

## 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, FEBRUARY 1, 2022 AT 7:06 P.M.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Council Vice-President Tency A. Eason, North Ward  
Councilmember Harold Johnson, Jr., West Ward  
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large  
Councilmember Clifford R. Ross, At-Large  
Councilmember Adrienne Wooten, At-Large(7:07pm)  
Council President Kerry J. 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  
Gracia R. Montilus, 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  
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office  
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office

**Absent:** Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward  
Wendy Sykes, Director Community Services  
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk 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](mailto: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](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.

#### MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

The Chief Financial Officer, Nile Clements introduced Francis McEnerney David Gannon and Anthony Branco of PFK O'Connor Davies LP 2020 Calendar Auditors. Mr. Gannon thanked everyone at City Hall for their continued support as he explained the audit, also done on grant funds, usually takes between four and five weeks. There was a Federal and State Single Audit conducted, the city received over \$750,000 in grant funds and an unmodified opinion was issued. Mr. Branco spoke about the City's

City of Orange Township City Council's Website – <https://orangetwpnjcc.org>

overall financials. There was an overall good report in spite of the pandemic. The balance at the end of 2020 was \$4.2 million a decrease from the prior year \$5.2 million. The city used \$3.7 million to fund its 2021 budget. The city approve and the state adopted over \$5 million in special emergency funds due to pandemic. The city's overall net debt was 3.1% and the statutory limit is 3.5%. The water utility fund balance was \$2.3 million dollars a decrease of \$400,000 from the prior year. The city should clear a few outstanding items. Mr. McEnerney added the city must remain vigilant to maintain and he sees a vast improvement in the finances.

The Health Officer, Vinny DeFilippo gave an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic and the new variant Omicron BA2. He stated that New Jersey was high risk but had gone from red to orange in the last week. He gave the most current numbers for the Township of Orange. At the request of Members of Council, he reported the statistics from December 26, 2021 through February 2022. 93% of Orange Residents has received at least one shot of the vaccine 65% Afro American, 27% Latino, and 4% White. Essex County is 45% vaccinated. Vaccination percentages by age: 12-17 64%, 18-29 73%, 30-49 73%, 50-64 85%. 65-79 90%, 80 and up 90%. 15,000 residents received the first shot but only 5,000 have been fully vaccinated putting us at 34% who are completely vaccinated. Come to the health department for material to be distributed. He could not confirm if the variant has been detected in Orange. He informed everyone that there may be a fourth dose coming. Testing and locations to receive the vaccine was shared. Everyone's immune is different so there is no way to tell how long the vaccine will last. Councilmember Ross inquired about the new anti-viral pill which Mr. DeFilippo stated this was very new and information is still not available. There is will also be a three dose vaccine for infants coming soon. Councilmember Johnson, Jr stated St. Matthew AME Church is back to Covid-19 testing.

The City Clerk announced that the resolutions and ordinances to be presented at tonight's meeting are listed on the attached Regular Meeting Agenda.

Councilmember Adrienne Wooten in reference to 59-2022 asked what is what is declared Corona-Virus response and how was this number determined, CFO Niles Clements replied this is an outside account, these funds are for emergency temporary appropriation, remote working and materials needed, applications are still in progress to receive funds. The numbers are an estimated budget. Chris Hartwyk is still applying for any funds that the city would qualify for.

Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr., in reference to ordinance 3-2022 asked the Business Administrator, Chris Hartwyk how this project effects reevaluation. There is no change to the process. Mr. Murray would be able to discuss in further detail.

Council President Kerry J. Coley asked about payments discussed in resolutions 72-2022, 73-2022, 74-2022 and 75-2022. He will not support these resolutions until he can receive further information which was requested via e-mail to the legal department and the Business Administrator.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm was made by Councilmember Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Harold Johnson, Jr.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Joyce L. Lanier  
 City Clerk

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 Kerry J. Coley  
 Council President