expense.

Fire Director Michael Dowd stated that the 911 software has to be acquired by an outside vendor. He mentioned that we had this software but he believes the contract has expired. We are currently using the Board of Education reverse emergency system the problem is it only goes to parents that have children in schools and it is limited. Moving forward he is working with the police director to obtain the software. There may be some possibility to expand the current board of education system but nothing further has been discussed on that matter at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CITIZEN'S 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."

Joshua Sakolsky stated that the Public Works committee met February 20, 2014.

- They discussed issues with the city's snow response and how they could improve the process next year.
- Points discussed were communicating better with residents before, during and after snow storm. Improve communication through the reverse 911 system. Clarifying details of snow emergencies, such as where do residents park to help remove snow faster.

- Work more efficient with the police department to enforce parking issues. Enforce absentee of owners to do their own snow cleanup.
- Implement and plan early for the next snow season.
- Look into the idea purchasing of more equipment for Public Works to improve the snow removal process and making sure there are any environmental risks in maintain the equipment.
- The city should acquire ownership of a salt dome to alleviate shortage and accessibility. He also the council asked to create an email address for the public works committee to communicate better with residents.

Ingrid Williams Valley St., invited the city council to the next CBAC meeting which will be held on March 18 2014 at 6:30pm. She also asked when the CY 2014 budget will be available.

Mr. Mapp stated that they are working on the CY 2014 budget it will available by the next city council meeting on March 18, 2014.

William R. Lewis, 688 Mosswood, Orange, NJ discussed his association with St. Benedicts and said that he was happy to see that St Benedicts had the Scout Troop program. He also expressed his concerns about the attacks on the scouts by the gang bangers recently and the need to take action to prevent this. Lewis recognized Gloria Hall a local school nurse that has passed recently. He said she was very active in the community and that the city council honor her in some way. Mr. Lewis shared his concerns about the Bill list and salary amounts.

Mr. Mapp responded that the salary numbers on the Bill list is a bi-weekly amount for February 21, 2014.

Darrell Harrington 13 Prince St Orange NJ had a question about the court case on February 28, 2014. He wanted to know if we're still being fined \$1000 a day.

Attorney Smith responded that the matter is still in litigation and he can't be discussed at this point He stated in regards to Resolution 51 and 52 in regards to the closing of Colgate park.

Mr. Harrington asked for an update on the renovations of Colgate Park and its availability for this summer.

Mr. Mayes responded that Colgate Park was not closed and remained open for the entire summer last year.

- He stated that the pool was closed. In regards to redevelopment of Colgate Park see resolution 52, 53 and 57.
- The park will be expanded using the property that is adjacent to the park because of the recreation shortage in the city.
- This project was being worked on for a long time and it is finally is moving along. The park will be open this summer but there is a chance that the pool will remain closed while they are identifying what problems the pool has.

Jeffrey Feld, local businessman; 268 Main Orange, NJ wwnj.com website commended the Clerk's office for the good work in the last 2 weeks and on Ordinance 1-2014.

- He asked everyone take a look at the Mayor veto and his explanation of the veto. Another one of his concerns was the missing signature on the ordinances he was provided.
- He urged that the harsh report discussing Newark's water shed to be removed from the state's public website.
- He commended the clerk's office on their success with ORPA reports. He discussed the importance of getting the correct information in the OPRA reports in a timely fashion and adhering to the laws.

Katalin Gordon 211 Park Place, Orange, NJ, discussed the taxation of property in Orange and the lease agreements. She discussed the playground usage fees for residents and enhancing the playground.

Joshua Sakolsky 393 Olcott St., Orange, NJ, discussed the Bill List payment.

- He inquired if United Water costs will increase on a month-to-month agreement.
- He also inquired if we are looking at other Vendors and will United Water give any rebate for the mistakes made on preventative maintenance issues.
- He urged Scout Troops to help elderly residents with snow removal.
- He suggested that the city look into to an adopt a hydrant program to help with snow removal from fire hydrants.

Gloria Stewart, 62 Hampton Terrace, a resident of Orange mentioned that the booklets distributed during the meeting were informative. Ms. Stewart inquired about:

- The main elevator in city hall was still inoperative and has been for two weeks.
- The reservoir information is not clear and asked that a representative from United Water gives us an update on the status and that we should hold them accountable.
- Status of the library and the reason it was closed.
- Status of the election process.
- How the reverse 911 system works.

She asked for residents to support public school education at the Livingston Mall expo.

Council woman Donna Williams replied in regards to the reverse 911 system.

- She explains that the systems give an information blast in regards to school closing.
- No information can be given on the closing library at this time.
- Donna replied in regards to the reservoir lease they are asking that the contract be reopened and amended the city is not giving it away. It is open space and the allocation of the moneys is still being litigated.

Ken Garrett Essex County Liaison stated he does recall a fee to utilize the swans, but doesn't recall a fee for the playgrounds or the doggie park. The fee structure for the reservoir is located on the county website.

Mr. Mapp stated the lease is for 20 years and only \$75,000.00 a year can be used by Orange according to the state.

