

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

**CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 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, December 2, 2014

Council President led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present:

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

Also Present:

Dan S. Smith City Attorney
Marty Mayes, Representing the Administration
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer
Kevin D. Harris, Legislative Research Officer
Margaret Homere, Clerk's Office
Tia Thomas, Clerk's Office
Deputy Director Warren Representing the Police Department
Chief, Michael Dowd Representing the Fire Department

Absent:

Madeline Smith, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Mayor Dwayne Warren

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

None

REPORTS

Department of Building, Plumbing, Electrical Elevator and Fire Division- Development
Month of October 2014 - Total \$67,524.00

OPRA REPORT

November Report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Library Committee

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she had left a hand-out for the public in the waiting area. She gave a report on stating following:

- She report on the Library Grant for \$52,000 giving out \$10,000 for the next five years.
- The Library hired a new Liberian to work in the children department.
- They had book signings and the following day they would be having a social security seminar.
- She gave a list of events and dates that the Library would be hosting.
- The computers they were donated were all up and running and that they purchase new software.
- She reported that some residents thought that the front of the Library was too dark and would be addressing the issue with the director.

Councilman Corbitt spoke on the budget for the Library stating that they had stated if they need more fund that they would have return to the Council. He had concerns how they were able to make payroll.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that she would request that Director Davis come to the December 16th meeting.

Councilman Corbitt made further comments on the Library budget.

Councilwoman Eason requested that Ms. Lascari give a report on the Library's budget.

Ms. Lascari stated that the Library was allocated monies on a monthly basis from their budget. She stated that the City had no authority on how they spent their money.

Council President stated that monies were allocated for the Library and that she believed they did not return to the council, but got the additional funding without the council knowing about.

Council President requested that Ms. Lascari gave a report on the Library current financial standings.

Ms. Lascari stated that she would get that done, but she did not believe there was a split agreement.

Councilwoman Eason requested a financial statement before the next meeting.

Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler spoke on the report given by the budget consultant regarding the Library stating the monies were already charged.

Housing Authority

Councilman Johnson, Jr., gave a report on the meeting held on October 20, 2014 on the following:

- All agenda items were covered
- All commissioners were called answer questions.
- Reported on their preparation for the winter for the removal of snow.
- Reported that Chairman requested that the new commissioner took classes.
- The Board adopted two resolutions.

Regular Meeting

December 2, 2014

- The Commissioner updated members on the two projects.
- The Commissioner updated members on phase three on the Walter McNeal Project.
Councilman Coley reported Dinner for the residents

Police Department

Councilman Corbitt stated that there was no report.

Fire Department

Councilman Gaunt-Butler reported that The Fire Department's Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner and that it was a success.

Council President commented that the Fire Department work through the holiday season making it bright for many residents.

Finance Department

Council President Williams stated that there was no report.

Personnel Committee

Council President stated that there was no report.

Investigative committee

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

Planning

Councilwoman Eason stated that there was no report.

ABC

Councilwoman Eason stated that there was no report.

Communications and Petitions

None

Ms. Lascari asked to address the question that was asked earlier in the conference meeting regarding the report that had been prepared by the Mr. Lerch's, the City's Budget Consultant.

Ms. Lascari stated that she was making it clear that statements made in the report were not true pertaining to the Library being fully expensed and that the report was not the actual status of the budget of the City of Orange.

Council President stated that the Mr. Lerch's report did state that the actual report was just simplified report.

Ms. Lascari reiterated that the report was not the actual status of the budget for the City of Orange.

Councilwoman Eason asked for the actual data for the budget report.

Council President requested that Ms. Lascari do a comparisons of Mr. Lerch's report verses Finance Department budget report.

Ms. Lascari stated that she would have at the next meeting a complete data of where the City was. She stated that the Transfer Resolution would be included for the council's consideration.

Council President stated opportunity to transfer was in November and December and that it was currently done to one date to transfer at the last council meeting in December and that if it was not done then it would need to be dealt with in another fashion. She stated that making the transfer is not

that simple because there was a budget and there would need to be a clear statement as to why they would need the council to support the transfer request.

Ms. Lascari stated that she needed at least two days to complete her report.

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.

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

- Mr. Feld gave a public announcement that on December 10, 2014 at 10:00AM that there would be oral arguments on the Feld VI and Feld VIII cases in Newark, New Jersey.
- Mr. Feld commended Mr. Curtis Webb's service to the City as he just retired.
- Mr. Feld commented on lack of transparency as it pertains to the Budget & OPRA compliance.
- Mr. Feld commented audit that was filed and official statement that was a footnote.
- Mr. Feld commented on items on the Bill List.
- Mr. Feld commented on the meeting not being broadcasted and access to the video on YouTube.
- Mr. Feld commented on the minutes not posted on the City's Website.
- Mr. Feld commented on the number of abandoned homes in the City.
- Mr. Feld commented on the Account for the Bond Ordinance.

