

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY

THIS WAS AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD IN FRONT OF CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021 AT 7:30 P.M.

The City Clerk announced that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 Meeting of public body; adequate notice to public; necessity; exceptions:

- b. Upon the affirmative vote of three quarters of the members present a public body may hold a meeting notwithstanding the failure to provide adequate notice if:
 - (1) such meeting is required in order to deal with matters of such urgency and importance that a delay for the purpose of providing adequate notice would be likely to result in substantial harm to the public interest; and
 - (2) the meeting is limited to discussion of and acting with respect to such matters of urgency and importance; and
 - (3) notice of such meeting is provided as soon as possible following the calling of such meeting by posting written notice of the same in the public place described in section 3.d.

Council President Coley led all assembled in a Salute to the American Flag.

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
Council President Kerry Coley, East Ward

Also Present:

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Lisette Sanchez, Deputy City Clerk

Absent: Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large

The City Clerk announced that the prior Special Meeting notice scheduled for August 20, 2021 was sent to both the Record Transcript and the Star Ledger on Monday, August 16, 2021, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall, on the Council's website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org), City's website (www.ci.orange.nj.us) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk. This particular meeting was cancelled by the Mayor of the City of Orange Township.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

"SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall be allowed to participate in this portion of the Council Meeting via the audio call in number and video conferencing platform by stating their name and address when directed to do so by the Council President. All public comments submitted through electronic mail or written letter before the meeting shall be read aloud by the City Clerk. The City Council reserves the right to respond or not respond during the meeting to any citizen's questions or comments. If the Council wishes to address any comments, it shall be done during the remote public meeting.

The City Clerk read into the record the following questions and/or comments submitted:

1) Samantha Crockett, 270 Heywood Avenue

Good afternoon. My name is Samantha Crockett and I reside with my family on 270 Heywood Avenue. I am speaking as an active citizen and not as a member of the School Board.

I urge council members to listen to community members when voting on issues that affect all of us. Your recent vote to ban cannabis and raise taxes makes me feel like council members are not open to listening to the community and making the necessary adjustments that we proposed. We can get so much more done for Orange if we work together and listen to each other.

I am opposed to banning cannabis in our community. Regardless of my own personal opinion, the State of New Jersey voted to legalize the use and sale of cannabis. Allowing the legal sale of cannabis will support **legitimate** small businesses and bring revenue into Orange. This can be used to offset the extremely high property tax that you place on us each year.

My hope is that the council works together with each other and the community to make tough decisions that begin repairing our city, so that families can live here for generations to come.

2) Christopher Jackson, cjacks726@gmail.com

1. Have the administration or municipal council received a written summary defining the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, and if so, will it be publicized to inform the citizens as well?
2. What information was compiled that informed the decision made in Ordinance 14-2021?
3. Was the public consulted regarding this position, and if so, who was communicated with, when, and what did they say?
4. What proposals for implementing appropriate regulations were discussed and why were they defeated?
5. What are the positions of the OBE, OPD, OFD, the municipal court, and the administration (including the various departments and offices in their unique roles) regarding legal cannabis businesses in Orange?
6. Were the ABC Board, Zoning Board, or Planning Board consulted or informed regarding cannabis business in Orange?
7. What inquiry was made directly to citizens regarding cannabis businesses here and how did they respond when information meetings were conducted?
8. Which entrepreneurs have shown interest in establishing cannabis businesses in Orange - please describe the business proposed?
9. Has the Chamber of Commerce been consulted or taken a position regarding cannabis businesses in Orange?
10. Has any business currently based here registered an invitation, concern, or complaint regarding cannabis business here?
11. What plans have been made to further explore and consider the issue of cannabis business in Orange following the passage of Ordinance 14-2021?

- 12. Why delay taking action to build a system for conducting appropriate cannabis businesses for Orange now and not wait to follow someone else's example?

Motion to close Citizen Comments by Councilman Montague, III, second by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed.

ORDINANCE FOR RECONSIDERATION

14-2021 An ordinance to amend the code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 210, "Development Regulations", to prohibit any class of cannabis businesses within its geographical boundaries. (Sponsored by Council Members Tency A. Eason, Kerry J. Coley, Harold J. Johnson, Jr., Weldon M. Montague, III and Clifford R. Ross).

Motion to Override Veto by Councilman Johnson, Jr., second by Councilman Montague, III.

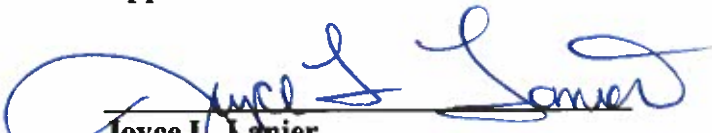
Roll Call:

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

Motion passed. Mayor's veto of Ordinance 14-2021 has been overruled.

Motion to adjourn by Council Vice President Eason, second by Councilman Johnson, Jr. The meeting was adjourned by unanimously vote at 7:45 p.m.

Approved:



Joyce L. Lanier
 City Clerk



Kerry J. Coley
 Council President