

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

**CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2014**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Orange, Township held in the Council Chambers 4th Floor of City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey, on Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson introduced 7th Grader Miss. Kalia Flemming from Park Avenue School to lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President asked Miss Kalia Flemming if there was anything she wanted to say to the Council and the Citizens.

Miss Flemming introduced herself and stated that she saw herself as a leader and that that she saw herself as the first example of success. She shared some of her hobbies as well as her academic accomplishments.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler greeted Miss Kalia on behalf of the City Council and shared some kind words.

Councilwoman Eason shared some kind words to Miss Kalia and commented on her being a very good public speaker.

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

Also Present:

Madeline Smith, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Dan S. Smith City Attorney
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Officer
Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office

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

- April 9, 2014 – Executive Closed Session

Council members Coley, Johnson, & Summers-Johnson cannot vote because they were not Council Members at that time.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and seconded by Councilwoman Eason

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler & Williams

Nays: none

Motion Carries

- April 23, 2014 – Executive Closed Session

Council members Coley, Johnson, & Summers-Johnson cannot vote because they were not Council Members at that time.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and seconded by Eason

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler, & Williams

Nays: none

Motion Carries

- June 4, 2014 – Executive Closed Session

Council members Coley, Johnson, & Summers-Johnson cannot vote because they were not Council Members at that time.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and seconded by Eason

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Gaunt-Butler & Williams

Nays: none

Motion Carries

- July 10, 2014 – Special Meeting

Council members Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler and Eason cannot vote because they were not present.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

Motion by Councilman Coley and seconded by Council President Williams

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Coley, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, & Williams

Nays: none

Motion Carries

- August 6, 2014 – Conference, Regular Meeting & Executive Closed Session

Council members Gaunt-Butler & Council President Williams cannot vote because they were not present.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

Motion by Councilwoman Eason and seconded by Councilman Coley

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: none

Motion Carries

- August 13, 2014 – special Meeting

Council man Corbitt cannot vote because he was not present.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

Motion by Councilman Coley and seconded by Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: none

Motion Carries

- September 2, 2014 – Conference & Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADOPT:

Motion by Councilman Corbitt and seconded by Councilwoman Eason

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: none

Motion Carries

REPORTS:

Department of Building, Plumbing, Electrical, Elevator and Fire Division

- Month of September 2014 - \$253,071.00

Department of Community Services

- Month of September 2014 - \$30,843.00

Clerk's Office Report

Deputy Clerk Smith reported:

- Month of September 2014 - \$216.75

OPRA REPORTS

Month of September 2014 - 41 OPRAS received, 136 items were completed 2 pending.

CONSTABLE REPORTS

- Darnell Brodie – Month of September 2014 – No activity
- Mohammed Toure-Month of September 2014 – Security for L'uiny, 2133

COUNCIL REPORTS

Police Department

Councilman Corbitt & Councilman Coley stated that there were no reports.

Fire Department

Councilman Gaunt-Butler stated that there were no reports.

Housing Authority

Councilman Johnson, Jr., stated that there were no reports. He stated that he attempted scheduling a meeting with Mr. Walter McNeal but their schedules were not connecting.

Library Committee

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that the Library had their meeting, but that she was unable to attend due to a death in her family. She stated that they sent her four basic things that she had requested. Which were as follows: Grants, Building and Maintenance, Library Programs and Library Technology.

- She stated that she was happy to report that they had received a grant through U.S. Department of Education and that were going to receive \$52,000.00 in increments of \$10,000.00 per year from 2014 through 2019. She stated that the children would be

working with the Stem Program to learn how to create video games. She stated that each child would receive a library card.

- She reported that there was a question regarding the roof of the Library. She reported that the Library's rotunda and roof still needed to be repaired. She stated that it would take \$1.2 million dollars to complete the project. She stated that the \$750,000.00 was the matching grant that would help to assist in restoring the Library's Building.
- She reported that they hosted a few activities.
 - A free SAT Program
 - Senior's Movie Night
 - They took students to the Congressional Black Caucus.
- She reported that the Orange Board of Education donated thirty computers to help bridge the gap of technology.
- She reported that thirty five of their computers were brought updated.

Councilwoman Eason requested that Councilwoman Summers-Johnson checked on the thirty computers because she saw that they weren't working at the Library.

Councilwoman Summer-Johnson stated that she wasn't sure if the thirty computers they donated were a part of the batch that had been updated.

