

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 20, 2018 AT 7:03 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 @ 7:13)
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large
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
Margarette Homere, Senior Clerk.
Kenneth Douglas, Fire Director. ??
Marty Mayes, Director of Planning/Public Work.
Captain Vitiello, representing the Police Department.
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance. (arrived @ 7:29)
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer. (arrived @ 7:11)
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.

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

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Presentation on Legalization of Marijuana-Dana Rone-Registrar of the County Mortgage Dept.

Councilwoman Eason introduced Ms. Dana Rone that did a presentation on the New Jersey Minority Alliance trade organization and about marijuana legislation for local communities. Ms. Rone spoke about the economic opportunities of the adult use cannabis industry in New Jersey. Ms. Rone stated the tax revenue from this industry will be about three hundred million dollars. She commented that it was important for black leaders to understand the industry in order to have ownership and employment opportunities in the industry. The New Jersey Minority Alliance strives to change the level of understanding by having information sessions in every County, having local ordinance requirements and establishing procedures on issuance, licensing, fees etc. Ms. Rone provided recommendations to include

a Pilot program. She spoke of the many employment opportunities this new industry would bring to the black community. Ms. Rone provided information on what a community needed to do to be part of this new industry. Councilwoman Williams asked for a list of discussions and seminars in the area about adult use of marijuana.

Presentation on YWCA-Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk.

The Business Administrator asked that a discussion about the YWCA be done in a closed session at another meeting there are ongoing negotiations as well as potential litigation issues. The Business Administrator stated that they had evaluated bids for the YWCA which came in over budget by 48% and he provided information on plans that are still in development stages.

Presentation on the Orange Hospital Center-Marty Mayes-Director of Public Works and Planning Department.

The Business Administrator stated that the Hospital property is owned by Orange Flats LLC. There is a disagreement between the partners which is affecting that property and several parcels of land around the hospital. The mortgage lender paid 6.6 million dollars in taxes. The Business Administrator provided information about the liens on the property and court actions that the partners have filed. The Business Administrator will provide more information at the next meeting. Councilwoman Eason asked if there will be any movement on the hospital property in the next 10 years. The Business Administrator reported it will not take 10 years and that the Mayor authorized him to have a resolution presented to the Council to initiate condemnation proceedings against that property and 2 or 3 other properties. Once they initiate the condemnation action a developer or group of developers could fund the court fees to take the property. The Business Administrator feels this is the best approach. He commented that the current condition of the property supports an evaluation not near the value of the mortgage. The only way to force this to move forward for the benefit of the city is to wipe out some of the over leveraged debt and get control of the title so a redevelopment project can move forward. Director Mayes reported that the next court date is March 15th and if the property had not been cleaned the city will initiate a new round of summons and or fines. An owner of the property has made plans to clean up the property. Director Mayes reported that a person had been hired by the owners to watch over the property and to curb the dumping that was taken place at the hospital property but he was an accomplice in the dumping. He has since been fired. Director Mayes reported that the city is thinking about some new measures which he did not want to discuss at this time. Councilwoman Summers-Johnson asked for an update on the Highland Train Station. Director Mayes reported on a federal program of a grant for six hundred thousand dollars that the city received for the repair of the station building. There will be an open forum in the next two weeks on the train station and he hopes that the project will begin in the next three months. Councilwoman Summers-Johnson asked that any updates be put on the city website. Director Mayes stated that the money from the grant can only be used for the Highland Train Station. The engineers that are working on the project are being paid by the city, not using the grant money. Councilwoman Williams spoke about the Orange Train Station and when will that be worked on. Director Mayes stated that train station is much larger than the Highland Train Station so that will take a lot more grant money. There are plans that are being worked on for the Orange Train Station but no grant money at this time. He then reported that the city did receive a second grant for six hundred thousand to fix up the outside of the Highland Train Station.

The Clerk made the following statement:

The resolutions and ordinances to be presented at tonight’s meeting are listed on the attached Regular Meeting Agenda. If any Council Member wishes to discuss any resolution or ordinance, it may be discussed at this time.

Council President Coley commented that at the first reading of Ordinance 4-2018 it was agreed to change the hours on the ordinance to business hours. Director Mayes stated he did check and he found out that it was a 24 hour operation. Councilwoman Eason stated that the city has to limit the times that the trucks can come. The trucks cannot come in 24 hours a day. She asked that the ordinance be tabled. The trucks should only be able to come in and leave during certain times in the day. She suggested that they look at the ordinance that limits truck hours on Main Street. Councilwoman Williams wants to make sure that it is consistent with the rest of the city. Director Mayes explained that the loading zone would only affect 2 parking spaces. Further discussion ensued among the Council Members. It was determined that the ordinance would be tabled and would come back with business hours for loading and unloading trucks.

Councilman Jackson questioned the language on Ordinance 3-2018. In section 1 letter D he questioned why the maximum amount is set annually. Attorney Townes, the Legislative Research Officer for the Council came to the podium and stated the idea is for the City Council to determine an amount each year. Councilwoman Eason Resolution asked about 72-2018, page 14 of the bill list and the amount that was charged for the portrait. The Business Administrator felt that the amount included photographs of four additional items. He would investigate it and stated that if the Council wanted to pull it from the agenda he would inform them of his findings. That resolution was pulled from the agenda.

Council President Coley questioned page 12 of the bill list asking if the city was still paying for 2017 expenses in 2018. Chief Financial Officer Lascari reported that some of the expenses were received by the Finance Department in January and some expenses are being charged to the 2017 budget not the 2018 budget.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 8:21 P.M.

Approved:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Kerry J. Coley
Council President