

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY

THIS WAS A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD VIA AUDIO CONFERENCING ON THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020 AT 7:07 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present:

Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr., West Ward
Councilman Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Councilman Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large
Council President Kerry J. Coley

Also Present:

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Lisette Sanchez, Deputy City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Megan O'Hanlon, Assistant Budget
Nile Clements, CFO
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office

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

The Deputy City Clerk announces that the requirement of N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 et. seq., "Sunshine Law" has been met. A 48-hours' notice of this meeting was sent to the Record-Transcript and the Star Ledger on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, posted on the City's Website (www.ci.orange.nj.us) and the Council's Website (www.orangetwpnjcc.ord) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- Presentation by Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)
- Calendar Year 2020 Budget – Work Session

Yasmeen Chism from the CBAC led a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the CBAC's recommendations for each department for the CY 2020 Budget.

Council President opened the floor for questions from Council, while going through the Budget by page. Adrian Mapp, Nile Clements and Chris Hartwyk answered questions that Council presented.

The Deputy City Clerk read the following statement:

“SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall email their statements or questions to citycouncil@orangenj.gov no later than 7:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled public meeting. For the citizen comment portion of the meeting, the public will be allowed to question or comment on any new matter raised during the meeting. New matter is any discussion had by a Council Member or a city administrative staff person regarding any agenda item during the course of the meeting. Please email any question or comment relating to any new matter to Council Vice

President at TEason@orangenj.gov with your name and address. The City Council reserves the right to respond or not respond during the meeting to any citizen's submission."

Councilwoman Tency Eason read the comments and questions from the chat board and Chris Hartwyk answered the questions from citizens.

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Eason seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr. The motion was unanimously approved at 8:56 p.m.

Approved:


Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk


Kerry J. Coley
Council President

7/2/2020
MKT/INC



Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)
Report to the Orange City Council

**RE: Mayor's Recommended Budget
Calendar Year 2020**

Executive Summary: An Expanded Vision of Orange

- Firstly, the CBAC wishes to thank the Council for its continued support to keep the CBAC active in the annual Budget process.
- The CBAC intends to inform and improve the budget process in a way that is in the best interest of both the Council and fellow citizens. Further, we remain dedicated to providing the Council with efficient and economical recommendations for a responsible expenditure of Orange's money. If any budgetary concerns are discovered, we intend to uphold our sworn obligation to inform the Council and citizens and offer recommendations for the Council to consider during the deliberation process. Although we are mid-way through the budget year, when making decisions in support or opposition to expenditures both now and the future, please take into consideration the following information.
- To formulate its recommendations, members of the Committee:
 - Attended departmental budget hearings
 - Reviewed and analyzed the introduced budget and **limited** other documents
 - Held informational sessions with the Business Administrations office
 - Reviewed other municipal budget advisory committee documents
 - Read various research, news articles and publications

CBAC's DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Municipal Council & City Clerk

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- a) The CBAC recommends there be more transparency around professional services
- b) Regarding the way revenue is tracked from the collection of tickets, a report, titled "Municipal Court Operations, Fines, and Fees", released by NJ Supreme Court Committee sought to examine the "public perception that municipalities are increasingly relying on fines from tickets as a source of significant revenue. This calls into question the overall fairness of such practices. Further, the report stated that a "vast majority of monies turned over to municipalities from the courts go to the respective municipality general fund and can be used for any purpose".

The CBAC recommends that the City of Orange provides clarity into how the city uses the money collected from ticketing and how the revenue has changed over the years.

Department of Law

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- a) There needs to be more transparency around the process for selecting law firms.
- i. We would like to know what determines which cases will be outsourced to an outside firm and which will be kept in house. To that point, how are firms selected and what is the criteria for devising a list for potential firms?
 - ii. The CBAC is unable to make recommendations without an understanding of the process (ex. Whether or not to reduce the amount of legal work, or whether or not to improve in-house expertise, etc.)

Department of Community Services

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- a) The CBAC recommends the City of Orange partners with other municipalities to bring this cost of the animal shelter down given it has been the same for more than 8 years.
- b) CBAC recommends the City of Orange increase expenditure and reserves for federal grants through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state grants/funds for Coronavirus and other city healthcare initiatives as required.
- c) The department's total requested budget seems to be inaccurate, and enough information was not presented for the committee to make an informed statement

Fire Department

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- a) As CBAC recommended last year, evaluate feasibility of **sharing** fire suppression and fire prevention services with adjoining municipalities. Such a reorganization, if approved, would take the form of a **Suburban Essex County Regional Fire District** and would operate as such regional fire districts operate in western states. The CBAC believes significant savings could be affected.
- b) There needs to be a system of accountability for planned retirement, departures and new hires to ensure budgeted headcount are sync to actual

Library

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- a) The CBAC has the following recommendations around transparency of the process for:
Audit of all grant money and budget
- i. Library Board of Trustees - establish an effective oversight committee to implement governance and accountability,
 - ii. Monthly operational and spend reports should be provided by the director to the City and appropriate reporting channels,
 - iii. Consideration should be made to convert Library to a technology service, e.g., Library's merge with other area libraries via a digitization transformation plan for unfettered e-access, e.g., to youth and senior citizens