

THIS WAS A CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018 AT 7:01 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present:

Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Christopher Jackson, At-Large
Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr. West Ward
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson., South Ward
Council-President Donna K. Williams, At-Large (arrived @ 7:02)
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large (arrived @7:20)
Councilman Kerry Coley, East Ward

Also Present:

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris Hartwyk, Business Administrator (BA)
Eric Pennington, City Attorney
Marlin Townes, Acting Legislative Research Officer
Margaret Homere, Senior Clerk,
Kenneth Douglas, Fire Director, (arrived @ 7:16)
Marty Mayes, Director of Planning/Public Work (arrived @ 7:10)
Captain Dunn, representing the Police Department (arrived @7:20)
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance (arrived @ 7:18)
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer (arrived @ 7:20)
Lisette Sanchez, Records Support Technician

The City Clerk asked all to stand for a Moment of Silence.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General item shall sign on (1) book. Each person signing the book will be allowed to speak for maximum of five (5) minutes.

Sunshine Law

The City 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 13 July 2017, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk

The Clerk announced that Mr. Montilus would be late and they proceeded to resolutions and ordinances. The Business Administrator commented that Ordinance 7-2018 was withdrawn.

- Council President Coley asked about Resolution 44-2017 with regard to the PILOTs that they had in place for certain properties. The Business Administrator stated that amendments were

made. The properties in the resolution were properties that were acquired by the Housing Authority for the purpose of providing low and moderate income housing. He stated that the date they filed the deed is the day that they are exempt from taxes and the resolution is a cleanup of taxes that were collected after the deeds were filed.

- Councilman Johnson, Jr. asked the Business Administrator if it was a tax relief for the Housing Authority. The Business Administrator stated that these taxes were never due because they were after the deeds were filed.
- Councilman Jackson question the taxed amount on Resolution 44-2017 and asked how much the city would have received if they were not tax exempt. The Business Administrator provided the Councilman with that information. Councilman Jackson asked about the process for parking permits in Ordinance 1-2018. The Council President provided him with the information. He asked about the penalties for violation of Ordinance 6-2018. The Business Administrator stated that it would be a code violation and that person would have to appear in court and be fined. The Business Administrator recommended that the section of code that referred to zero degrees should be raised to 18 to 20 degrees to include a wind chill factor.
- Councilman Johnson asked about the benefits for belonging to the Urban Essex Coalition for Smart Growth. He was told that there would be a summary later that evening. He stated that with regard to Resolution 53-2018 he would abstain on that because they are a client of his.
- Councilwoman Eason asked about the maintenance contract, she was told it was the regular maintenance contract that they have each year. She asked when the budget would be ready and the Business Administrator stated that with the new State software has problems but the city is still aiming for the 20th of February.
- Councilman Johnson Jr. asked the Business Administrator about Resolution 46-2018 and how the tax sale went. The Business Administrator stated it went really Well. There were only 11 properties that were not purchased. 148 properties went to the tax sale, in all 1.8 million dollars was taken in.
- Council President Coley asked Director Mayes about Resolution 50 and 51-2018. He asked if the resolutions were to get ready for Spring. Director Mayes stated that they were for the whole year.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Water Department update- Gracia R. Montilus

Mr. Montilus came to the podium spoke about an approved resolution to award a contract to Samuel Stothoff Company, Inc. for drilling purposes. The city met with the company to address what needs to be done to get to a firm start date. He reported that Well 4 was not working and is off line. Wells 2 and 3 continue to operate. Well 2 is operating at about 522 gallons per minute. Well 3 is operating at about 679 gallons per minute. With Well 4 working it is hopeful that Wells 2 and 3 will work at full capacity.

Well 5 has not been in operation and a temporary pump was installed, a step test was completed and the results were positive. Regarding Well 6R a modified pump had been installed and they found the original pump had been getting clogged due to buildup. The modified pump prevented the clog. The City is working with Department of Environmental Protection for a permanent application process to allow the city to continue to use the modified pump while the regular pump is cleaned and for the evaluation for redevelopment of the Wells. Well 7 has not operated since May 2013 and Well 8 has not been working since July of 2015. The Department of Environmental Protection had asked the city to decommission the Well at Brook Alley, Well 9. The Well has been sealed off, it no longer leaks. There was a meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection a few weeks back and part of the topic was interconnections. During the cold weather the city had to use the interconnections on

emergency bases for a number of leaks, which have all been repaired. There is only one interconnection that the city is using now. Another item that was discussed was a main that had been uncovered and that is in South Orange Village. The City is working with the home owner and their attorney to resolve the issue. There is a short term PILOT program with East Orange with regard to an interconnection. The contract has been finalized and just needs to be signed. The SUEZ agreement has gone through and is awaiting signatures. Both contracts should be signed by the following week.

Councilwoman Williams asked why the Department of Environmental Protection asked that Well 9 be decommissioned. The Business Administrator stated that the decommission process started years ago, but was not completed correctly. DEP found out about it when they sent someone out to do inspections and then requested that the city finish the work. The Councilwoman asked about selling water. Mr. Montilus stated that selling of water is not part of the existing plan. The plan now is to increase the productivity in each of the Wells that are in service right now. The Business Administrator stated that there will not be an informed discussion in 2018 but when the Wells are repaired and the system is stabilized and we know where we are going with the reservoir, it would be a long term plan.

Councilman Johnson asked Mr. Montilus to reflect back one year and how did he feel about the water department now. Mr. Montilus said he felt great about it. He feels good about it on a number of levels. He spoke about the weekly meetings that take place and what is accomplished in each meeting. He also feels good about the planning of the Wells. He stated that as a long term plan selling water can take place when all the Wells are back on line and fully working. Councilman Johnson asked if the Water Department was ready to go to the Business Administrator and say that they can be self-funding? The Business Administrator commented that he wanted to be careful about this. When dealing with an aged water structure you cannot predict what will happen two months from now. Steps have been taken for improvements that should insure that the city has adequate capacity. It should be self-sustaining from an operational stand point. There may be capital investment made in the system which can be done overtime, but the rate increase that was put into effect and the reduced cost from the bulk water purchase agreement should put the city on very sound financial footing.

Councilman Jackson asked about the South Orange Water Conservatory and was there any progress on investigating how that might affect the city water. The Business Administrator stated that there has not been a follow up meeting yet. He asked that the Engineers to take a look at the area and give a report on it as time permits.

Council President Coley asked about Wells 7 and 8 and when they would be back on line. Mr. Montilus said that a study was going to be done on those Wells to determine if those Wells can be brought back on line. The Business Administrator commented that If the city can get Wells 2,3,4,5 and 6 back on line and fully working the city may not need Wells 7and 8. The other Wells are the priority at this time. Depending on what the outcome of Wells 7 and 8 is, it will have to be determined if the money can be better spent for other capital improvements to the infrastructure. The Council President asked about the goals of capacity for the Wells. Mr. M stated that 750 gallons per minute to 800 gallons per minute is the goal.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 7:54 P.M.

Approved:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Kerry J. Coley
Council President