

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

**THIS IS THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD VIA AUDIO-VIDEO CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.**

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  
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward  
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large  
Council President Kerry Coley, East Ward

**Also Present:**

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk  
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator  
Laquana Best, Director of Planning  
Gerald Long, Fire Chief  
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director  
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director  
Chirag Mehta, Deputy City Attorney  
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief  
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer  
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor  
Paula Fiera, Tax Collector  
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer  
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office  
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office

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 September 2, 2021, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and on the Council's website ([www.orangetwpnjcc.org](http://www.orangetwpnjcc.org)), the City's website ([www.ci.orange.nj.us](http://www.ci.orange.nj.us)) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: None**

**REPORTS:**

**DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REVENUE COLLECTION:**

- Department of Community Service-August 2021-\$19,042.48

**CONSTABLE REPORTS: None**

**OPRA REPORTS: None**

**COUNCIL REPORTS -**

**Finance Committee-** the City Clerk reported the following recommendations from the meeting held on October 5, 2021:

- Ordinance 24-2021 should remain postpone.
- Ordinance 55-2021 BA had giving an explanation
- Resolution 437-2021 should be lifted from table and vote down
- Resolution 446-2021 Will be amended with a different sponsor

**Police Department -** Chief Vitiello reported that the last suspect has been apprehended in regard of the homicide that took place by the school. He thanked the Board Education and the prosecutor's office for their amazing job in assisting with the incident. He commented on a breast cancer awareness event held recently in the City.

- Councilman Ross requested an update in regard to vehicles speeding in the city.
- Councilman Johnson Jr. questioned if full employment was available for Crossing Guards for 2022
- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated: The crossing guard job is hard to fill
- Councilwoman Eason questioned the legality of raising the crossing guard salary.
- BA Hartwyk stated a salary range ordinance has to be done.
- Councilman Weldon Montague III, suggested a salary ordinance comparison with other municipalities to be done.

**Fire Department -** Fire Chief Long talked about a completion of Oxygen seminar, a two-year rescue training certification class and several events the Fire Department participated in.

- Councilwoman Eason thanked Chief Long for his support.
- Councilwoman Wooten questioned Fire Prevention on five senior building in the East Ward.

**Planning Department -** Director Best announced the Heat Hotline open from October 15, 2021 through April 15, 2022

**Council President directs Clerk to file reports.**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: None**

**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 though electric mail or written letter before the meeting shall be read aloud by the City Clerk. The City Council reserves the right to respond to 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 inquired if there were any citizens that wish to make comments. The following citizens commented live:

**1. William Hathaway**

- The Chairman to the Democratic Committee announced that he collected 30 new voter's registration for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election and he can be reached out to if anyone requires any help in regard to general question

**Thereafter the City Clerk read into the record the following comments submitted, which were posted on the Council's website for the October 5, 2021 meeting**

**2. Jeffrey Feld [hardwaread@aol.com](mailto:hardwaread@aol.com)**

- What is the status of the CY 2020 Audit?
- Because of the termination of a certain key water/sewer utility/FEMA related employee on Friday September 17, 2021, who is responsible to fulfilling the obligations and duties of this discharged employee?
- How much has Orange paid the Critchley law firm since its CY 2017 retention in connection with the ongoing investigation of Orange after the January 2017 raid of Orange's City Hall? PO 21-00539
- What is the status of the local governing body's override of the mayor's cannabis zoning prohibition ordinance veto on shortened and limited notice?
- Will the local governing body finally take some form of up or down affirmative action on the two festering amending ordinances sponsored by the Chair, thereby allowing the mayor to approve or to veto the discretionary legislative action?
- When will the CY 2021 Introduced and Amended User Friendly Budgets and CY 2020 Financial Statement be posted on the CC's public website?
- When will the local governing body resume posting monthly revenue and operating reports on its public website?
- Will the City of Orange Township conduct a post July 1, 2012 city employee nepotism audit?
- How much does the City of Orange Township owe the County in long term tax exemption revenues?
- How much does the local housing authority owe the City of Orange Township in unpaid "in lieu of taxes" cooperation payments?
- 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?
- 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?
- What is the status of the amending zoning ordinance discussed and proposed by the Zoning Board Chair?
- 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?
- 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?

- When will stakeholders receive written responses to all their outstanding, unanswered and ignored prior written and posted questions?

