

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, MARCH 1, 2022 AT 7:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmember Hon. Harold J. Johnson, Jr., West Ward
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Councilmember Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Council President Kerry J. Coley, East Ward

Also Present: Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Laquana Best, Planning Director
Gerard Long, Acting Fire Director
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Aaron Mizrahi, City Attorney
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office
Tim Walker, County Liaison

Absent: Council Vice President Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilmember Adrienne Wooten, At-Large
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Wendy Sykes, Director of Community Services
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office

The City Clerk asked everyone to recognize a moment of silence

The City Clerk announced the "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall email their statements or questions to citizencomments@orangenj.gov 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 City Clerk announced 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, the Council's Website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org), the City's Website (www.ci.orange.nj.us) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- COVID-19 Update - Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer stated that as of April 2, 2022 all of the County sites will be closed. The City of Orange is working to have sites that will test once or twice a week. The number of cases have increased since the last report. The City of Orange is at 74%

vaccinated, ages 5-11 is 68%, 12-17 is 74%, 18-29 is 75% and 65-80 is 90%. There is a 36% rate of residents who have received their booster vaccines. Ages 5-11 is 6%, 12-17 is 13%, 18-29 is 21%,

COVID-19 Update continued

and 65-80 is approximately 30%. Over 17,000 residents who have received their vaccines and about 6,000 who received boosters. The number of positive cases have gone down since January. The new variant Omicron Sub Virus has been identified in New Jersey two weeks ago. He was asked by a Councilmember if the variants were more dangerous than original virus which made him do some more research. In his research he found the variants are mutating and the precautions that we have in place will work the same from each variants. In January 2021 CDC put out a mandate to wear masks on public transportation. As of Friday, February 25, 2022, the mask mandate on public transportation is no longer in place. Tomorrow, Wednesday March 2, 2022 from 11:30am – 9:00pm at 105 Wilson Place administering vaccines and boosters. There was an event on Monday, February 28th at Wendy's with gift card incentives. Councilmember Weldon Montague, III stated 35 residents were vaccinated and they received gift cards. There were about 100 people who attended and were appreciative of the clothing and toy give away. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross thanked the director for researching the vaccination information and praised the event at Wendy's on Monday on how well it was run. The Director informed Councilmember Weldon Montague, III that he was eligible for a booster after having contracted Covid-19 in December. The rules are constantly changing. Councilmember Harold J. Johnson, Jr. gave praise to Councilmembers Ross and Montague, III for their work on the event (Wendy's on Feb 28th). He asked the Director how someone could get their vaccine card reissued. The Director gave his number as a point of contact 973-789-4013, and he reminded everyone that no matter where you go that your records will be obtainable. Councilmember Ross about his status since he was vaccinated in November. The Director advised he should have blood drawn to check the status. He also stated it looks like there will be a fourth shot coming.

- Millennium Consultants - Grant Writer Services – The Grant writer was not on the call so they will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022
- Resolutions and Ordinances to be presented on the Regular Meeting. –
 - Council President Kerry J. Coley 140-2022, was asked to make an amendment to the Green Team by adding a Councilmember At-Large that Councilmember is Councilmember Ross to the resolution. The City Clerk replied the amendment and all amendments would be announced during the regular meeting.
 - The City Clerk announced amendments to resolutions being presented at the Regular meeting for the record:
 - 125-2022 one truck was added to the resolution
 - 132-2022 recommended by the Budget Consultant, the 4th Whereas clause was amended to say the funds certified are contingent on the adopted budget.
 - 136-2022 recommended by the Budget Consultant, the 9th Whereas clause was amended to say the funds certified are contingent on the adopted budget.
 - 141-2022 recommended by the Budget Consultant, the 4th Whereas clause was amended to say the funds certified are contingent on the adopted budget.
 - Council President Kerry J. Coley asked the Business Administrator, Chris Hartwyk to elaborate and enlighten the public on the Central Orange Redevelopment Area (CORA). The Business Administrator deferred to the Legal Department, Aaron Mizrahi who is prepared to address this concern. He stated that the administration was made aware of an active campaign that has been put out with the intention of misleading the public on ongoing re-examination of existing Central Orange redevelopment area. There was a social media posting falsely indicating that it would be discussed at tonight's Regular Council Meeting – He wanted to state that these postings are false and there is no consideration of making such changes in the Central Orange redevelopment for tonight. The

Planning Board has only conducted approved an Area Needs Study, they are in the early stages. This matter is now in the Law Department for further review and will be presented to the Council at

Council President Kerry J. Coley question continued

a later date as there are a number additional steps that need to be made. He wanted to state that if you want accurate information please do not go to third party sources but go to the City's websites where the most up to date and accurate information is posted with the agenda for the meetings. You can always call any department to get information that you need. He introduced Alex Cirocco who is a new member of the Law Department. He will be working directly with the Police and Fire Department. Council President Kerry J. Coley requested Aaron Mizrahi would take his comments and make a report to be posted to the websites.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Weldon Montague, III and seconded by Councilmember Harold J. Johnson, Jr.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

The next Conference Meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Approved: _____



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Kerry J. Coley
Council President