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

- Mr. Lewis commented on the Council having a topic for the meeting.
- Mr. Lewis stated that the Council should have an expert at the meetings
- Mr. Lewis commented on the YWCA.

Katlalin Gordon, 211 Park Place, Orange, NJ

- Ms. Gordon commented Resolution 303-2014.
- Ms. Gordon commented on the public being notified on changes within the City.
- Ms. Gordon commented on Resolution 309-2014
- Ms. Gordon commented on the Council Meeting on YouTube.
- Ms. Gordon commented on OPRA and requested to communicate off line.
- Ms. Gordon commented on 299-2014 from the last agenda.

Bruce Meyers, Resident of Orange, NJ

- Mr. Myers stated he had been a Budget Committee Member for the past six years.
- Mr. Meyers commented on OPRA.
- Mr. Meyers commented on a pervious budget meeting pertaining to what was discussed as it pertained to the Library's Budget and its funding.
- Mr. Meyers commented on items on the Library Report.

Gloria Stewart, 62 Hampton Terrace, Orange, NJ

- Ms. Stewart announced that the High School had a performance of a play scheduled and that everyone should try to support.
- Ms. Stewart commented on OPRA.
- Ms. Stewart thanked and commented on Councilwoman Summers Johnson Library Report.
- Ms. Stewart suggested that the Library used some of the High School Children to work at the Library. She suggested they did the gardening giving curb appeal.
- Ms. Stewart thanked Councilman Johnson for his report on the Housing Authority.
- Ms. Stewart recommended the Housing Authority build a recreation center instead of more houses.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the road conditions on Main Street.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the Directors not being at the meeting.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the having a Crossing guard in front of Heywood Avenue School in the morning and evening.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the City's prior CFO.
- Ms. Stewart asked about Mr. Lerch's responsibility to the Council
- Ms. Stewart commented the B.A.
- Ms. Stewart commented on the meetings not being broadcasted and not being able to find it on YouTube.

Council President and other Council Members answered all of the Citizen's questions and concerns.

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

- Councilman Corbitt reported that on Saturday, November 22nd The Local Talk Public Speaking Competition held and the first the winner of the \$5,000.00 scholarship was a student from Orange, NJ who was the second place winner last year. The second place winner lives in Orange, but attends the Immaculate Conception High School
- Councilman Corbitt commented on the letter he received from Ms. Gordon regarding the Clerk's Office.
- Councilman Corbitt commented on the statement from Mr. Meyers regarding the transfer of funds stating that if the transfer was not done the money would have to be raised through taxation which increase taxes for the Citizen of Orange and he did not want that to happen.
- Councilwoman Eason thanked Mr. Mayes for the signs.
- Councilwoman Eason asked about the reimbursement of the moneys from the Summer Lunch Program.
- Ms. Lascari stated that she would get the information for the next Council Meeting.
- Councilwoman Eason asked Ms. Lascari if the Finance Department looked into different ways to save money with regards to insurance.
- Ms. Lascari stated that they were looking into it.
- Councilwoman Eason asked why was the City self insured instead of being insured by through State which would be less expensive.
- Ms. Lascari stated that it was worth looking into and they would do so.

- Councilwoman Eason requested a presentation from Mr. Mapp at the next meeting regarding saving money in the area of the City's Insurance.
- Council President stated that Mr. Lerch was trying to get someone from the State to do a presentation for the Council regarding new trends and benefits.
- Councilwoman Eason asked about the \$150,000.00 that was awarded from the State and what it was for.
- Mr. Mayes stated that the money was for the recreation and the Parks. He stated that it was for new lights around the Central Playground Baseball Field.
- Councilwoman Eason commented on the Baseball Field not having any Police presence at night.
- Councilwoman Eason commented on the recent Fires in Orange and suggested that Evon Ikner be recognized for her commitment.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on The Local Talk speaking competition.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler commented on the Council Meeting not being broadcasted and that she had been trying to work with Administration. She stated that she was told that there was a bidding process in the works, but that she was more concerned with an assessment of what they already had and not spending any additional funds.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler addressed the Fire Department and Police Department regarding the storage of the new vehicles when they were not operational.
- Mr. Mayes stated he had no information.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler asked about the City's preparation for snow removal.
- Mr. Mayes responded stating that they were fully prepared for the winter and that they would be using outside contractors
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler asked about the snow removal equipment from the Bond Ordinance.
- Mr. Mayes responded stating that they had two snow removal equipments coming but that they were not going to be available for the coming Winter.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler stated that she would like to have a water infrastructure update and a Grant writing update.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler asked Ms. Lascari if anything had been done about the issue with a 27th Pay.
- Ms. Lascari responded stating that nothing had been done at that time.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler requested that the budget consultant review the Bill List during the Finance Committee meetings and give an assessment.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler asked about the status of the Budget Process
- Ms. Lascari stated that she was still waiting to receive everyone budget submissions.
- Councilman Johnson thanked all the entities that donated to the Orange Fire Department.
- Councilman Johnson commented on the situation with the Library.