Councilwoman Eason stated that she was at the Library last month and that there was something that needed to be done with the thirty computers.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she would check on them.

Personnel Committee

Council President stated that there were no reports.

Finance Department

Council President Williams stated that she would allow Councilman Johnson give the report on the meeting they had with the auditor. She stated that there would be a public meeting on November 13, 2014 at which time she would be doing a budget review with the budget consultant so that citizens would get an idea as to where they were in their spending and a forecast of the last two months and how they were preparing for 2015 calendar year.

Councilwoman Eason asked about a meeting on October 14, 2014.

Council President stated that was the meeting for Best Practices.

Council President requested that Councilman Johnson report on the audit.

Councilman Johnson stated that Council President spoke on all he had to say regarding the audit.

Councilman Johnson encouraged the citizens to support the meeting on November 13, 2014. He stated that the meeting would be published and the citizens should share the information with their neighbors. He stated that they would get a chance to hear the budget consultant Mr. Mcenerney explained the budget.

Public Works Committee

Mr. Josh Solosky introduced himself as Chair of the Public Works Committee reported that they had a meeting on September 24, 2014 and two items were discussed as follows:

- A review of the city's snow plan and that they were working with Director Mayes who were to provide them with documents of what the City's Snow Plan and revisions that may or may not be needed.

- He reported that one thing that was eminently clear was that there needed to be better communication between the City and its residents regarding expectations on both ends on what the residents needed to do in case of a snow emergency. They also discussed how the residents would be able to communicate with the City.
- They discussed developing a plan for better snow removal including signage and pre-communication with community meetings they are hoping to get an agenda for that soon.
- They discussed the City's abandoned properties. He reported that there were properties that were in need of rehabilitation.
- They discussed what citizens would be able to do with the presence of abandoned properties in their neighborhood and what they could expect the City to do for those properties. He stated that it was a serious issue and was hurting property value around the city. Public Works and Code Enforcement were the main components in that area on what would be able to get someone to take care of those properties.
- He reported that the next meeting's agenda would be further review of the snow plan and addressing the abandoned properties and city owned abandoned property issues.

Council President asked Councilwoman Eason if she wanted the Task Force Committee to discuss the graffiti problem.

Councilwoman Eason asked when would be the next meeting.

Mr. Solosky responded that it would be the Monday, October 13, 2014, but that he would confirm the date and get it to her. He stated that they had new members and was not able to keep the standard meeting on the third Thursday.

Councilwoman Eason asked if he had sent out email regarding the meeting.

Mr. Solosky stated he would be able to send out an email moving forward because he had everyone's email address and would make sure she was copied.

Councilwoman Eason stated she thought they were going to address road resurfacing.

Mr. Solosky stated that road resurfacing and snow removal would go together. He stated that the road resurfacing was on their next meeting's agenda as well.

Councilman Corbitt stated regarding resurfacing, PSE&G had done a terrible job with regards to digging up and fixing the roads back to being in drivable condition. He suggested that their committee took a look at the issue and that they should get the contractors that they used to go back out and fix the surfaces the way should be.

Mr. Solosky stated that it was briefly discussed at the meeting. He stated that they would follow up with Director Mayes on the issue.

Councilman Johnson wanted to know if the committee had gotten together with Director Mayes with his plans for executing bond spending.

Mr. Solosky stated that equipment purchases were a part of the general discussion at their meeting. He stated that the new equipment for snow removal and much more were discussed. He stated that it would go back on the agenda for their next meeting.

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.

Council President stated that Mr. Tarver was not able to return. He stated that if any citizen had a question based on what he spoke about that he was willing to be at the next meeting and that he would bring with him transcripts and orders if there was a request.

Jeffrey Feld, Local Businessman; 268 Main Orange, NJ wwnj.com website

- Mr. Feld stated that he had been requested to appear before the local finance board the next morning at 11:20 A.M. to discuss the validity of the amended and reintroduced calendar year's 2014 budget.
- Mr. Feld made comments on the Local Finance Board's minutes for August and September.
- Mr. Feld commented on the demand letter to the Board of Education he received via an OPRA Request.
- Mr. Feld commented on the bond ordinance.
- Mr. Feld made comments on the audit needing to be discussed that night.
- Mr. Feld made comments on change orders.
- Mr. Feld made comments on the Agenda regarding the PILOT.
- Mr. Feld made comments on tax appeals judgment and settlement.
- Mr. Feld made comments on Funding of capital equipment.
- Mr. Feld made comments on the bill list regarding salary and wage back-up.
- Mr. Feld made comments on the tax agreement.
- Mr. Feld made comments on the meeting needing to be broadcast.
- Mr. Smith, City attorney responded to Mr. Feld's comment stating that the bond council was at the first reading. He stated that he would have the bond council return to answer any questions if the governing body wanted him to.

