

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 TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018, FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

The Chair led all assembled in a Salute to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Christopher Jackson, At-Large
Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr. West Ward
Councilwoman Donna K. Williams, At-Large
Council-President Kerry Coley

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,
Marty Mayes, Director of Planning/Public Work
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer
Deputy Chief Spearman, representing the Fire Department
Nicki Amos, Representing the Police Director?

Absent: Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES MEETINGS

January 23, 2018 Conference & Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the Conference and Regular meeting minutes from January 23, 2018 by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jackson.

By consensus the Regular and Conference meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS:

**DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REVENUE COLLECTION –
Clerk’s Office – Month of February 2018 - Total: \$291.66**

Historic Preservation Commission –Month of February 2018- \$70.00**CONSTABLE REPORTS - None**

OPRA REPORTS – Month of February 2018 – 82 OPRA received, 55 completed and 27 pending. 42 pending as of January and February 2018.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Finance:** Councilwoman Williams reported that the committee met yesterday and reported on the attendees of that meeting. She reported that Ordinances 13 and 14-2018 were to be withdrawn at the meeting. She had Chief Financial Officer Lascari come to the podium and provide information on the language used in Resolution 76-2018 regarding the \$150,000.00 certification of funds and if the whole amount had been provided for in the temporary budget. Ms. Lascari stated that the amount will have to be added to the budget process after the funding is approved. It is contingent on the passing of the budget. The Business Administrator reported that they still did not have an Annual Financial Statement (AFS). They cannot prepare the budget numbers without the AFS. Some reasons for the delay is the new FAST System and some issues relating to numbers being generated from bank requisitions and revenue reconciliations that had to be redone. He could not say when the AFS would be ready. Councilwoman Williams reminded the Council to make their recommendation for the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. Councilwoman Williams reported that the Council's website is up and running. The website address is Orangetwpnjcc.org. City Clerk Lanier reported that the Agenda/Minutes software is still going through training. The target live date is in May.
- Planning:** Councilwoman Eason reported that they are still working on the redevelopment for Mount Vernon. There are additional sites that they want to include. She and the Business Administrator started to discuss the role of the Nishuane Group.
- A.B.C:** Councilwoman Eason reported that they had found a Club in a backyard so the A.B.C. and Public Works are in the process of an investigation.
- Library:** Councilman Jackson reported that there is a Library Board meeting on Thursday. He reported that the report and minutes that he had asked for at their last meeting he still did not have. He will keep the Council updated. Councilwoman Williams reported that the Library phones and website are having issues. The Business Administrator reported that there is a water issue that is affecting their electrical current. Councilman Jackson confirmed that the issue was caused by the leaking roof. Councilman Johnson, Jr commented that the Council was still waiting on audit reports from the Library and asked that Councilman Jackson bring that to their attention. The audit reports that are needed are from 2015 to 2017.
- Housing:** No report.
- Police:** Ms. Amos reported on the PAL wrestling team stating that they are County and State champions. The Police are starting a PAL football team and they are now practicing. She stated that the Police Department took 40 children to see the Black Panther movie. In the Spring they will be starting the PAL mentoring program, chess club and the Kids Golf program. She thanked Councilman Jackson for his generous contribution to Toys for Tots event.
- Councilwoman Williams commented that a panel is being created to discuss the Black Panther movie and she will keep in touch with Ms. Amos to see that all the children are involved in the discussion.

Fire: Deputy Chief Spearman reported that on 17 March they will be conducting a smoke detector campaign for the North Ward. On March 24th they will be at the East Ward. They will also have Fire Prevention information in senior buildings and Orange schools for the next two months.

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Essex County Executive sent a letter appointing Tim Walker, Essex County Risk Manager as the new liaison to the City of Orange Township.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The City 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 Five (5) 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:

- Ms. Karen Wells asked if the issue with the budget is caused by a computer issue. She suggested that the Council's website show the Council's packet. She asked why the city was hiring outside counsel for the condemnation issue. She asked if she could pay her taxes on line yet. The Business Administrator stated it was not ready. Ms. Wells stated that Orange Park is a historic Park and at one point there was a gazebo and she would like to see that put back up and the little pond that was once there.
- Mr. Brandon Matthews regarding Resolution 78-2018; he asked why those properties were being targeted. He also reported that the Orange Hospital is on the State Historic registry so it cannot be easily torn down. He spoke of other properties on Main Street that were on the resolution which also were historic. He asked why weren't the members of the Historic Commission involved in the discussions. He also commented that they were not contacted with regard to the Master Plan.
- Mr. Jeffery Feld reported that he had sent a heads up letter to the Council. He asked residents to vote in the upcoming election. He reported that the State Supreme Court issued a Working Group Report on Municipal citizen's complaints. It recognized the rights of citizen to register complaints against their elected officials. He felt that there was an issue regarding the Mayor appointing his brother as Director of the Police without any public comment. He asked for a number of questions to be answered from his heads up letter. He asked about the status of Ms. O'Hanlon the accountant consultant. He commented about the consultant that is being paid \$150,000 for the condemnation properties and the source of funding for the consultant. He reported on an e-mail that he received regarding a draft layoff plan by the City. He asked when the elected officials and outside consultants know about the 3.5 million dollar shortage.
- Mr. Dawan Alford asked Mr. Walker, the County Liaison about the basketball courts that were going to be refinished and for a completion date on those repairs. He also asked about Resolution 76-2018 and the process of bids regarding contracts. He asked Ms. Amos how he could find out about events that the Police Departments has.

