

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 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney
Adrian Mapp, Director of Finance
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Vincent Vitiello, Chief of Police
Gerald Long, Fire Director
Marty Mayes, Director of Public Works
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office
Maggie Homere, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, 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 City's Website (www.ci.orange.nj.us) and the Council's Website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: **None.**

REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REVENUE COLLECTION:

- City Clerk's Office- October 2021: \$130.20
- Historic Preservation Commission- October 2021: \$140.00

CONSTABLE REPORTS: **None.**

OPRA REPORTS: **None**

Month of October 2021: 140 OPRA requests received, 120 completed and 20 pending.

CONSTABLE REPORTS: None.

COUNCIL REPORTS –

Orange Police Department – Police Chief Vinny Vitiello reported the following:

- On October 29th there was arrest made and a hand gun recovered.
- ROTC program has many high school students who are motivated.
- November 19th there will be a van to support those who are dealing with drug addictions.
- Illegal parking and speeding have resulted in 150 motor vehicles stops 120 summons issued near Heywood Ave. School.
- Thanked everyone for attending the wake and funeral of officer who passed.
- Officers who completed training will be going to walking post on Main St.

Orange Fire Department – Chief Long reported the following:

- Fire prevention month was October.
- November 11th there was a fire on Scotland Rd., with no injuries.
- November 25th annual Thanksgiving dinner.
- Newark academy illustrated how to handle car accidents.
- November is “Vehicle Rescue” month.
- Attended at drive by with OPD for child with cancer.

Tax Collector- Paula Ferreira reported the following:

- Collection Rate 2017: 92.84
- Collection Rate 2018: 94.77
- Collection Rate 2019: 97.52
- Collection Rate 2020: 98.34

Planning Department- Chris Mobley reported the following:

- Confirming the cameras systems will be able to detect things that are happening in existing properties.

Community Service- Director of Community Services Wendy Sykes reported the following:

- Covid-19 Efforts 2020 V pop grant estimate of \$142,000.00
- 2022 grant estimate of \$291,000.00 went to help local outrage to educate residents on Covid-19 safeties.
- There is still a senior wellness checkup taken place.
- November 19th and 21st turkey give away will take place.
- December 6th tree light ceremony will take place at City Hall.
- Mayors toy giveaway will be approaching, no date as of yet.
- Seniors Christmas celebration will be held December 14th.

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 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 inquired if there were any citizens that wished to make comments. The following citizen commented live:

1. Zonasha Ward- 743 Haxtun Avenue

- Thanked the Orange Police Department for their support with drivers who are speeding in the area of Heywood.
- Allowing the children to have a safe Halloween.
- Shares concerns about providing a long term solution to prevent drivers from speeding in the area.

Thereafter, the City Clerk reported that the following emailed citizen comments received from Jeff Felds have been posted on the website www.orangetwpnjcc.org under the November 15,2021 Council Meeting.

2. Aubrey Murdock aubrey.jn.murdock@gmail.com

My name is Aubrey Murdock, I live at 540 Liberty St. I would like to submit a question regarding "Resolution 479-2021 Central Valley Redevelopment Continuation":

- 1) What has precipitated this resolution and the possible review of this redevelopment plan by the planning board?
- 2) What do the council and business administrator think the advantages or disadvantages are for a continuation of this plan as it stands (as an Area in Need of Redevelopment with Condemnation Plan)?
- 3) Thank you for your consideration. Is the city currently involved in any lawsuit concerning any of the Area in Need of Redevelopment with Condemnation Plans?
- 4) If so, which areas?
- 5) Are these lawsuits ongoing?

3. Daniel Joseph Wiley danieljoseph@orangehuub.org

My name is Daniel Joseph Wiley, Managing Director of The HUUB, located at 35-47 Cleveland Street. As an organization, property owner, and social justice advocate in the City, we would like to submit the following questions & suggestions for the Council:

- 1) With residents recovering from the economic impacts of Covid-19, and many still facing threats of eviction, foreclosure, insurmountable debt, and either new or growing housing

insecurities, what is the City of Orange planning to ensure that residents are protected once moratoriums and other protections are lifted by the State in 2022?

