

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, MAY 4, 2021 AT 7:03 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 Arrived at 7:04 p.m.
Councilman Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large
Council President Kerry Coley, East Ward

Also Present:

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

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

The Deputy 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 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 Deputy 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) and the Council's Website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Business Administrator Hartwyk provided the following comments regarding legislation on the agenda:

- Ordinance 14-2021:
 - o Tabled at the last Council Meeting (April 20, 2021);
City of Orange Township City Council's Website – <https://orangetwpnjcc.org>

- In consultation with the City Council, it is the recommendation of the Administration to keep Ordinance 14-2021 tabled to continue discussions.
- Ordinance 24-2021:
 - The City Council and Administration have had discussions regarding the authority for this ordinance.
 - Due to the lack of agreement between the City Council and Administration, it has been decided to introduce the ordinance and the Administration will file a declaratory judgment action to determine whether or not this can be legally done.
 - The Court will declare at the end of the declaratory action if this can be done.
- Water in the City of Orange:
 - Form notice sent by Suez was required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) stating that the City missed new quality control requirements made effective January 1st
 - Violations were rectified and the City is in compliance with all parameters.
 - Water is safe to drink and for all other purposes.

Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. provided the following update regarding the Cannabis Ordinance introduced by the Council:

- Discussions with Council and residents in regards to what the direction the City will take.
- Research and analysis has determined that with cannabis regulations and conditions:
 - The City can benefit financially and protect young people.
 - The Ordinance can work for the entire City and to those who seek to have businesses in the City.
 - Orange residents will benefit the most especially those who have a criminal record that was caused by marijuana related criminal activity.
- A comprehensive ordinance is being prepared by the Law Department.
 - The City will take full advantage of the tax incentives.
 - No less than 50% ownership of residents from Orange.
 - Work force 50% to 75% residents from Orange.
 - Contributions from businesses for rehabilitation and drug prevention.
 - Regulations as to where establishments can exist.
 - Quality of life and financial issues will be addressed.
- Ongoing involvement with Council and Administration to do what is best for the City.
- Council and Administration are moving in the best interest of the City.
- Recommends Ordinance 14-2021 remain tabled.
- Collaboration with the Board of Education, Chamber of Commerce and Clergy.
- Children should be the first to benefit.
- The Council will have an opportunity to meet with the residents after the Council and Administration have addressed all issues.

A pre-recorded broadcast from Senator Cory Booker regarding the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also called COVID-19 Stimulus Package or American Rescue, wherein a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill was passed by the U.S. Senate. New Jersey will receive over \$6 billion dollars in federal COVID-19 relief funding.

Vincent DeFilippo, City of Orange’s Health Officer discussed the following update regarding COVID-19:

- Approximately 3,800 residents have been vaccinated at St. Matthews AME Church.
- To date, 36% of Orange residents have been vaccinated.
- As of May 3, 2021, there is an average of 880 a day testing positive in New Jersey and only 7 in Orange.
- Governor Murphy has changed the following requirements:
 - o You can sit at a bar as long as it is six feet apart, but you must wear a mask if you are not drinking or eating.
 - o Home party gatherings have been raised from 25 to 50 people.
- CDC announced 182,000 vaccine doses have been wasted by Walgreens and CVS.
- Pfizer is expected to have their vaccine available for 12 to 15 year olds by the end of the month.
- Monitoring 4 residents of Orange who have tested positive for Ebola.
- Transportation is still available for seniors to get their COVID vaccine.
- City Attorney Montilus reported that as of May 10th, the Governor has announced that he is lifting the following restrictions:
 - o Camp programs will be reinstated.
 - o New Jersey high schools can have proms.
 - o Outdoor capacity limits will be raised from 200 to 500 people.
 - o Hired private large catering venues will be raised up to 50% capacity.
 - o Dance floors will remain closed at bars and nightclubs.
 - o Outdoor carnival events will be able to operate at 50% capacity.

The Deputy City Clerk announced that 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.

The following ordinances and resolutions were discussed by the Council Members:

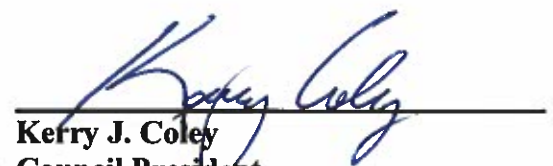
- Ordinance 24-2021.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, second by Councilman Ross. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:56 p.m.

Approved: August 4, 2021



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Kerry J. Coley
Council President