- Ms. Jody Leight spoke about the security in the area of S. Essex to the train station because of groups of men that hang out in front of the satellite office of the Police Department smoking marijuana. She requested that the office be staffed since they are smoking across from a day care center. She was also concerned about Resolution 76-2018 and that the Orange Hospital property is on the State Historic Commission register and the city would have to get a certificate from the Historic Preservation Commission. She commented that demolition had already started without the certificate from the Historic Commission.

Motion by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr, to close the citizen comments.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

Some answers to resident's questions.

- The Business Administrator commented that he had sent a text to the Police Director and Commander regarding S. Essex Street and the group of men.
- City Attorney Pennington commented that there are no requirements for bids for professional Service contracts and provided information on how the firm was chosen.
- Council President Coley suggested that Mr. Alford get in touch with Ms. Amos for information on Police department's events.
- The Council President did not know why the Historic Preservation Commission was not included in the Master Plan project. The Business Administrator stated that there were 17 public meetings regarding the Master Plan and he recalled that at least twice members of the Historic Preservation Commission were present. Once the plan is presented and the historic properties are discussed they can be part of that discussion.
- The Business Administrator commented on Resolution 76-2018 stating the resolution is authorizing outside counsel to advise the city on what processes have to be followed and they wanted attorneys that were experts in that field. He stated that condemnation has to do with ownership not demolition. He further explained what issues had led to the resolution. He provided information on the properties that were on the resolution and why they were there.
- Mr. Walker, County liaison to Orange, stated that he had put in a request for funds for the gazebo and the pond at Orange Park.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Williams stated that during the Finance Committee meeting the Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission Ms. Joyce Lanier was asked if the Orange Hospital was a historic building. She will do the research and provide a status. Councilwoman Williams asked which parts of Henry Street were historic. Mr. Matthews stated that the entire hospital site was considered historic. There may be interpretation regarding the newer buildings on that site. The Commission will do the research and follow-up with the Council. Councilwoman Williams provided information about the upcoming School Board Election and forums that would take place for residents to meet the candidates.

Councilwoman Eason commented that the STEM school had opened and the students are very happy there. NJIT will be partnering with the School District so the graduates of the STEM will be enrolled in NJIT. She asked when Bradford Street will be paved. The Business Administrator stated he would have to look at the list. The Councilwoman asked the Business Administrator when people are hired by the city is there a requirement to have certification of funds for the hire. The Business Administrator said no, there is no requirement. The salary and wage line on the budget can be exceeded due to overtime pay that may be needed for the safety of the residents, and due to unforeseen circumstances the overtime budget may be exceeded. He had provided examples of overtime for Police

or Firemen. Councilwoman Eason commented that she had some ideas to get the money to close the gap she did not want the layoffs to affect the Police, Fire or Public Works Departments

Councilman Jackson thanked the Public Works Department on the Stella job they did to clean the streets during the snow storms. He asked if the minutes from January 23rd could be corrected. He was told that it could be amended at the next meeting. He congratulated the students that are attending the STEM Academy. Improvements to the Orange High Schools should continue to improve for those students so they can reach their goals of success. He was glad that the Oranges schools were safe for the students. The Councilman spoke about Spring cleaning and offered his help and spoke about citizens organizing to help the public works department.

Councilman Johnson, Jr. commented that Waverly Place needed to be repaved. The Councilman spoke about the Finance Committee and defended the committee stating that the committee does not alter the budget and commented about the lack of attendance by a Council Members to the meetings who had been making unfair comments.

Council President Coley stated that he had missed the opening of the STEM School but had a tour of the building prior to the opening. He thanked all persons that made the school what it is today. He stated that he had received a copy of the street paving list and asked the Business Administrator to send it up to the Clerk's Office. He asked Director Mayes if residents could park in Church parking lots during the upcoming storm. The Business Administrator stated that a robo call was going out that evening.

Councilwoman Williams asked the Business Administrator if the city would be closed tomorrow. The Business Administrator stated that would be determine later on and city employees should call in tomorrow. She spoke about the Highland Avenue event that was to take place the next day and the Business Administrator stated that it would be rescheduled. Councilwoman commented about signs that had gone up on Lincoln and Haywood Avenues. Residents had been getting tickets so she would ask the Legislative Research Officer to revisit ordinance 73-2017 and she will bring it up as an amended ordinance or discussion at the next Council meeting. The Business Administrator stated that he had notified the Court that judgment should be suspended on those tickets and enforcement had been halted in those areas until a determination could be made.