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING

Motion by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt- Butler to extend the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: Corbitt

Motion Carries

- Councilman Johnson asked about the road improvement wanting to know if the money was there or would it be appropriated after the Bond Ordinance had been issued.
- Ms. Lascari responded stating that when the Bond Ordinance was approved it gave the City the authority to spend money and to raise money. She stated that the timing of raising money did not have to be the beginning and that it could be raised in bits and pieces for cash flow. She stated that physical money was not being placed in an envelope stating that it could only be used for roads. She stated that as long as the Bank Account for Capital Improvement had money they would be able to continue to operate. She continued to explain how the Bond Ordinance worked.
- Ms. Lascari stated that there was in fact cash in the bank to pay for the road improvement.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson commented on her experience at the League of Municipalities being great.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson spoke about herself and the Organization "Set Me Free" that helps with angel tutoring, fashion, bullying along with True Youth Incorporated came up with the idea to feed residents on their own. She stated that they were able to get from the Social Workers from the different Schools the names of families that needed meals prior to Thanksgiving. She stated that True Youth Incorporated along with a group of girls call True Beauty and herself served 100 Orange Residents at the YWCA.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that Young Money Cash Money Records donated 200 Thanksgiving Baskets.
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson commented on her South Ward meeting.
- Councilman Coley stated that he would be brief as the other Council Members already spoke on topics he had planned on discussing.
- Councilman Coley asked if the City received any comparison for getting its own salt dome back.
- Mr. Mayes responded stating that he did not have a comparison, but that they did put money in the Bond for a salt dome.
- Councilman Coley asked about a presentation being done on the parking meters.
- Councilman Coley commented on a Budget Check List.
- Councilman Coley asked about Ms. Lascari giving the Council a presentation on the different Bank Accounts and how they work.
- Ms. Lascari stated that she would make herself available when the Council set a time.
- Councilman Coley stated that he met with two different groups on re-entry into society. He stated that one of the groups would like to do a presentation for the City Council in the near future.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler stated that she and Councilwoman Eason sat in a meeting in Hudson County regarding re-entry and made comments.
- Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler spoke on the importance of working with Administration.
- Councilwoman Eason requested that Mr. Kevin Harris find out about regulations on how many Pitt Bulls could be in an apartment.
- Councilwoman Eason commented on the re-entry program.
- Council President commented on the re-entry program.
- Council President commented on the vehicle list and asked for an update.
- Mr. Mayes stated that he would have the information at the next meeting.

- Council President reminded the Council Members about appointments to the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee.
- Council President addressed Ms. Gordon on the Council Meeting video on YouTube hits being between 30 and 60.
- Council President asked about having a meeting where the public could be involved with the Plan for the City.
- Council President commented on Mr. Curtis Webb's retirement from the City and he service to the City of Orange.
- Council President

ORDINANCES-SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

None

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.

RESOLUTION POSTPONED ON NOVEMBER 17, 2014 REGULAR MEETING

- *295-2014 A resolution terminating a contract awarded to PS&S, LLC, 67B Mountain Boulevard Extension, P.O. Box 4039, Warren, New Jersey 07058 for professional engineering services for design and construction management of an emergency disconnect of a transmission water main at the Chestnut Street Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Motion to adopt:

Second:

RESOLUTIONS *302- 316-2014

- *302-2014 A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Pennoni Associates, Inc., 105 Fieldcrest Avenue, Suite 52, Edison, New Jersey 08837 to provide professional engineering, surveying, design and construction administration services for the roadway improvements to Snyder Street, Fairview Avenue and Jackson Street in the amount not to exceed \$43,500.00. **(Removed for Separate vote)**