2) As new developments with density come into the city (one of them proposed for Cleveland St.), when will we see policy for renters that: • Creates affordable options for renters in new developments • Protects renters from unlawful evictions • Does not create clusters or pockets of both wealthy and indigent housing • Ensures affordable quality housing for renting families

3) As homeowners face some of the hardest decisions to make because of foreclosure threats and growing utility debts, how will the City be looking to protect homeowners? When the time is right, and we believe that time is now, the following suggestions would like to be discussed: 1) Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance that creates opportunities for families and individuals seeking new affordable housing options that are attached to new housing developments that are built with density, and are granted special permission(s) from the planning/zoning boards. 2) A stronger rent control ordinance that does not grant rent increases without substantial capital improvements to units or common spaces, and also does reward landlords with profits when there are any code violations at the property. 3) A Right to Counsel Program that gives free access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction in landlord and tenant court.

4) The HUUB would like to be involved in any discussions about policy that protects the most vulnerable residents, but also creates new opportunities for the entire City of Orange. The last 20 months have been a collective suffering, and the pandemic continues to create unfortunate circumstances in our state, and our black and brown communities are, unfortunately, still the last to find help in the right direction. Now is the time to plan for a future in Orange that is based on recovery and revitalization, and must include all residents in the process.

4. JEFF FELDS – hardwaredad@aol.com:

OPEN NOVEMBER 3, 2021 QUESTIONS

1. Why the delay in holding a mandatory noticed CY 2021 Best Practices Inventory Response Public Hearing pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2021-17 (Sept. 29, 2021)?
2. What is the status of CY 2021 Best Practices Inventory Response?
3. What is the status of the CY 2020 Audit?
4. What is the status of monthly and quarterly operating and revenue reports prepared under the direction of Orange's Finance Director?
5. What legislative oversight steps has the local governing body taken to combat the low hanging fruit public corruption allegations contained in Ted Sherman's Oct. 31, 2021 Sunday Star Ledger Front Page Article?
6. With the publication of Ted Sherman's front page blistering public corruption expose of Orange, will the local governing body authorize the retention of independent special outside counsel with redevelopment/long term tax exemption/low income housing tax credit law expertise and competence to investigate the public corruption allegations contained in all my Feld related complaints, including pending Remanded Feld X, Feld XIX and Feld XX?

7. Or, will the local governing body continue to act as ostriches burying their heads in the sand while exposing their backsides to their enemies?
8. Who was Orange's Qualified Purchasing Agent when these low-hanging fruit public corruption allegations occurred?
9. Before Orange's new BA arrived in August 2016 shortly after the July 2016 federal raid of the Orange public library, who had access to Mr. Mapp's signature stamp?
10. After our BA's arrival in August 2016, what payment approval reforms did he institute?
11. Does the local governing body have the authority to remove any Director after providing appropriate due process notice and an opportunity to be heard?
12. When will I receive a written response to all my prior outstanding and pending repetitive questions of public interest and importance? FIRST READING
13. Why the delay in adopting the civilian public safety director reform Ord.58-2021 proposed by the BA years ago?
14. If we eliminate the civilian fire director position, why hasn't Orange also eliminated the civilian police director position held by the mayor's brother?
15. What are the anticipated cost savings arising from the elimination of the civilian fire director position?

The City Clerk read into the record Citizen Comments up to the five-minute timeframe allotted to each citizen. As a result, all of the comments submitted by Jeff Felds were not all read into the record.

Motion to close citizen comments by Councilman Montage III, second by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Motion passed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ross commented on the following:

- Rossi paint has moved forward with relocation.
- Parking meters need to be repaired or replaced.
- Hospital site has inappropriate activity taken place inside and is seeking a solution to help clean up the area.
- Brand new PNC Bank 23 Main St. and branch manager has invited the Business Administration and the council to attend the Grand Open.

