

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 2014

THIS WAS 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 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson introduced Ms. Tamia La'Naysia Tyree from Orange High School who leads the assembled in the pledge of alliance.

Vice President Coley and other members of the Council thanked Ms. Tyree for coming to the Council meeting.

The Deputy Clerk then did a roll call.

Roll Call:

Present:

East-Ward Councilman Kerry J. Coley
At-Large Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt
North Ward Councilwoman Tency A. Eason
South Ward Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson
At-Large Council President Donna K. Williams

Also Present: Deputy Municipal Clerk Madeline F. Smith
Mr. James Wolfe, Assistant City Attorney
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Officer
Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance
Joy F. Lascari, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Marty Mayes, Representing the Administration.

Absent: At-Large Councilwoman April Gaunt-Butler
West Ward Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr.

The Council President asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 16, 2014.

(September 16, 2014 –Conference, Regular and Closed (Session))

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson to approve the minutes from September 16, 2014.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Summers-Johnson, & Williams

Nays: none

Absent: Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.

Motion Carries

The Council President reported that there were no OPRA Reports.

The Council President then asked for Council reports.

Councilman Coley – Public Safety report – No report. Housing Authority report – No report.

Councilwoman Eason – Planning Board – The Board approved a design for a new White Castle. It will be closing in January and will be reopening in the summer. A.B.C. report – The Board is still working on some solutions.

Councilman Corbitt – Fire Department – No report.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson - Library report. Last week Councilman Corbitt, Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler and she had attended a Domestic Violence Program, providing some detail on subjects that were touched upon during the program. There would be a change in the way the Library reports are given to Councilwoman Summers-Johnson. There would be a South Ward Community meeting at the Heywood Ave School on November 12th from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

The Council President reported that on November 10th from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. there would be a book signing by author Jeff Hobbs. There would be an Executive Closed Session that next evening, November 6th, to discuss personnel issues starting at 6:30 P.M. The Finance Committee will be hosting a budget forum presenting the status of the City’s spending for 2014 on Nov 13, 2014 starting at 6:30.

The Council President directed the Deputy Clerk to file the reports.

The Council President reported that there were no communications or petitions at this time.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The Deputy Clerk made the following statement.

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 (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.

The following residents and business owners made comments.

Mr. Lewis of Orange NJ commented that the South Ward residents pay 42% of the City’s taxes.

Mr. Lewis commented that there is a lot of talent in the South Ward which is not being used.

Mr. Lewis gave some background of his work experiences.

Mr. Lewis commented on the need for the CBAC at this point in time.

Mr. Feld of 268 Main St commented that he hoped for a speedy recovery for the Police Officer that was shot in East Orange. Mr. Feld commented on a resolution that he had delivered to the Council members regarding having the State provide the City with a State monitor because of the financial situation in the City.

Mr. Feld commented that not one Council member would support that resolution. Mr. Feld and the Council President had a discussion on what could be spoken about during the General Comments section of a meeting. Mr. Feld asked that the Council look at the Local Finance Notices that had just been released. Mr. Feld touched on other topics.

Mr. Monasehiam of 339 Main Street commented that he has owned that property for twenty seven years and that in recent history there has been a change; the good economic balance that used to exist does not exist anymore. He spoke of the increase in the tax rate and real-estate taxes being increased to the point where many owners may have to leave Orange. Mr. Monasehiam sent out the following notice and had a meeting were owners and residents decided to create this Petition which was sent to owners and residents in Orange.

We are the residents, shoppers, taxpayers and business owners of Orange. We like our Town; we shop here, live here and want to see Orange thrive. A strong and vibrant City needs a variety of businesses and shops that can be successful. This cannot happen if the way that the city is managed results in increases in Real Estate Taxes to the point that our local businesses and residents are seriously considering leaving. We Hereby Request that the Administration and the City Council work together with the State of New Jersey to properly manage our City's financial affairs and to reduce Real Estate Taxes so that all of us can continue to enjoy all that Orange has to offer." This petition was signed by over 425 owners and residents of the City.

Ms. Katalin Gordon, 211 Park Place, commented that she would like to have a public hearing on OPRA response times. Ms. Gordon commented on the audit report from last year's Corrective Action Plan. Asked questions regarding some answers that were on the Corrective Action Plan. Made comments and asked questions regarding resolution 289-2014 the Open Space Trust Fund with regard to Colgate Park. Stopped at 1:22:46

Mr. Monasehiam came back to the podium and reported for the record that Mr. Wolfe, from the City Attorney's office, was one of his tenants.

Ms. Darleen Sample of Orange commented that the streets, sidewalks, lines on the streets and street meters have not been taken care of and wanted to know where the money was going to. Taxes are being paid but she cannot see any improvements in the above things.

The Council President asked for a motion to close citizen's comments.

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, to close citizen's comments.

