

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Mary E. Bonds

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Good evening Council President and Council Members. My name is Mary E. Bonds, Tremont Place, Orange, NJ.

I put in my papers with the NJ Department of Pensions for a retirement date of July, 1st, 2021. I am asking for assistance in helping to get the paperwork processed and sent back to the NJ Department of Pensions. The Pension Department stated that, although on several occasions, they have sent out the request. They have not received reciprocal paperwork from the City necessary to complete the process. I have reached out to the Orange Public Library Board, CWA Union and City Personnel only to be told the Library is "autonomous" and is governed by the Board. The NJ Department of Pensions has tried to call the Orange Public Library only to find out the Library does not have a working public phone. During the last council meeting on September 7, 2021, someone asked when the next Board meeting will be held but no one at the time could answer. I am asking if anyone could tell me who the appointing authority or certifying agent authorized to complete the paperwork so I can retire. An answer would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Jeffrey Feld

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Resolution 432-2021 - \$7,000 Klingeman Cerimele Federal Investigation Defense Counsel Retention

1. Is this special outside federal investigation counsel retention resolution for a different city employee than a prior CY 2021 similar agenda action item retention resolution with the same law firm?
2. Is this a second bite at the apple type of Tyshammie Cooper outside counsel retention resolution?
3. Did the proposed recipient of special outside criminal defense counsel comply with all the procedural administrative code indemnification provisions?
4. Is this resolution in any way tied to or connected with the termination of a certain key water-utility/FEMA employee on Friday September 17, 2021 who has knowledge of certain factual allegations by Anthony Carey against the mayor and Ray Wingfield?

Resolution 433-2021 - \$20,000 Anthony Antonuci Retired Firemen Outside Defense Counsel Retention

5. What are the underlying allegations in this new matter?
6. Is the JIF picking up these defense costs?
7. Has the City escrowed monies for the amounts due and owing retired firemen?
8. How much money is allegedly due and owing retired firemen?
9. Was this unpaid claim disclosed in prior years' financial statements and audits?
10. Do the allegations contained in this complaint relate to the former fire director's sudden termination with Orange?

Resolution 418-2021 - \$8,668.40 Essex Locksmith CY 2020 Open Bills Payment

11. Is this first time that unpaid bills were discovered under the watch of Marty Mayes and paid in a subsequent calendar year?
12. Are CY 2020 or CY 2021 Revenues being used to satisfy these CY 2020 unpaid obligations?
13. When will Orange post its CY 2021 original and amended User Friendly Budgets and CY 2021 unaudited financial statement on a public website?

Resolution 427-2021 - NJ American Water 10 Year Water Bulk Sale & Purchase Agreement

14. Does this agreement replace or supplement any current bulk water supply agreements with any other provider such as East Orange?
15. What will be the effect of this new bulk water supply agreement on current water utility rates?
16. Without the approval of this new contract, would any approved redevelopment projects be unable to come on line?

Ordinance 48-2021 - South Day Street Air Easement

Ordinance 49-2021 - Freeman Drive & South Essex Air Easement

Ordinance 50-2021 - Block 2805, Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 & G Acquisition

17. How did this local governing body approve the granting of long term tax exemptions and the issuance of redevelopment area bonds with these open underlying project issues?
18. Were these material facts concealed from the local governing body?
19. When the local planning board granted approvals for these Manny Klein related projects, who was the acting planning board attorney?
20. When the local planning board granted approvals for these Manny Klein projects, who was the municipal planner?
21. How does Orange anticipate funding the acquisition of these properties?
22. Why the delay in processing these ordinances?
23. Will additional approvals and consents by the local governing body be required to effectuate the acquisition of these properties by Orange for the benefit of Manny Klein related projects?
24. What is the status of Orange's prior acquisitions of private property: the abandoned YWCA site, the former Bank of America/Rossi Paints Properties and the abandoned Orange Memorial Hospital Site??
25. What have been taxpayers been paying in additional avoidable maintenance and carry costs as well as in lost tax revenues?
26. How was the fair market value of the two air right easements established?

Ordinance 47-2021 - Amending Central Valley Redevelopment Plan

27. What are the amendments?
28. Are they consistent with other approved redevelopment plans?
29. Are these amendments geared or focused upon any specific projects?
30. Are these amendments consistent with the amended master plan?

Repetitive Issues of Public Importance

31. When will the CY 2021 Introduced and Amended User Friendly Budgets and CY 2020 Financial Statement be posted on the CC's public website?
32. When will the local governing body resume posting monthly revenue and operating reports on its public website?
33. Will the City of Orange Township conduct a post July 1, 2012 city employee nepotism audit?
34. How much does the City of Orange Township owe the County in long term tax exemption revenues?
35. How much does the local housing authority owe the City of Orange Township in unpaid "in lieu of taxes" cooperation payments?
36. Does the City of Orange Township have any "colorable" claims and causes of actions against any developers, professionals and current and former city employees, such as Willis Edwards III and McManimon Scotland & Baumann LLC?
37. Who was the municipal attorney and outside counsel who approved the waiver of all City of Orange Township Willis Edwards III related claims and causes of actions against Mayor Warren?
38. What is the status of the amending zoning ordinance discussed and proposed by the Zoning Board Chair?
39. When will Attorney Feld and others be provided equal access to the municipality's public access cable channel so that they can provide their counter "factual" narrative to the community?
40. Does State law permit an in-house municipal attorney and former partner of the mayor to serve as the municipal planning board attorney in the contested Orange Commons redevelopment plan with condemnation powers prerogative writ action?