Council Vice President Eason commented on the following:

- November 17th and 23rd St. Matthew Church will be hosting a Post Office job fair.
- November 16th there will be a first time home buyer seminar.
- Substitute Teachers are needed and they have reduce the requirements down to 30 credits.
- Booster shots will be given out at St. Matthews Church on December 2nd.

Councilman Montague, III commented on the following:

- Budget reduction from each department.

Councilman Johnson, Jr. commented on the following:

- Booster at St. Matthews Church December 2nd.
- Thanked the City Clerk for putting out the newsletters.
- Requesting a presentation from the Orange public library on December 21st.

Councilwoman Wooten commented on the following:

- Event "Cover with Compassion" was successful and gave away wigs to woman with who had hair lost.
- Gave over 150 boxes away of food.
- Trick or Treat held at Orange High School for the children, was peaceful.
- Congratulate deacons on becoming deacons at Bethel Baptist Church.
- 2nd Annual Menorah lighting will be held on December 29th at City Hall.

Councilwoman Summers- Johnson commented on the following:

- Working on changing Church St. and Nassau St. to have no parking only on Sundays due to firefighters cannot go through.
- Working with parents for departure from schools, to come up with a solutions that's safe for children.
- Supporting the business in the city, visiting art gallery in West Ward.
- Southern Comfort under new owners.

Council President Coley commented on the following:

- First position lean take over the hospital.
- Requesting an update from the Orange Public Library.

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 Council Member Coley)
(Postponed at the 06/1/2021, 06/15/2021, 07/01/2021, 08/04/2021, 09/07/2021, 09/21/2021, 10/05/2021, 10/19/2021 & 11/03/2021 Council Meetings) Postpone

**a) Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Weldon Montague III
Second: Councilmember Tency Eason**

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.

**a) Motion to close Citizen Comments: Councilmember Clifford Ross
Second: Councilmember Harold Johnson Jr.**

**b) Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Clifford Ross
Second: Councilmember Harold Johnson Jr.**

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

56-2021 An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 43-2020 relating to salaries and classifications of certain employees of the City of Orange Township to modify the salary range of school traffic guards. (Sponsored by Councilmember Eason)

**a) Motion to close Citizen Comments: Councilmember Clifford Ross
Second: Councilmember Weldon Montague III**

**b) Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Clifford Ross
Second: Councilmember Weldon 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.

11) ORDINANCES-INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

**57-2021 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" Section 200-52-1 Handicapped Parking Spaces. (369 Mechanic Street)
Resend**

**a) Motion to adopt on First Reading: Councilmember Eason Second:
Councilmember Weldon Montague III**

b) Final Reading: December 21, 2021

Roll Call:

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

Coley

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

58-2021 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 4, Article X entitled "Fire Department" to abolish the position of Civilian Fire Director. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Ross & Montague, III)

a) Motion to adopt on First Reading:

Second:

b) Final Reading: December 21, 2021

59-2021 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" Section 200-52 Handicapped Parking Spaces (105 Ward Street).

a) Motion to adopt on First Reading: Councilmembers Clifford Ross

Second: Councilmembers Weldon Montague, III

b) Final Reading: December 21, 2021

Roll Call:

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

Coley

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

12) 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 Resolutions 479-2021 and 480-2021 are being removed from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote.

RESOLUTIONS NO. *470-2021 THROUGH *493-2021

***470-2021 A resolution acknowledging November 2021 as National Diabetes Month in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten & Summers-Johnson)**