Citizen's comments were closed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mayes, Director of DPW was directed to answer question for Ms. Sample. Council President reiterated the questions that Ms. Sample asked and asked Mr. Mayes for a status. Mr. Mayes reported that Main street was due to be painted shortly, this year there were 6 streets that were worked on, when the weather is better they will do another 5 streets. Any specific streets of concerned should be reported to him. The city is ordering new signs. Mr. Mayes gave a summary on what his department was working on for the New Year. Mr. Mayes made other comments regarding repairs. Colgate Park is a remediation project from a Block Grant Program.

The Council President asked Mr. Mapp when the application for the loan was made for Scafar which had been rescinded by the Council. Mr. Mapp recalled that it was late spring early summer of last year.

The Corrective Action Plan items were asked about by the Council President which Mr. Mapp addressed those items and commented on the improvements that the City has made in this current plan.

Mr. Mapp commented that most of the items that are in progress will be corrected by the next Corrective Action Report.

The Council President suggested that the Council members keep the list that came with the Bond Ordinance of items that would be purchased under the bond ordinance and compare it to the forthcoming resolutions for equipment.

Council comments:

Councilman Corbitt commented on the stakeholders and property owners that were at the meeting and concerned about their recent tax increases and that he remembered that in 2006 the homeowners had come to a meeting because they had received tax increases on their properties. He believed that whatever calculations that are used by the State needs to be addressed. Councilman Corbitt had it confirmed that the two 16 passenger vans that were requested are replacing what is already in the City inventory. Councilman Corbitt directed Mr. Mayes to have a property cleaned of trash on Haywood. Regarding the City time clocks he would like to know if management will also be clocking in as is required by other employees.

Mr. Mayes was not aware of the plans for the time clocks.

Mr. Mayes will get him an answer.

Councilwoman Eason reported that on Friday night from 6:00 P.M. till 9:00 P.M. at the Lincoln Avenue School there will be a zumerthon. It will be a \$10.00 fund raiser for the Booster Club. She commented with regard to Ms. Gordon's complaint about response times for her OPRA request stating that the Clerk's Office has to wait on the Department/s that have the information for the OPRA. Councilwoman Eason remarked that the Budget that was presented to the Administration by the Council was not adhered to and that is why the residents are seeing their tax increases. She asked the residents to help the Council to get the Administration to stick to the Budget amounts that the Council presents. Councilwoman Eason also commented on the time it takes for DPW to comply with request saying that they take too long to respond.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson commented that she agreed with Councilwoman Eason with regard to the timely response of OPRA's. She commented that she could not get use to having people come to the podium and speak angrily to the Council. Councilwoman Summers-Johnson said she will represent her Ward to the best of her abilities but she will not be yelled at by people who come to the podium.

Councilwoman Summer-Johnson reminded residents about the South Ward meeting she was having for her Ward on November 12th at 6:00 P.M. for an hour.

Councilman Coley commented on some repairs that he saw in the City by DPW. He thanked Mr. Mapp for the Budge worksheet and asked some follow up questions which were answered by Mr. Mapp.

Councilman Coley suggested a hearing on OPRA request for the Council. He asked Mr. Mapp if he would be using the time clock. The Council President stated that the Council would have to make legislation on a policy. Councilman Coley commented that a few months ago he was told that there would be a reduction in taxes and that he has an increase instead and asked how that happened.

The Council President spoke about her concern with residents that speak out of turn during Council meetings. She commented on how the budget items would be reviewed at the upcoming Budget meeting. The Council President reported that only 29% of registered voters in Essex County voted during the last election and how positive changes could take effect if more of the Orange residents would vote. The Council President spoke about the dedication of the Councilmembers and how they are working with Administration to ensure that they are serving the citizen in the most effective and efficient way. Speak to your Council person all the time not just when you come to meetings. Opra request are responded to long before the due date if the information is coming from the Clerk's Office. Information coming from other departments in City Hall are the late responders to OPRA request. Training on OPRA issues is on going in

the Clerk's Office. The Council President invited all residents to the Budget meeting on November 13th at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Mapp commented that the tax reevaluation resulted in the erosion of the value of property by some two hundred million dollars. The tax rate is a function of all properties and the tax rate this year of \$4.45; without the revaluation the tax rate would have been \$3.86. Mr. Mapp provided more stats for the residents regarding the tax rates now in place.

ORDINANCES-SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

The Deputy Clerk read the following Ordinance.

20-2014 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 June 4, 2008 to re-appropriate an additional \$1,250,000 in excess bond proceeds not needed for their original purpose from Bond Ordinance Number 22-2002 to finance the costs thereof.

The Council President asked if anyone from the public would like to be heard.

Mr. Feld commented on his concerns for Scarfar and asked if there was a change order authorizing this amount; is there a resolution approving a settlement for this amount. Mr. Feld commented on other concerns regarding this Bond Ordinance. Mr. Johnson, the Bond Council for the City of Orange, addressed most of Mr. Feld's concerns.

Motion by Corbitt, seconded by Summers-Johnson, to close the public hearing.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Summers-Johnson, & Williams

Nays: none

Absent: Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.

Motion Carries

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION /FIRST READING

There were no ordinances on introduction.

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 request, in which event, the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence of the agenda.