Ingrid Williams, Valley St Orange, NJ inquired about the Business Administration position and the city of Orange hiring for that position. She asked was there a shuttle available to transport residents to the reservoir. She also asked e they renting the pavilion out for private events.

Ken Garrett Essex County Liaison stated that information about the shuttle to the pavilion is on the website and for private events an application must be done. The city of Orange does not receive any residuals for renting the pavilion. She also suggested the City Council partner with the school student governments.

Mr. Mapp stated the lease is 20 year and only \$75,000.00 a year can be used according to the state.

Mr. Smith stated that they don't have any new information in regards to the Business Administration position.

MOTION:

Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt made a motion to close Citizen Comments. It was seconded by Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Eason asked were there any plans for the redevelopment of the Northward playgrounds and that a new fence is needed.

- She also mentioned she received two complaints about the elevator not working at the last meeting that was held at the police department.
- She asked what the debt ratios for the city are.
- She stated that the efficiency of the council member needs to be improved and residents need to adhere to the time constraints in place.
- She mentioned the significant cost of the snow removal this winter past winter and the need to increase money in the CY 2014 budget.

Mr. Mayes replied there are no plans for the Northward at this time.

Mr. Mapp replied the debt-ratios are not ready at this time. The debt has been declining and no new debt has been issued.

Mr. Corbitt asked are there any plans to improve the negative activity taking place in Colgate Park.

Mr. Mayes replied that they are looking into installing a camera system in Colgate Park.

Councilman Edward B. Marable, Jr. addressed the closing of the library.

- He stated that library is subject to the open meeting structures, the same as the city Council meetings. They are to conduct meetings openly and transparently.
- He inquired two years ago during the Hawkins administration on why the library closed.
- He explained that the library administration has not kept meeting minutes and there's no information on how they came to the decision to close the library.
- He addressed that the \$1000 fine from the court case on February 23 is still being assessed.
- Corbitt mention he liked the plan booklets that were distributed and highlight the voter activity in the neighboring cities compared to the city of Orange.

Councilman Marable asked the status of the incorrect W2's for library employees and what is being done to correct this situation in light the April 15 tax deadline is fast approaching.

MOTION:

Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt made a motion to extend the meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Linda Jones-Bell stated that she received complaints from Kelly Smith a parent of a child that attends Oakland school requesting a three way stop.

- She asked in regards to the reservoir lease agreement and thought that in the second year that 85,000 a year were to be distributed.

Mr. Mayes replied that the ordinance was brought before the council and it was not passed. This matter need to be revisited.

ORDINANCES/SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

2-2014 – An Ordinance to amend the code of the City of Orange Township, chapter 200, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” section 200-52-1 Handicapped Parking Spaces for 46 Hampton Terrace.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt to Close the Public Hearings. The motion was seconded by Council woman Gaunt-Butler.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt to adopt the final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

None

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.

Deputy Clerk Smith announced that 51-2014, 55-2014 and 56-2014 have been removed from the Consent Agenda.

- *52-2014** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Hatch Mott MacDonald, 111 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-4112 to Provide remediation /environmental Tasks-Park Redevelopment for Colgate Park in the amount not to exceed \$27,750.00.

- *53-2014** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Hatch Mott Macdonald, 111 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-4112 to provide engineering /design and construction/inspection services for the 2013 CDBG Colgate Park Redevelopment in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.00.

- *54-2014** A resolution authorizing the issuance of a raffle license for PBA Local 25, West Orange Civic Association, Inc.

- *57-2014** A resolution of the City of orange authorizing submission and acceptance of a great application to the New jersey Department of Environmental Protection for funding from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund for remedial actions at Colgate Park Expansion.

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt to Adopt the Consent Agreement. The motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

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

Nays: None

Absence: Abdul-Rasheed

The Motion was carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

***51-2014 A resolution for the transfer of appropriation.**

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt to adopt the resolution. The motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Jones-Bell.

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

Nay: Marable

Abstained: Eason

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

Motion did not carry .

***55-2014 A resolution approving the bill list for Council Meeting vote on March 4, 2014 dated February 27, 2014. And approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$1,826,098.91).**

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones-Bell.

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

Nay: Marable

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

Motion to adopt passes.

***56-2014 A resolution authorizing amendments to a lease agreement between the City of Orange Township and the County of Essex for use of property at the Orange Reservoir.**

A motion was made by Councilman Corbitt to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones-Bell.

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

Nay: Marable

Abstained: Eason

Absent: Abdul-Rasheed

Motion to adopt passes.

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

None

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jones-Bell to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded By Gaunt-Butler.

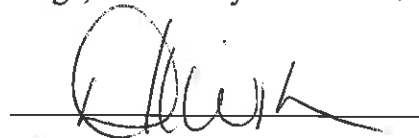
By consensus the regular meeting adjourned at 10:55 pm March 4, 2014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference & Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey at 7:00 PM.



Madeline Smith, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk



Donna K. Williams
City Council President