**Motion to Close Citizen Comments by Councilman Johnson, Jr, second by Montague, III, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

**Motion passed.**

### **REPORTS**

- **Councilwoman Wooten** stated that she attended a meeting along with the Executive Director of Orange Housing Authority regarding 105 Wilson Place and it was a successful meeting. Reports were made and once it's available, a copy will be mailed out to the Council and to the people who resides in that development. Councilwoman Wooten talked about a special registry.
  - **BA Hartwyk** stated that the Tax Collector Office would send out forms with tax bill.
  - **Councilwoman Wooten** stated that the registry list should be confidential.
- **Council President Coley** inquired about the smoke alarms.
- **Director Marty Mayes** confirmed DPW will be working on the second set of roads and he will forward the list to the Clerk's Office.
  - **Councilman Montague, III** thanked Director Mayes for placing the signs on Park Avenue School.
  - **Council President Coley** inquired about the parking permit sign on Elm Street.
  - **Ray Wingfield (DPW)** announced the schedule for leaf pick-up for the 2021 season.
- **Councilman Johnson Jr.** questioned the Senior Freeze Program.
  - **Tax Collector Paula Ferreira** stated that the Senior Freeze Program runs through the State of New Jersey.
- **Councilman Ross** questioned the broken parking meters.
  - **BA Hartwyk** stated that inventory of the meters has been completed.
  - **Councilman Ross** talked about the garbage cans that are broken and not being pick in a timely manner.
  - **Councilman Montague, III** inquired about meter readers and suggested that we have parking authority.
  - **Councilwoman Summers-Johnson** stated that the CBAC made a recommendation during the last budget hearing for a parking authority.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilman Montague, III** commented on the bike tour event, stating that it was a great event and thanked Ray Wingfield.

**Councilwoman Wooten** made comments about the following:

- Recent soccer tournament in Orange; there were no police officers on site, causing citizen's vehicles to be blocked in. Special event procedures, such as the soccer event, should be looked into.
- Highlights from Domestic Violence tree lighting event
- There will be a voter's registration drive in front of City Hall

- Dangerous Intersection Public Meeting with BA Hartwyk, Director Mayes & City Engineer
- Thanks to Nelson Rivero from Puro Clean for donating bikes & sneakers to City’s children.

**Councilman Johnson, Jr.** thanked the Administration for placing the email blast.

**Councilwoman Summers-Johnson** commented on the reason why she didn’t vote on the 2021 Calendar Year Budget.

**Councilman Ross** commented on the FEMA Recovery Process for Hurricane Ida victims. He thanked the Business Administration and the City Clerk for assistance with event.

**Councilwoman Eason** commented on the working collaborations with the Board of Education and the Budget Work Session.

**Council President Coley** commented on the City Hall Shredding Event, the work completion of Snyder Street and the opening of state offices in New Jersey.

**ORDINANCES-SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

**24-2021** An ordinance to amend the City Code of the City of Orange Township Chapter 4 entitled “Administration of Government”, Article II entitled “City Council”, Section 15 entitled “City Clerk”. (Sponsored by Councilmember Coley) *(Postponed at the 06/1/2021, 06/15/2021, 07/01/2021 & 08/04/2021 08/19/2021 Council Meetings)*

**Motion to postpone by Councilman Ross, second by Councilman Montague, III**

**Roll Call**

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

**Motion passed.**

**45-2021** An ordinance to amend and supplement the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 4, Section 4-9 entitled “Meetings” to update the procedures for Special Meetings. (Sponsored by Council Member Coley)

- a) Motion to close Citizen Comments: Ross, Second: Montague, III
- b) Motion for final adoption: Ross Second: Montague, III

**Roll Call**

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

**Motion passed.**

**53-2021 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" section 200-38 One Way Street. (Bradford Street)**

- a) Motion to close Citizen Comments: Johnson, Jr., Second: Montague, III
- b) Motion for final adoption: Johnson, Jr., Second: Montague, III

**Roll Call**

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

**ORDINANCES-INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**55-2021 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, amending the Central Valley Redevelopment Plan to transfer Block 3910, Lot 6, currently owned by NJ Energy Realty LLC, from District 4 of the Central Valley Redevelopment Area to District 3 of the Central Valley Redevelopment Area.**

Motion to adopt on First Reading by Councilman Johnson, Jr., second by Councilman Montague, III