Fred Vandermeer, Resident of Orange, NJ

- Mr. Vandermeer stated he had several problems with his apartment and that Mr. Mayes knew about them and he wanted some assistance.
- Mr. Vandermeer commented on crime watch.
- Mr. Vandermeer commented on the illegal parking on the corner of Lincoln & Mechanic Street and that Police Director Simms stated that it was under investigation.
- Council President asked Mr. Mayes or Director Mayes to respond regarding the progress on the painting of the curbs enforcing the 25 feet.
- Mr. Simms, Police Director stated that the matter was being investigated and that the curbs were painted. He stated that he told the patrol officer to issue tickets when a violation had occurred.
- Council President asked Mr. Mayes if there were any updates on code violations.
- Mr. Mayes stated that he did what he said he would do as far as meeting with Mr. Vandermeer and his wife. He stated that tickets had been issued and that it was an on-going code enforcement matter.

- Council President commented on Mr. Vandermeer's lease and asked attorney Smith if he had a chance to review the lease.
- Mr. Smith stated that he did hear about the lease, but had not seen it at that time.
- Mr. Vandermeer commented on mold in his apartment as well the need for extermination.

Katlalin Gordon, 211 Park Place, Orange, NJ

- Ms. Gordon commented on the meeting not being broadcasted.
- Ms. Gordon commented on Chestnut Station Building needing work done and asked if the City received any grants to cover the work that needed to be done.
- Ms. Gordon commented on Breast Cancer awareness month and gave suggestions as to what could be done for prevention and awareness.
- Ms. Gordon commented on her interest in being a part of the Public Work Committee.
- Ms. Gordon commented on her OPRA requests.
- Ms. Gordon commented Ordinance 19-2014.
- Council President asked Mr. Mobley if the City had pursued any grants with regards to the water station.
- Mr. Mobley stated that he did look for grants and that they had a grant writer as well. He stated that he had not seen any grants for capital water items.
- Council President asked that attorney Smith or Mr. Mobley to confirm that the work had been completed by Scafar and was being paid for pertaining to Ordinance 19-2014. She commented that the litigation had been filed in August.
- Ms. Gordon stated that there was work done which they had been paid and that the \$1.2 million was for work that had not been completed.
- Mr. Mobley stated that his understanding was that the change order R-12 addressed the cost for labor and material after starting the project a year after Scafar had made their first bid.
- Council President stated that Ms. Gordon would be updated with information regarding the ordinance with the legal department. She stated that the record showed that the monies were owed to Scafar.
- Council President responded to her comment regarding OPRA stating that OPRA was being handled in the correct format that the State provided.
- Ms. Gordon commented on her cases at the GRC pertaining to OPRA.
- Ms. Smith, Deputy Clerk stated that the Clerk's office getting OPRA done in a timely manner depended on the different departments that had the information to be submitted to the Clerk's office.

Josh Solosky 393 Alcott street Avenue, Orange, NJ

- Mr. Solosky commented on transparency and the City's website being broken.
- Mr. Solosky commented on documents need to posted on the website.
- Mr. Solosky commented on the bond ordinance regarding the water station.
- Mr. Solosky commented on the meeting not being broadcast.