- *471-2021** A resolution in the City of Orange Township recognizing December 1, 2021 as World Aids Day 2021. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten & Summers-Johnson)
- *472-2021** A resolution honoring and recognizing Charlene Theresa Motley for her many years of dedicated service within the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten)
- *473-2021** A resolution recognizing November 11, 2021 as Veterans Day in the City of Orange Township and honor all veterans within the geographical regions of the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten & Summers-Johnson)
- *474-2021** A resolution recognizing November as National Family Literacy Month in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten & Summers-Johnson)
- *475-2021** A resolution for the transfer of appropriations. (\$565,000)
- *476-2021** A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, authorizing submission of a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the City of Orange Township Roadway Improvement for 2022 NJDOT Local Transportation Projects Funds Grant- various streets.
- *477-2021** A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, authorizing participation in the Union County Cooperative Pricing Program.
- *478-2021** An omnibus resolution authorizing application for eligible Federal, State, County and private grants in 2021.
- *481-2021** A resolution approving the Bill List for Council Meeting vote on November 15, 2021 dated November 09, 2021 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$11,931,334.00)
- *482-2021** A resolution celebrating the life of Anna Hawkins. (Sponsored by Councilmember Coley)
- *483-2021** A resolution acknowledging December 10, 2021 as Human Rights Day and the week beginning December 10, 2021 as Human Rights Week in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten and Summers-Johnson)

- *484-2021** A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizing application for and acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 from Sustainable Jersey, funded by Gardinier Environmental Fund.
- *485-2021** A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township authorizing submission of an application for hazardous discharge site remediation fund grant funding for 534 Mitchell Street, Orange, New Jersey.
- *486-2021** A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township authorizing submission of an application for hazardous discharge site remediation fund grant funding for 540 Mitchell Street, Orange, New Jersey.
- *487-2021** A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizing payment for emergency traffic signal maintenance and repairs performed by Allan Briteway Electrical Utility Contractors, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$4,907.81.
- *488-2021** A resolution authorizing settlement in the matter of Brian Trovato v. City of Orange Township, Docket No. ESX-L-3563-21 in the amount of ten thousand five hundred dollars (\$10,500.00).
- *489-2021** A resolution amending Resolution No. 92-2021 to authorize additional attorney fees to be paid to Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLP in calendar year 2021 as Special Counsel with regard to various legal matters and litigation regarding the City of Orange Township.
- *490-2021** A resolution authorizing settlement in the matter of Paul Profeta v. City of Orange Township, Docket No. ESX-L-000856-18 in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).
- *491-2021** A resolution authorizing the services of Lamb Kretzer, LLC to represent Orange Police Director Todd Warren in the matter of “Marie Conserve v. City of Orange Township, et al” Docket No. 2:21-CV-0872-SDW-ESK in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for calendar year 2021.
- *492-2021** A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township approving an agreement with NV5 Inc. for professional engineering and design services as part of “Safe Routes to School Program”, in an amount not to exceed \$257,228.90.
- *493-2021** A resolution amending Resolution 338-2021 and authorizing an agreement with Sol Street, LLC, 295 Central Park West, Suite 4B, New York City, New York 10024 for installation of solar

charged benches to be used for announcement of events and programs for a one hundred and eighty day (180) trial period.

**MOTION TO ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA: Councilmember Clifford Ross
Second: Councilmember Harold Johnson Jr.**

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

Motion to adopt by Councilman

***479-2021 A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, authorizing the Planning Board of the City of Orange Township to investigate whether a certain area of the City, known as the Central Orange Redevelopment Area, should continue to be designated as an area in need of redevelopment with condemnation and further directing the Planning Board to hold a public hearing, report recommendations to the Council and prepare an amended redevelopment plan for consideration by the Council.**

Motion to adopt by Councilmember Weldon Montague III, seconded by Councilmember Tency Eason

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

***480-2021 A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, authorizing a cooperative purchasing agreement for services with Johnston Communications Inc. to provide telephone and associated services system equipment, installation and maintenance services for the City of Orange Township Police Department from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$2,598,397.35.**

Motion to adopt by Councilmember Wooten, seconded by Councilmember Johnson Jr.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Passed.

14) NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

15) OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Councilmember Jamie Summer- Johnson
Second: Councilmember Adrienne Wooten

Adjournment Time: 10:17 pm

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Approved:



Joyce L. Lanier,
City Clerk



Kerry J. Coley
Council President