- *303-2014 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to submit certain project applications received from the Orange Community for inclusion within the County of Essex Community development Block Grant Application for the year 2015. **(Removed for Separate Vote)**
- *304-2014 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange to enter into a contractual agreement with Montrae Calhoun-Thomas, MD for physician services in the Adult Vaccination Clinic in the Orange Health Department in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.
- *305-2014 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to enter into a contractual agreement with Patrick Van Martin-Yeboah, MD for physician services in the Child Health Clinic in the Orange Health Department in an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00.
- *306-2014 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange to enter into a contractual agreement with Rosario Zambrano, MD for physician services in the Tuberculosis Control Clinic for Children in the Orange Health Department in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.
- *307-2014 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to enter into a contractual agreement with the Associated Humane Societies to provide animal shelter and other veterinary services for the City of Orange Township for the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$70,814.90.
- *308-2014 A resolution approving participation with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Office of Clean Energy to participate in the local government energy audit program.
- *309-2014 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township Planning board to conduct public hearing for the purpose of reviewing and considering amendments to the Central Orange Redevelopment Plan. **(Removed for Separate Vote)**
- *310-2014 A resolution authorizing Change Order #CO-01 for the removal of an underground storage tank located at 204 Central Place, Block 3304, Lot 05 in the amount of \$7,500.00.
- *311-2014 A resolution appointing Torkwase Y. Sekou, Esq. as Temporary Judge of the Orange Municipal Court.
- *312-2014 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on December 2, 2014 dated November 25, 2014 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 508,821.86). **(Removed for Separate Vote)**
- *313-2014 A resolution authorizing the refund of taxes due to State Board Judgments in the amount of \$24,085.82.
- *314-2014 A resolution authorizing a refund for a construction permit payment in the amount of \$1,253.00 due to the fact that the owner applied for the wrong type of permits at 43 Ridge Street, Orange, New Jersey.

Regular Meeting

December 2, 2014

*315-2014 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 prior to 2012 for Click it or Ticket \$4,000.00 and Clean Communities \$19,367.48.

*316-2014 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 in prior years and recorded in the audit for Body Armor and Bullet Proof Vests collectively.

MOTION TO ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler to approve the Consent Agenda (with exceptions as noted) by the Township as follows:

Approval of Resolutions: 295-2014, 304-2014, 305-2014, 306-2014, 307-2014, 308-2014, 310-2014, 311-2014, 313-2014, 314-2014, 315-2014 & 316-2014

*The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as modified.

Council President read * 302-2014 titled: A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Pennoni Associates, Inc., 105 Fieldcrest Avenue, Suite 52, Edison, New Jersey 08837 to provide professional engineering, surveying, design and construction administration services for the roadway improvements to Snyder Street, Fairview Avenue and Jackson Street in the amount not to exceed \$43,500.00.

MOTION BY: Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: Johnson, Jr.

Motion Passes

Council President read *303-2014 titled: A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to submit certain project applications received from the Orange Community for inclusion within the County of Essex Community development Block Grant Application for the year 2015.

MOTION BY: Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: Johnson, Jr.

Abstain: Gaunt-Butler & Williams

Motion Passes

Council President read: *309-2014 titled: A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township Planning board to conduct public hearing for the purpose of reviewing and considering amendments to the Central Orange Redevelopment Plan.

MOTION BY: Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: Johnson, Jr.

Motion Passes

Council President read: *312-2014 titled: A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on December 2, 2014 dated November 25, 2014 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$ 508,821.86).

MOTION BY: Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Gaunt-Butler

ON THE MOTION:

Council President asked City Attorney, Dan Smith what year was the Law Journal on Page 6 of the bill list.

Mr. Smith responded 2014.

Council President requested clarification on court cases and certification if there was an annual contract or on was it on an as needed basis.

Mr. Smith stated that he would find out.

Council President commented on Page 5 of the bill list regarding a bill for elevator maintenance and wanted to know if it was for an annual contract.

Mr. Mayes stated that he believed that it was for one bill, but that he would check.

Council President asked about the reimbursement of \$25,000 for Inservco's services on Page 2 of the bill list.

Mr. Lascari stated that they were the City's Worker's Compensation Carrier and that they pay for the claims and the City reimburse them for what they spent. She stated that they do not release their checks for the claims until they received money from the City.

Council President requested the pay-out to date of Worker's Compensation.

ROLL CALL

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

Nays: none

Motion Passes

MOTION BY:

MOTION TO ADJOURN

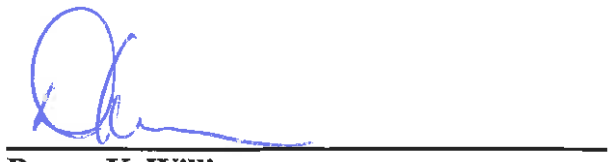
Motion by: Councilwoman Summers-Johnson

Seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 11:21P.M.



**Madeline F. Smith, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk**



**Donna K. Williams
Council President**