RESOLUTION POSTPONED OCTOBER 21, 2014 MEETING

***255-2014 A resolution to approve the Corrective Action Plan for calendar year 2013. (removed)**

RESOLUTIONS *277- 2014 *291-2014

- *277-2014** A resolution rejecting all bids for the air conditioning repairs at the Freddie Polhill Law & Justice Complex, 25-29 Park Street.
- *278-2014** A resolution rejecting all bids for the janitorial services for City Hall and Freddie Polhill Law and Justice Complex.
- *279-2014** A resolution authorizing a purchase of two (2) 16 passenger mini buses with two (2) wheelchairs for the Department of Community Services to Wolfington Body Company, Inc., 1315 Route 38, P.O. Box 160, Mt. Holly, New Jersey 08060 in the amount not to exceed \$118,830.00.
- *280-2014** A resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Governor's Council Funding for Alcohol and Drug Abuse under the 2014 Municipal Alliance Grant for prevention and awareness education programs in the City of Orange Township.
- *281-2014** A resolution for the purchase of (14) CDM-1250 UHF Band Dash Mount Mobile Radios and accessories under the Morris County Co-op Contract #41 for the City of Orange Township Police Departments (14) SUVs to Northeast Communications Inc. of 244 East Union Turnpike, Wharton, New Jersey 07885 in an amount not to exceed \$13,020.00.
- *282-2014** A resolution for the purchase of (1) CDM-1250 UHF Band Dash Mount Mobile Radio and accessories under the Morris County Co-op Contract #41 for the City of Orange Township Police Departments (Ford F-250) to Northeast Communications Inc. of 224 East Union Turnpike, Wharton, New Jersey 07885 in an amount not to exceed \$930.00.
- *283-2014** A resolution for the purchase of (103) HT-1250 UHF portable radios and accessories under the Morris Co-op Contract #41 for the City of Orange Township Police Department to Northeast Communications Inc., of 244 East Union Turnpike, Wharton, New Jersey 07855 in an amount not exceed \$88,566.61.
- *284-2014** A resolution confirming the Interlocal Services Agreement between the City of Orange Township and the Orange Board of Education Public School District to provide summer camp programs. (Removed)
- *285-2014** A resolution certifying compliance with Directive of the Division of Community Affairs, regarding the Annual Audit for the Calendar Year 2013.
- *286-2014** A resolution appointing Bruce Meyer and Yvonne Jean-Jerome as members to the Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee for the upcoming Calendar Year 2015.
- *287-2014** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on November 5, 2014 dated October 31, 2014 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 6,692,438.72)

- *288-2014** A resolution to cancel old grant receivable (\$1,491,579.25) and appropriation balances (\$1,491,579.25).
- *289-2014** A resolution to insert a special item of revenue and an appropriation of an equal amount in the calendar year 2014 budget for funds received from the County of Essex in the State of New Jersey, Colgate Park, 2006 Open Space Grant.
- *290-2014** A resolution to insert a special item of revenue and an appropriation of an equal amount in the calendar year 2014 budget for addition to the Essex County Division of Senior Services Title III-B Visiting Nurse Grant 2010.
- *291-2014** A resolution waiving 20 Day period for Ordinance No. 20 of 2014.

The Council President asked for a motion to recess.

Motion by Eason, seconded by Summer-Johnson to recess for 3minutes.

Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Motion by Corbitt, seconded by Summers-Johnson to reconvene.

Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

There was an update of Resolution 291-2014. The heading of the resolution had a correction to a word.

Motion by Corbitt, seconded by Summers-Johnson, to approve the Consent agenda as amended.

Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Resolution 255-2014 Removed from Agenda for a separate vote.

255-2014 A resolution to approve the Corrective Action Plan for calendar year 2013.

Motion by Corbitt, seconded by Summers-Johnson, to approve Resolution 255-2014.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Williams

Nays: Coley, Corbitt

Abstain: Eason, Summers-Johnson

Absent: Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.

Motion Fails.

Resolution 284-2014 Removed from Agenda for a separate vote.

A resolution confirming the Interlocal Services Agreement between the City of Orange Township and the Orange Board of Education Public School District to provide summer camp programs.

Motion by Corbitt, seconded by Summers-Johnson, to approve Resolution 284-2014.

The Council President asked Mr. Mapp if the Administration could withdraw the resolution because the attachments are missing or should Council take a vote. Mr. Mapp left it up to the Council President; she decided to go ahead with the vote.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: None.

Nays: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Summers-Johnson, Williams

Abstain:

Absent: Gaunt-Butler, Johnson, Jr.


Motion Fails.

There was no pending business.

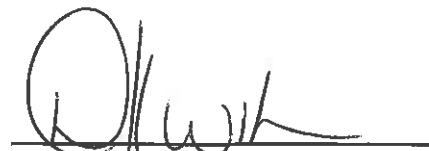
The Council President requested that the Councilmembers speak with Mr. Mapp before the Thursday meeting if they have reservations regarding the Corrective Action Plan.

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 10:30 P.M.

Approval date: December 16, 2014



Madeline F. Smith, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk



Donna K. Williams
Council President