Gloria Stewart, 62 Hampton Terrace, Orange, NJ

- Ms. Stewart asked about the firehouse being refurbished.
- Ms. Stewart thanked Councilwoman Summers-Johnson on her report on the Library. And request that Councilwoman Summers-Johnson worked on the \$750k matching grant.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the housing authority not giving a report. She suggested some items they could have reported on.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the road conditions and the water main break.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the meeting not being broadcasted.
- Ms. Stewart asked about the cost do a Resolution of Recognition.
- Ms. Stewart stated that she was a breast cancer survivor and spoke on the awareness stating that it was important that the Council continued to recognized breast cancer month each year.
- Ms. Stewart commented on placing a crossing guard in front of Heywood Avenue School.
- Council President asked Director Dowd from the Fire Department to respond to Ms. Stewart's question pertaining to building repair.
- Mr. Dowd responded to Ms. Stewart's question regarding building repair he stated that the building had been reviewed by the City Engineer and would be repaired with money from the bond.
- Mr. Simms, Police Director responded to her questions regarding crossing guards. He stated that they did hire crossing guards for areas that did not have any, but that an assessment would be done on the location.
- Mr. Mayes responded to her question regarding the road condition.
- Mr. Mobley responded to her question regarding the water not being clean stating that there was a public notice regarding United Water flushing of the water system.
- Council President stated that there had been suggestions for United Water to do a newsletter for the City of Orange. She asked that the matter be looking into.
- Council President responded to Ms. Stewart's question regarding the City not having a B.A as well as the video taping of the meetings.

Mr. Daniels, 216 Wallace Street, Orange, NJ

- Mr. Daniels Applauded the Council on the proclamations they had done for individuals from the City of Orange.
- Mr. Daniels suggested that Council Members use the microphone so that the members of the public could hear them speak.

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 COMMENTS

Councilwoman Eason commented on the meeting not being televised. She stated that the residents wanted to see the meetings live. She asked if would be legal for the council do a resolution to stop payment to Mr. Keith Royster until the meetings are live through Channel 35.

Council President stated she did not have an answer because it was personnel matter.

Councilwoman Eason asked Mr. Mayes about the contract for the police building.

Mr. Mayes responded stating that the contract was just completed and that it would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilwoman Eason asked about the signs for Cleveland Street & Washington Street.

Mr. Mayes responded stating that signs had ordered and that he would check on the delivery date.

Councilwoman Eason asked about the corner of Spring Street and Park Avenue crosswalk. She stated that the County sent the City a letter.

Mr. Mayes responded stating that the he did receive the letter and would look into the location.

Councilwoman Eason asked Director Simms if he hired anymore crossing other than the three that was approved.

Mr. Simms responded stating that he didn't.

Councilwoman Eason asked if he had gotten any further with the approval.

Mr. Simms responded stating that he didn't.

Councilwoman Eason asked if there was anything he needed the Council to do to move the process along.

Mr. Simms responded stating what the Council had been doing was ok and that he was just waiting to place the next individuals on the list.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler asked about the agenda for the November 13th meeting.

Council President responded stating that the meeting was to discuss the Budget to see where they were in terms of spending and it would also cover the Auditor's Report.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler asked if the meeting would also cover the 2015 Budget process.

Council President responded with a yes.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler asked about the spending of the Bond Ordinance. She stated her opinion that a staggered approach in the purchasing of equipment would be better for the City.

Mr. Mayes stated that they were taking action on what was approved in the Bond Ordinance. He stated that a staggered approach would have been ok if the City didn't have a great need for equipments at that time.

Council President asked Director Mapp to follow up on Mr. Mayes' comments.

Mr. Mapp explained the bond ordinances verses capital plan.

Councilwoman asked about an overview of the revaluation and the net results.

Mr. Matt Rinaldi, Tax Assessor gave a summary of the 2014 revaluation.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on Breast Cancer awareness.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on the meeting not being broadcast. She commented that it was a matter of transparency and public safety. She also commented on the price quote not being acceptable to fix the equipment.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on the transcript from the Clerk's Office being good an accurate.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler stated that Ms. Stewart would be honored the following week. She encouraged everyone to be there for support.

Councilman Corbitt stated that Mr. Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County executive sent a letter to all Council Members stating that each municipality would receive \$150,000.00 to support open spaces, preservation, park development and historic preservations. He wanted know when the money would be disbursed.

Council President asked Mr. Garrett if he knew when the monies would be distributed. She also stated that she would paused the Council's Comments to accommodate Mr. Garrett if he any information to share with the council.

Mr. Ken Garrett, Essex County Liaison to the City of Orange stated that he did not know when the monies would be disbursed, but that the information would be offered in the press conference. Councilman Corbitt read from the letter some of the different uses the money would help to support. He asked if the money would be able to be used for the Library.

Mr. Garrett stated he didn't know the specific details on how it would be spent.

Council President asked Mr. Garrett if he had any other announcements.

Mr. Garrett responded stating there were no announcements.

Councilman Corbitt addressed Mr. Mapp about an additional \$1.5 million dollars he thought he saw in the audit report book other than the \$1.5 million dollars for the water pump station.

