

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**  
**JANUARY 4, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING**

**Carl Fields, Jr.**  
[dri8ver@yahoo.com](mailto:dri8ver@yahoo.com)

Director Mapp has stated that the CY 2022 Budget will be available in February. Will Council President Coley authorize the formation of the CBAC at that time to enable the above committee to fulfill its advisory responsibilities in a timely manner?

**Aisha Samuel**  
[asamuel16@yahoo.com](mailto:asamuel16@yahoo.com)

When a person parks in someone's driveway, why is it up to the police to decide whether or not that car should be ticketed or towed? Obviously a law has been broken, otherwise they never would've been called, so why are they allowed the opportunity to decide whether or not they want to do their job?

Why do I have to call the police every single day for them to come and ticket people for purposely not moving their cars so that the street can be cleaned? Practically every car that is parked on Highland Terrace belongs to an apartment dweller who doesn't pay real estate taxes so they neither care nor will they complain about the street not being cleaned.

**Daniel Joseph Wiley**  
[danieljoseph@orangehuub.org](mailto:danieljoseph@orangehuub.org)

Dear Council Members,

Hope that everyone is refreshed and safe as we enter 2022.

After several conversations on the topic of development, the Orange Memorial site came up as an area in need of being addressed.

With that, we would like to know answers to the following:

- 1) Does the city have a plan in place for the abandoned site?
- 2) Will the HANDS proposal that was put together w/ residents be leading the vision for the site?
- 3) How will development on this site impact the city overall?
- 4) Is there a developer interested in the site at this point?

There are concerns that the community vision for a *health and wellness village* will be abandoned, and we will eventually see something come on site that doesn't necessarily benefit today's Orange residents. With an understanding that this isn't something that can happen overnight, and many pieces have to move to make it work, we hope that Orange residents will continue to be a part of the process in what happens on the site. Thank you for your time.

**Molly Rose Kaufman & Aubrey Murdock**  
[universityoforange@gmail.com](mailto:universityoforange@gmail.com)

Dear City of Orange Township Councilmembers,

The University of Orange is a free school of Restoration Urbanism founded in Orange in 2008 and building on a history of progressive organizing in the city going back to the late 1950s. From our 13 years of work in this city, we have learned that everything there is to know about American cities you can learn right here in Orange. For the same reasons, we believe Orange could lead the way in finding solutions to the most pressing challenges facing cities in America today.

We were disappointed to hear that an opportunity to develop Orange Memorial Hospital Site with a robust community-oriented plan and a fiscally capable and nationally renowned developer has recently fallen through. We see this as a major setback for the city, and of particular concern given the direction we see development in Orange moving.

According to a recent report from Rutgers CLiME (<https://www.clime.rutgers.edu/publications-filtered/housing-gaps-in-cities-of-color-affordability-trends-in-newarks-inner-ring-suburbs-of-irvington-orange-and-east-orange>), the City of Orange needs to build 2,000 affordable units in order to meet current needs. Instead, we are aware that the city's current administration has paved the way for 2,000 mostly market rate units to be built across 14 economic opportunity zone developments, mostly near the train stations.

Equitable and community-oriented development of the Orange Memorial Hospital site is hugely important if the city of Orange is going to bring in development and investment without displacing businesses and people in Orange now.

HANDS Inc. has a plan for the hospital site: a health and wellness village including mixed-income housing. This plan has been developed with extensive and meaningful community input, supported by experts in the fields of public health and urbanism, and drawing on precedent elsewhere in the country.

We understand that the city administration is reviewing the "Area in need of redevelopment (with condemnation)" plans for the area that contains the hospital site. Does the city intend to review and revise these plans with an eye towards taking control of the hospital site?

If the city does take control of the Orange Memorial Hospital site is there a plan in place for its development? Will the HANDS proposal that was put together with residents be leading the vision for the site?

Is the city administration currently in talks with any other prospective developers for the hospital site?

Thank you for your time.

**Dr. Mindy Fullilove**  
[mindy.fullilove@gmail.com](mailto:mindy.fullilove@gmail.com)

Dear Councilmembers,

First Unitarian Church of Essex County at 35 Cleveland Street has been in the City of Orange since 1890. Five years ago we went through a period of discernment and decided that we wanted to be a positive force in the city. Rather than sell our buildings and merge with a larger congregation elsewhere, we founded the HUUB and opened our doors to the community. We love Orange and want it to continue to be a city that is welcoming to all.

We were therefore disappointed to hear that an opportunity to develop the Orange Memorial Hospital site with HANDS Inc. and a developer they brought to the table had fallen through. HANDS' plan for a health and wellness village with mixed-income housing at the Orange Hospital Site is a positive and visionary plan for development in our city that would truly support the health and wealth of all of Orange's residents. It is also respectful of Orange's history of hospitality. That a nationally renowned and financially capable developer was willing to take this project on is also proof that the City of Orange can afford to bring investment to the city in creative ways that will support all of Orange's residents, rather than building mostly market-rate housing that will drive cost of living up and displace a majority of Orange's current residents.

We would like answers to the following questions:

1. Does the city administration intend to find a pathway to taking control of the hospital site?
2. Does the city administration have a plan in place to develop the hospital?
3. Will the HANDS proposal that was put together with residents lead the vision for the site?
4. Is the city administration currently in talks with any other prospective developers for the hospital site?

Thank you for your time.

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

#### **Resolutions**

1. Whose form, sufficiency and legality approval signature appears on all proposed municipal legislation listed on the January 4, 2022 Agenda?
2. With respect to CY 2022 Temporary Budget Res. 31-2022, is the \$500,000 emergency severance appropriation approved on December 31, 2021 included and under what authority are certain ordinary expense appropriations greater than the statutory percentage and why are certain debt service payments greater than the payments due in the first quarter of CY 2022?
3. With respect to \$28,000 CY 2021 Gluck Walworth Change Order Res. 28-2022, how much did Orange pay this law firm in CY 2021, why the delay in adopting this \$28,000 change order resolution in CY 2020 and from what CY current fund is this CY 2020 expenditure change order being encumbered and paid?
4. With respect to \$2,000,514 Bill List Res 25-2022, what is the status of the PO 21-01192 IMO City of Orange litigation, how much did Orange pay its bond counsel for services performed in CY 2020, when will Orange commence amortizing its Rossi/Bank of America and former Orange Memorial Hospital acquisition obligations (PO 21-00569), what \$525,000 bond

transaction does PO 21-00733 relate to and what is the status of current reevaluation (PO 20-0111)?

**Other Repetitive Matters of Public Importance**

5. What is the status of Orange's CY 2020 Audit?
6. Has Orange adopted a mandatory vaccination requirement for all city employees where failure to comply will result in mandatory unpaid leave?
7. Has Orange adopted a Best Practices Inventory Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance or an Ordinance requiring all redevelopers to contribute to a fund to preserve existing affordable housing units or to fund certain public improvements?
8. Is it time to have an open public discussion about terminating Orange's relationship with its municipal planner, its finance director and its in-house legal department?
9. With his nomination to the Superior Court, who is replacing Attorney Aldo J. Russo as designated trial counsel in various pending matters?