ORDINANCES–SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

The Clerk reported that the ordinance was postponed until the next meeting.

4-2018 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic," Section 200-42, Schedule XI, Loading Zone (215 Watchung Avenue) POSTPONED FROM 2/20/18 MEETING

The Clerk read the ordinance by title.

6-2018 An ordinance to amend Chapter 156 and Chapter 173 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township to establish minimum temperature requirements for Senior Citizen Buildings. (Sponsored by Council Member Tency A. Eason)

The Chair declared the time open for a hearing on Ordinance Number 6-2018.

Mr. Feld asked the City Attorney to define some terms that were on the ordinance.

Seeing no one else, the Chair declared the time closed.

Motion to close the public hearing by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Jackson.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 6-2018 by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

On the motion: Councilwoman Eason commented that all senior buildings were included in ordinance 6-2018.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: Summers-Johnson, Wooten

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title.

8-2018 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles & Traffic", Residential Parking Permit & Prohibited Parking during certain hours. (Tremont Court & Tremont Place) (Sponsored by Council Member Jamie Summers-Johnson)

The Chair declared the time open for a hearing on Ordinance Number 8-2018.

Seeing no one, the Chair declared the time closed.

Motion to close the public hearing by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 8-2018 by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Summers-Johnson, Wooten

Motion Carries.

The Clerk read the ordinance by title.

9-2018 An ordinance to amend Chapter 180, Smoking on Public Property to include prohibiting tobacco retail establishments within 1000 feet of a school building. (Sponsored by Council Member Tency A. Eason)

The Chair declared the time open for a hearing on Ordinance Number 9-2018.

Ms. Murphy Wilson asked which stores would it include. Councilwoman Eason stated tobacco stores.

Seeing no one else, the Chair declared the time closed.

Motion to close the public hearing by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 9-2018 by Councilman Jackson, by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

On the Motion: Councilwoman Williams stated that the ordinance is for vape and tobacco stores which the Business Administrator confirmed.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Summers-Johnson, Wooten

Motion Carries.

ORDINANCES INTRODUCTION/ FIRST READING

The Clerk read the ordinance by title.

12-2018 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 4, entitled "City Council", to revise the membership on the Finance Committee (Sponsored by Councilwoman Donna K. Williams)

Motion by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr. that Ordinance 12-2018 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held April 3, 2018.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Jackson, Johnson, Jr., Williams, Coley

Nays: None.

Abstain: Eason

Absent: Summers-Johnson, Wooten

Motion Carries.

The Clerk reported that the ordinance was withdrawn by Administration.

13-2018 An ordinance amending Chapter 4 and Chapter 18 of the City of Orange Township Municipal Code to abolish the Department of Fire and to establish the Department of Public Safety of the Division of Fire.

The Clerk reported that the ordinance was withdrawn by Administration.

14-2018 An ordinance of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, establishing a Chapter 24 of the City Code of the City of Orange Township entitled "Department of Public Safety"

The City Clerk read the following statement:

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 NUMBERS *73-2018 through*76-2018

***73-2018 A resolution celebrating the life of Glenn Williams and designating North Essex Avenue beginning at White Street and ending at Park Avenue as Glenn Williams Way-In Memoriam. (Sponsored by Councilwoman Donna K. Williams)**

***74-2018 A resolution to amend Resolution 383-2017 to include facsimile signatures for the City of Orange Township.**

***75-2018 A resolution approving the bill list for a Council meeting vote on March 6, 2018 dated March 2, 2018 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$6,449,656.40)
(Withdrawn for separate vote)**

***76-2018 A resolution authorizing an agreement for professional services with Murphy Partners LLP for Special Development Counsel to pursue condemnation proceedings against the Orange Memorial Hospital properties, the Reock Street properties (and contiguous S. Day Street properties), the High and Main Street intersection properties, the Bravo Supermarket properties, the Bank of America property, the Rossi Paint properties and 372 Crane Street.**

Motion to adopt the Constant Agenda by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Eason, Jackson, Johnson, Jr., Williams, Coley
Nays: None.
Abstain: None
Absent: Summers-Johnson, Wooten

Motion Carries.

ITEMS REMOVED FOR A SEPARATE VOTE

***75-2018 A resolution approving the bill list for a Council meeting vote on March 6, 2018 dated March 2, 2018 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$6,449,656.40)**

Motion to adopt the resolution by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

On the Motion: The Business Administrator commented that an audit was being done on overtime in certain departments.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Eason, Jackson, Williams, Coley
Nays: None.
Abstain: Johnson, Jr.
Absent: Summers-Johnson, Wooten

Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS

Councilwoman Williams asked everyone to share what they hear about the Highland Avenue Train Station meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow but may have to be cancelled due to the weather.

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS None

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Johnson, Jr., seconded by Councilman Jackson.

By consensus the regular meeting adjourned at 9:23 P.M.

APPROVED:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Kerry J. Coley
Council President