Report to the City Council of the Mayor's recommended Budget Calendar Year 2021 Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC



Active Members of CBAC

Carl Fields Jr.
•appointed by Hon. Tency A. Eason
Catherine Stramps
•appointed by Hon. Tency A. Eason
Carol Perkins
•appointed by Hon. Harold J. Johnson
Deborah Bartley Carter
•appointed by Hon. Jamie Summers-Johnson
Janicea Jones-Vance
•appointed by Hon. Weldon Montague, III
Leonor Yong
•appointed by Hon. Weldon Montague, III
Sharief Williams
•appointed by Adrienne Wooten
Thomas Boran
•appointed by Hon. Harold J. Johnson
Zonasha Ward
•appointed by Hon. Clifford Ross

CBAC Mission

The mission of CBAC as outlined in RESO: 188-2021- line 4 "Whereas, the Municipal Council wishes to continue to increase public participation in the budgeting process and the difficult choices which have to be made while utilizing the talents of citizens with relevant experience and find new innovative ways and means of maintaining essential services, with a view to ultimately lessening the tax burden;"

CITY COUNCIL	The City of Orange Township, New Jersey
April 6, 2021	NUMBER 188-2021
TITLE: A RESOLUTION EST. COMMITTEE (CBAC) PROCESS.	ABLISHING A CITIZEN'S BUDGET ADVISORY FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET
	et process is extremely complex, governed by State laws ederal and State budgets as well as grant programs; and
WHEREAS, the revenues which su	pport the Municipal budget come primarily from taxes; and
present demand for services and t	ty taxes combined with the rising costs of services, the ever the inability to increase retables at will cause increasing on taxpaying citizens in making the hard choices to decrease
budgeting process, both to further difficult choices which have to be	il wishes to continue to increase public participation in the educate the public about the budgeting process and the made while utilizing the talents of citizens with relevant tive ways and means of maintaining essential services, with ax burden; and
reviewed the budget book, reviewed	il desires the expertise and advice of the citizens who have of the line item legal budget, attended the budget hearings, local budget law and are willing and able to share their eport to the City Council.
ORANGE TOWNSHIP , is hereby a	SOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF authorized to appoint members to the City of Orange Citizen's 2021 Calendar Year Budget process to consult and advise the budgeting process.
	that such committee shall consist of fourteen (14) members, ommended two members of the public who shall become
Consultant and the Council Preside	that the Board members shall meet with the Council Budget ent to receive orientation to the budget process, and shall al Council to render their valuable insight, ideas, advice and
Adopted: April 6, 2021	
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City Clerk

Council President

Opening Statement

The CBAC members strongly believe that the proposed calendar year 2021 budget does NOT meet the needs of the citizens of Orange.

A budget, besides being a tool, also serves as a guidepost for the direction of the city. We do not see any such objectives in this budget.

The CBAC members **DO NOT APPROVE** of the 2021 Municipal requested budget of **\$78,469,990**

An increase of **6.35%** from the 2020 initial requested budget of **\$73,782,205**



Comprehensive Recommendations

The 2021 budget as it currently stands does not meet the needs of the residents of Orange, which include:

- make hard choices to decrease staff
- be more efficient with supplies
- reduce services
- find new and innovative ways and means of maintaining essential services, and
- lessening the residents tax burden.



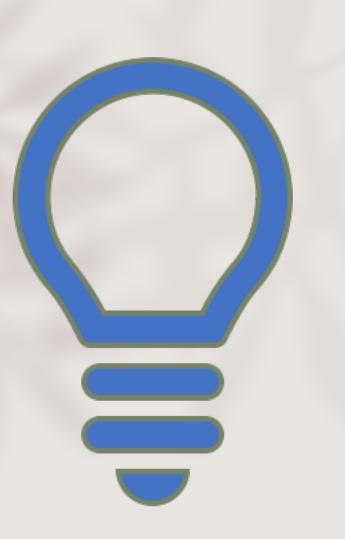
Detailed Suggestions

□ Revenue increase

- □ Increase the commercial taxes revenue sources
- Recapture loss revenue due to nonfunctioning parking meters (27.7% of the city meters need repair)
- □ Establish a parking permit program
- Establish a municipal parking lot
- Recouping cost on maintenance on abandoned properties
- Prioritize the Library
 - □ Ex: city physical assets

Expense reduction

- Eliminate the vacancies that total \$798,141.46 an increase of 58.9% from the total of 2020 vacancies \$502,199.04
- □ Freeze new hires and cap OT for nonessential workers
- □ Establish an overtime cap
- □ Increase cross municipal partnership
- Align budgets to so we can see all budgets with and without walk-ons



Departmental Recommendations

Department of Police

This department has a proven trend of lowering crime and keeping the city safe

□ Renegotiate union contracts which have been expired as of December 2020

□ Reduce the multiple streams of stipends

□ Freeze on new recruits

□ Efficiently manage the officers to resident ratio

Water Operation

provide more clarity around total operational spend and debt servicing

Long Term Recommendations

Propose CBAC as a standing committee

 The Administration as well as the City Council are charged with the responsibility of good stewardship regarding Orange residents tax dollars. The installation of the CBAC as a standing committee of the city council would be another step in the right direction to that end.

All contracts that impact citizens funds should be as transparent as possible

- Department contracts and Memorandum of Agreement's should be provided to the CBAC since budgetary decisions are based upon the language within
- The members of CBAC, along with many residents request a Forensic Audit of the city budget.

A forensic audit would assure that taxpayers monies are being spent to the benefit of the citizens