Mr. Mapp stated the reason they had the money available was because there was an error in the audit report which after being identified had caused them to realize that they had the money in the bond ordinance available for use and for the council to repurpose in order to pay the outstanding balance to Scafar.

Councilman Corbitt asked if there were two different amounts for the \$1.5 million in two separate categories or was it all that was left from the original bond ordinance for the water pump station.

Mr. Mapp responded stating that they only had one not two \$1.5 million dollars.

Councilman Corbitt stated that he just wanted to be certain.

Councilman Corbitt stated that had concerns about the purchase of the new vehicles for the different departments and wanted to be assured that Mr. Mayes would be stringent with their usage.

Mr. Mayes stated that were going to be very stringent with the use of the new vehicles when they arrived and the trucks he ordered were for the snow removal.

Councilman Corbitt stated that he was concerned about the SUV that were purchased for the fire and police departments not being used in their departments. He stated that the vehicles should be used for the departments for which they were purchased.

Mr. Mayes responded with an ok.

Councilman Corbitt asked who repaired the water main break on Scotland Road and Tremont Avenue. Mr. Mayes stated that Kramer did the repairs. He stated that Kramer dealt specifically with water main breaks.

Councilman Corbitt asked about the Star Tavern.

Mr. Mayes stated that it had marked out and that they were going to start by the end of that week or the following week. The delay was due to the issue with the piping under the streets.

Councilman Corbitt asked if there was another issue at Scotland Road and Tremont. He stated that he saw a cone in the street.

Mr. Mayes stated that it was a County issue with a manhole. He stated that he understood that the County would be at the location the following morning.

Councilman Corbitt addressed the Council President about the Agenda items. He asked if there would be a problem if the items stayed on the Agenda to have the entire Council collectively decided what should be pulled and which committee if any that would be looking at the items so that the council would be prepared and aware of everything that would be presented before them. He asked if she would allow it to happen.

Council President responded stating that it would not be possible at that time. She stated that issues that were not ready for the Agenda would not be put on the Agenda. She also stated that the items would be presented to the committee for further review and at the appropriate time be put back onto the agenda.

Councilman Corbitt requested that the Council be given a notation as to the items that would be pulled from the agenda. Councilman Corbitt mentioned a few items that were removed which he had questions about.

Council President stated that if they were not on the Agenda they were not subjected to be discussed.

Councilman Corbitt stated that he wished there had been a better way.

Councilman Corbitt stated that he visited a church in East Orange a few weeks prior and was asked by a few of the church members why the meetings were not being televised.

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING

Motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Eason to extend the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Coley, Eason, Johnson, Jr., & Williams

Nays: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler, Summers-Johnson

Motion Did Not Carry

MOTION TO RECESS FOR CLARIFICATION

Motion by: Councilwoman Summers-Johnson Seconded by Councilwoman Eason

MOTION TO RECONVIENE

Motion by: Councilwoman Summers-Johnson Seconded by Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL

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

Nays:

Motion Passes

MOTION TO RECONSIDER EXTENDING THE MEETING

Motion by: Councilwoman Summers-Johnson Seconded by Councilwoman Corbitt

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: none

Motion Carries

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING

Motion by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson to extend the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: Corbitt, Gaunt-Butler

Motion Carries

Councilman Johnson, Jr., thanked the residents of Orange for affording him the opportunity to attend the Congressional Black Caucus. He stated that the legislative sessions were very informative and that he learnt a lot. He stated that they as a Council needed to grow in their leadership as well as with the Administration.

Councilman Johnson commented on Ms. Stewart's statement on him not having any report for Housing Authority stating that there had been a scheduling conflict with the director. He stated that he would ask the Director about some of the items she mentioned.

Councilman Johnson commented on transparency and the meeting not being broadcasted. He stated that everyone played a part in the growth of the Town and that the Administration had to understand that they would not be able to run the Town by themselves.

Councilman Coley asked Mr. Mayes about the Resolution that had been passed for the demolition on Central Place.

Mr. Mayes stated that the permit had been finalized for the demolition and that the contractor had already picked up the permit. He stated that he was not sure as to the date that the demolition would take place, but he would find out the date.

Councilman Coley asked about two abandoned homes that had been sitting for over fifteen years.

Mr. Mayes stated that he had a report and would get it to him. He stated that Ms. Renee Hawkins from the Public Works Committee was at the last meeting and at that time he told her that he would supply her with a report on the status on all of them.