**Roll Call**

Ayes: Eason, Johnson, Jr., Montague, III, Ross, and Council President Coley  
 Nays: Summers-Johnson & Wooten  
 Abstain: None  
 Absent: None  
**Motion passed. Final Reading is scheduled for November 3, 2021**

**RESOLUTION TABLED AT THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING**

**437-2021 A resolution rescinding resolution 222-2021 entitled "A resolution authorizing a professional services contract to Clearview Counseling, LLC for the provision of counseling services for the year 2021 to the City of Orange Township Municipal Court pursuant to the non-fair and open process in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 for the calendar year 2021." (Sponsored by Council Member Coley)**

**Motion to lift from the Table by Councilman Ross, second by Montague, III**

**Roll Call**

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

Absent: None

**Motion to adopt by Councilwoman Wooten, Second by Councilman Montague, III**

**Roll Call**

Ayes: None

Nays: Eason, Johnson, Jr., Montague, III, Ross, Summers-Johnson, Wooten and Council President Coley

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**Motion Failed.**

**11) CONSENT AGENDA**

**ALL ITEMS LISTED WITH AN ASTERISK (\*) ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS A COUNCIL MEMBER SO REQUESTS, IN WHICH EVENT, THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE OF THE AGENDA.**

The City Clerk announced that Resolution No. 449-2021 and 452 will be removed from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote.

**RESOLUTIONS NO. \*441-2021 THROUGH \*451-2021**

- \*442-2021 A resolution authorizing a refund of subsequent payment made in error by Danilo Rivera, 361 High Street, Orange, New Jersey 07050 in the amount of \$175.00.**
- \*443-2021 A resolution ratifying and authorizing the award of an emergency contract for traffic signal maintenance and repairs between Allan Briteway Electrical Utility Contractors, Inc., 130 Algonquin Parkway, Whippany, New Jersey 07981 and the City of Orange Township for the period of August 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$5,016.25.**
- \*444-2021 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on October 5, 2021 dated September 29, 2021 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$2,700,321.49).**
- \*445-2021 A resolution authorizing the issuance of a raffle license to Saint John’s Catholic Church.**
- \*446-2021 A resolution appointing Dennis Motley from Orange, New Jersey as a member to Board of Directors of the Orange Housing Development Corporation for a term of four (4) years. (Sponsored by Council Member Ross)**
- \*447-2021 A resolution recognizing Avien and Virgil Abney co-authors of “Random Thoughts” on National Authors Day. (Sponsored by Council Members Wooten and Summers-Johnson)**

**\*448-2021 A resolution appointing Quantavia Hilbert to the Affirmative Action Commission of the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Council Member Johnson, Jr.)**

**\*450-2021 A resolution recognizing National Women’s Small Business Month in the City of Orange Township honoring Lucy and Laya owners of “Just Like Nonna’s”. (Sponsored by Council Members Wooten and Summers-Johnson)**

**Motion to adopt Consent Agenda was done by Councilwoman Wooten, second by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.**

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Eason, Johnson, Jr., Montague, III, Ross, Wooten, Summers-Johnson and Council President Coley

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**Motion passed.**

The City Clerk announced the following resolutions were removed from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote.

**449-2021 A resolution recognizing Thanksgiving as a holiday in the City of Orange Township and wishing everyone a joyous holiday. (Sponsored by Council Members Wooten and Summers-Johnson)**

**Motion to adopt by Councilwoman Wooten, Second by Councilwoman Summers- Johnson.**

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Summers-Johnson & Wooten

**Nays:** Eason, Johnson, Jr., Montague, III, Ross, and Council Pres. Coley

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None

**Motion failed.**

**451-2021 A resolution allowing the City of Orange Township to waive the estoppel period and authorize the immediate enactment of Ordinance 53-2021 titled “an Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” Section 200-38 one-way street. (Bradford Street).**

**Motion to adopt by Councilwoman Wooten, Second by Councilwoman Summers- Johnson**

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Eason, Johnson, Jr., Montague, III, Ross, Wooten and Council President Coley

**Nays:** Summers-Johnson

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** None



**NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS** None.  
**OTHER PENDING BUSINESS** None.

**Motion to adjourn by Councilman Montague, III, second by Councilwoman Wooten.  
The motion was approved by unanimous vote.  
Motion passed**

**Meeting adjournment Time: 9:07PM**

**Approved: December 7, 2021**

  
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**Joyce L. Lanier**  
City Clerk

  
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**Kerry J. Coley**  
Council President