

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

**THIS IS A CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD VIA AUDIO-VIDEO CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 AT 7:04 P.M.**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Council Vice-President Tency A. Eason, North Ward  
Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr., West Ward  
Councilman Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large  
Councilman Clifford R. Ross, At-Large  
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward  
Council President Kerry Coley, East Ward

**Also Present:**

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk  
Lisette Sanchez, Deputy City Clerk  
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator  
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney  
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance  
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer  
Vinny Vitiello, Chief of Police  
Kenneth Douglas, Fire Director  
Marty Mayes, Director of Public Works  
Laquana Best, Director of Planning  
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer  
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office  
Maggie Homere, City Clerk's Office

**Absent:** Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large

The City Clerk asked everyone to recognize a moment of silence.

The City Clerk announced the "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall be allowed to participate in the portion of the Council Meeting for citizen comments via audio call in number and video conferencing platform by stating their name and address when directed to do so during the Citizen Comments or Public Hearing portions. Additionally, the public may comment at the Council Meeting by emailing their statements or questions to [citizencomments@orangenj.gov](mailto:citizencomments@orangenj.gov) or in written letter form directed to the City Clerk no later than 7:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled public meeting. The City Council reserves the right to respond or not respond during the meeting to any citizen's submission."

The City Clerk announced that the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 et. seq., "Sunshine Law" has been met. A notice of this meeting was sent to the Record Transcript, published in the Star Ledger on July 16, 2020, posted on the City's Website ([www.ci.orange.nj.us](http://www.ci.orange.nj.us)) and the Council's Website ([www.orangetwpnjcc.org](http://www.orangetwpnjcc.org)) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**2020 Independent Auditor's Report** – Mr. Francis McEnery and Mr. David Gannon both from the firm of PKF O'Connor Davis, LLP presented to the Council the “City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, Part III, Report of Internal Control and Letter of Comments and Recommendations Year Ended December 31, 2019.

- A copy of the Independent Auditor's Report is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

**Correction Action Plan** – Business Administrator Hartwyk presented to the Council the City of Orange Township's Corrective Action of Audit Finding 2019.

- A copy of the City of Orange Township's Corrective Action of Audit Finding 2019 is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

**2020 Best Practices Inventory** – Business Administrator Hartwyk also presented to the Council the City of Orange Township's 2020 Best Practices Inventory.

- A copy of the City of Orange Township's 2020 Best Practices Inventory is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

The City Clerk opened the Public Hearing for the 2020 Best Practices Inventory. There were no live comments; therefore, the City Clerk read into the record the comments received from **Jeff Felds** – [hardwardad@aol.com](mailto:hardwardad@aol.com):

**Preliminary Conference Meeting****CY 2020 Best Practices Inventory Postponed Responses**

1. Why the delay in holding a mandatory public hearing on Orange's CY 2020 Best Inventory Responses until after the November 3, 2020 elections and the Thanksgiving Holiday?
2. When will Orange adopt an anti-nepotism policy and procedure?
3. How many current city employees would be impacted by this anti-nepotism policy and procedure, including the mayor's brother and the mayor's former and current law partners?
4. Why does Orange need public safety assistance?
5. What Best Practices Inventory Core Competencies and Circuit Breakers failed to warn and predict Orange's current CY 2020 Financial Emergency?
6. When did each councilperson learn of Orange's current CY 2020 financial predicament?

**CY 2020 Audit**

7. How many adverse findings and recommendations does the CY 2019 Audit contain?
8. How many CY 2019 Audit findings and recommendations are repetitive?
9. Why the delay in delivering and posting the entire and complete CY 2019 Audit?
10. Is the current financial emergency disclosed as a subsequent footnote event?
11. When did each councilmember receive the complete CY 2019 Audit?
12. When will each councilmember certify receipt and review of certain portions of the

**CY 2019 Audit**

13. Will each councilmember certify his or her review of the CY 2019 Audit footnotes?
14. When will the local governing body (after providing all proper procedural due process notices) terminate Orange’s relationship with certain department heads?
15. Did each councilperson receive and review the State Commission of Investigation CY 1998 Report on Orange?

**Motion to close the 2020 Best Practices Inventory Public Hearing by Councilman Montague, III, second by Councilman Johnson, Jr.**

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Eason, Johnson, Jr., Montague, III, Ross, Summers-Johnson and Council President Coley  
 Nays: None  
 Abstain: None  
 Absent: Wooten

**Motion passed.**

The City Clerk announced that 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.

Business Administrator Hartwyk provided the following comments:

- **Ordinance 59-2020**
  - Bond Ordinance is for the Russo II Project at 33-51 Lincoln Avenue and 60 Scotland Road similar to the Crane Street Project.
  - The developer is spending \$3.8 million dollars to build a parking garage that after operation costs the revenues will be coming to the City.
  - The \$250,000 is for infrastructure improvements, which includes but is not limited to, repairs to sidewalks, street lighting, landscaping.
- **Ordinance 60-2020**
  - The tax exemption is for the Russo II Project.
- **Ordinance 61-2020**
  - Special Emergency Appropriation to fund an anticipated deficit in operations in the Water/Sewer Utility Fund.
  - Per Governor Murphy’s Executive Order during the Pandemic, the City is prohibited from shutting off water on delinquent accounts.
  - Believes the City will be able to recover deficient in less than 5 years.
- **Ordinance 62-2020**
  - Technical ordinance and change does not provide any fiscal impact to the City.
  - The Court Administrator will be moved to this position at the same pay.

- **Resolution 460-2020**
  - Authorizing the submission of an application to the Local Finance Board requesting approval of the bond ordinance for \$250,000.
  
- **Resolution 461-2020**
  - No money paid to the City.
  - New minority and local developer who has accepted all terms outlined.

The City Clerk commented on the following:

- **Ordinance 58-2020**
  - The Finance Committee recommend postponing to the next meeting of December 15, 2020 for amendments.
  
- **Resolution 458-2020**
  - Resolution was amended to include **not** to exceed.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting by Council Vice President Eason, second by Councilman Johnson, Jr. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 8:21 p.m.**

**Approved: January 5, 2021**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Joyce L. Lanier**  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kerry J. Coley**  
Council President