Councilman Coley commented on the conditions of the City's roads and asked if there was a clause in the contractor's contract requiring them to fix the roads back to a drivable state or better.

Mr. Mayes stated that they did have an ordinance, but that it wasn't strong. He stated that Plainfield, N.J. had a very strong ordinance and they patterned the ordinance from theirs.

Councilman Coley stated that he was speaking of a contract not an ordinance.

Mr. Mayes stated that there was a statement, but that it referred to the ordinance he previously mentioned. He stated that the ordinance would be ready for the next council meeting or the one following the next.

Councilman Coley commended the Housing Authority for the development in East Ward. He stated that the only issue he had with the redevelopment from the housing authority with the properties was that the properties were taken off the tax row. He stated that there needed to be some type of discussion on the issue. He stated that he would like the City Attorney to speak with Housing Authority regarding his concern and return to the Council with an update.

Councilman Coley stated that he thought that City Hall should have extended work days twice per month on the days of the Council Meeting for residents who are not able to during their work hours.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she would like for the meetings to be televised and one of the reasons was that the Council had the children representing their schools from the Town participating in the meeting. She stated when the meeting got televised she would like the Council to invite the children who had already been to the meeting to return and give them a certificate of appreciation. She stated that there was a disconnect between the government and the people for the simple fact that the parents of some of the children did not know the location of the Council Chambers where the meetings were held. She stated if there was something that needed to be done legally to get the meeting back on the air that she wanted to be on the team.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she had been in touch with Ms. Gina Varanelli for getting a picture of her dad, but that Ms. Varanelli would be getting back to her.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she was in agreement with a crossing guard being placed in front of Heywood School. She stated that it might be a job for a police officer and not a crossing guard due to the double parking issue while parents were dropping of their children.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she did receive a few calls regarding squatters in the South Ward because of the abandoned homes. She stated that she called Mr. Mayes and Directors Simms and they were aware of the issue. She asked about the process for residence calling about squatters.

Mr. Simms, Police Director stated that that if a resident noticed someone in any abandoned home they should put a call into the non emergency number and someone would go out and remove the individuals and after which they would contact Department of Public Works to help secure the location.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she was waiting for approval from the Board of Education to have her first meeting on November 12, 2014 at the Heywood Avenue School location.

Council President asked Mr. Rinaldi, Tax Assessor if had a number for the amount of tax appeals paid to date.

Mr. Rinaldi stated that he did not have the numbers, but that Mr. Smith the Tax Collector should have the number. He stated for the record that most of the judgments were old and possibly went back as far as 2007 and that the Courts were back logged.

Mr. Smith, Tax Collector stated that State's website posted information for each Town on what the judgments were. He stated that he did keep a record of them. He stated that he would be able to provide the list for Council President the following day.

Council President requested that he emailed her the list.

Council President stated there had been constant discussions on OPRA Request and the Deputy Clerk was passionate on how the request was being handled. She mentioned the numbers for the August OPRA Request report and that the Clerk's Office had been actively working on them and that they did request an extension from the request if more time was need to fulfill the request.

Council President stated to Mr. Mayes that there had been a question from the last two meetings on the salary and wage portion had been missing from the Bill List. She requested to know why there had been a change in the Bill List presentation.

Council President addressed the citizens stating that they did have the Council's car and that they were working diligently to get the Council Meeting to be televised. She stated that the meeting was aired live and the replayed on a separate day giving the public a chance to stay connected with the happenings of the Town.

ORDINANCES-SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

- 18-2014** A Bond Ordinance amending and supplementing bond ordinance number 8-2008 (which provides for improvements to the City of Orange Mountain Wells, the Chestnut Street Treatment Facility and High Pump Station) heretofore finally adopted by the City Council of the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, on May 20, 2008 to reappropriate an additional \$1,500,000 in excess bond proceeds not needed for their original purpose from Bond Ordinance number 22-2002 to finance the costs thereof.

PUBLIC HEARING

Jeffrey Feld, Local Businessman; 268 Main Orange, NJ wwnj.com website

- Mr. Feld stated that he thought that it should be tabled because the CFO and the Finance Director had already left the meeting.
- Mr. Feld made comments on the Ordinance.

Ms. Wilson Heywood Avenue, Orange, N.J.

- Ms. Wilson stated that she thought the Ordinance should be tabled.
- Ms. Wilson made comments on the Ordinance.

MOTION TO TABLE SECOND READING UNTIL OCTOBER 21ST MEETING

Motion by Councilwoman Williams, seconded, by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: none

Motion Carries

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

None

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.

RESOLUTIONS *236- 2014 -*254-2014

- *236-2014 A resolution authorizing the tax collector to cancel taxes on 50 South Essex Avenue, Block 2703, Lot 2 as per agreement concerning the implementation of the "PILOT" effective June 4, 2014 under Ordinance No. 25-2012 dated October 2, 2012.
- *237-2014 A resolution authorizing the tax collector to cancel taxes on 50 South Essex Avenue, Block 2805, Lot 9 as per agreement concerning the implementation of the "PILOT" effective June 4, 2014 under Ordinance No. 25-2012 dated October 2, 2012.

- *238-2014 A resolution authorizing the refund of taxes due to County Board Judgment in the amount of \$685.15 to Alva M. Muhammad, 248 Ogden Street, Block 4302, Lot 39.
- *239-2014 A resolution authorizing the refund of taxes paid due to overpayment in the amount of \$2,275.00.
- *240-2014 A resolution authorizing the Finance Department of the City of Orange Township to allow redemption by installment agreement of taxes owing to the City of Orange Township for property known as Block 4001, Lot 5 more commonly known as South Jefferson Street in the name of Pearl Co. LLC.
- *241-2014 A resolution authorizing the refund of taxes due to State Board Judgments in the amount of \$84,254.09.
- *242-2014 A resolution authorizing the reduction of 2014 taxes on property known as 485 Park Avenue, Block 1201, Lot 30 in the amount of \$24,749.78 due to an error in the property assessment.
- *243-2014 A resolution authorizing the purchase of (1) 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD SUV from Mall Chevrolet, 75 Haddonfield Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 under the City of Cranford Co-op Contract A53130 to be used by the City of Orange Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.
- *244-2014 A resolution authorizing Change Order No. 1-Final from PA Contractors, Inc., 105 Davis Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey 07032 for a decrease to the project known as the 2013 CDBG A.D.A. accessible crosswalk to adjust the contract quantities to meet final as-built conditions in the amount of \$260.40.
- *245-2014 A resolution further amending resolution 106-2014 and superseding resolution 149-2014 as to the formation of special investigatory committee to appoint Donna K. Williams.
- *246-2014 A resolution rejecting the bids for the High and Alden Street Park Irrigation System Project.
- *247-2014 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on October 7, 2014 dated October 3, 2014 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 3,460,677.06). **(Removed for Separate Vote)**
- *248-2014 A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) broom street sweepers with belt conveyors from W.E. Timmerman Company, Inc., 3554 Route 22 West, PO Box 71, Whitehouse, New Jersey 08888 in the amount not to exceed \$377,450.00.
- *249-2014 A resolution celebrating the life of Herman Odell Cowan Ray (Sponsored by the City of Orange Township Council members).

- *250-2014 A resolution celebrating the life of Rebecca Kingslow (Sponsored by the City of Orange Township Council members).
- *251-2014 A resolution celebrating the life of Mia Renee Ray (Sponsored by the City of Orange Township Council members).
- *252-2014 A resolution proclaiming the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. (Sponsored by the Orange City Council).
- *253-2014 A resolution celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. (Sponsored by the Orange City Council).
- *254-2014 A resolution consenting to the submission of the application for outstanding municipal projects award for the Central Playground Ball Field Project.

MOTION TO ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda (with exceptions as noted) by the Township as follows: Approval of Resolutions: 236-2014, 237-2014, 238-2014, 239-2014, 240-2014, 241-2014, 242-2014, 243-2014, 244-2014, 245-2014, 246-2014, 248-2014, 249-2014 & 250-2014, 251-2014, 252-2014, 253-2014 & 254-2014

*The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as modified.

Council President read *247-2014 titled: A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on October 7, 2014 dated October 3, 2014 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 3,459,177.06).

MOTION by: Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: None

Motion Passes

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by: Councilwoman Summers-Johnson

Seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: Eason, Gaunt-Butler

Motion Passes

Regular Meeting

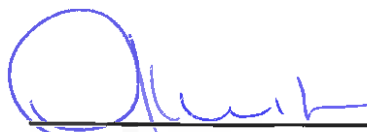
MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY

October 7, 2014

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 1 1:10P.M.



Madeline F. Smith, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk



Donna K. Williams
Council President