

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, APRIL 19, 2022 AT 7:06 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Council President Kerry J. Coley.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council Vice President Tency A. Eason
Councilmember Harold J. Johnson, Jr.
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III
Councilmember Clifford R. Ross
Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson (Arrived at 7:24 p.m.)
Councilmember Adrienne Wooten
Council President Kerry J. Coley

ALSO PRESENT

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Laquana Best, Planning Director
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Stephanie Flood, Library Director
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Aaron Mizrahi, Law Department (Arrived at 7:11 p.m.)
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor (Arrived at 7:16 p.m.)
Keith Pressey, Director of Recreation
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office
Theodore N. Stephens, III, Acting Essex County Prosecutor
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Wendy Sykes, Director of Community Services
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office

ABSENT

The City Clerk called for a moment of silence

The City Clerk announced "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.

- **Safety Update – Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, III**
Acting Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens expressed his pleasure in addressing the City of Orange Township and thanked Council Vice President Tency A. Eason for the invitation. Acting Prosecutor Stephens, III has been serving in this role for the past three and half years wanted to give an update on safety in Essex County. As the weather is gets warmer, usually the crime rate rises. There has been an increase in juvenile property theft and which is causing law enforcement to take a closer look at polices that may need to be revamped to deal with these issues. “The watchdog” that deal with juveniles focus on rehabilitation as opposed to punishment. This is why criminals recruit juveniles because they are dealt with in a different manner. Looking at the statistics pulled from NJ ROC (Regional Operation Center) run by NJ State Police. For every serious crime it usually takes place with a stolen car. Due to the new Attorney General Pursuit Policy, Officers are not allowed to chase a stolen car without permission of their Supervisor. Car theft can be prevented if you secure your car. Do not leave your key fob in the car. The Prosecutor’s Office is working with the County Executive’s Office to send robo calls asking where is your car fob? There was a discussion about “street rentals” – when a car is stolen and brought back to the neighborhood to rent to someone else. Council President Kerry J. Coley Council inquired about the terrain vehicles. The Officers are working to change legislation. Council Harold J. Johnson, Jr. commented on the Street Rentals. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross commended the Acting Prosecutor on a job well done. He inquired about the duplicate temporary license plates. This is a cause for concerns in our area. Vice President Tency A. Eason thanked the Acting Essex County Prosecutor, Theodore N. Stephens, III, for coming and sharing this important information especially the law concerning officers. Stephens stated there is a meeting taking place tomorrow to review the current police pursuit policy. All 21 Prosecutors will be in attendance.
- **COVID Update – Health Director, Vincent DeFilippo**
As of Saturday the City of Orange Township was in a good area - in the green. As of Saturday night we are in yellow – which is moderate. We are reaching between 8-10 positive cases a day. There are a few outbreaks in the town, in schools and nursing homes. According to the CDC, 2 or more is considered an outbreak. The County sites have extended their opening until at least the end of the month. Thursdays and Fridays from 2pm–7pm, Saturdays from 8am-2pm. They have PCR Test, Booster Vaccines, and Blood Pressure Testing available. The City of Orange have sites open as well, call the Health Office for more information. There are bus rides for the seniors. The BA-2 variants are at 65% which is four times easier to contract this variant. 65% of New Jersey residents are vaccinated, Essex County has 53% that have received boosters. The City of Orange has 40% of the residents that have received boosters. The stats for the City of Orange are as follows: 73% ages 5-11, 78% ages 12-17, 79% ages 18-29, 90% for ages 65 and older. Statistics for residents with one dose: ages 5-7 are at 84%, 12-29 90%, 30-49 89%, 65 and over 97%. Today, April 19th from 6am-8am there was supposed to be a Helicopter Spraying for mosquitos, the weather may have cause a delay. As of May 4th there will be no more plastic bags. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross inquired about mosquito spraying in resident’s backyards and the Health Director replied this could be done. Councilmember Adrienne Wooten inquired about vaccinations for residents who are inbound – this is being started up now and there are bus rides available as well.

The resolutions and ordinances to be presented at tonight’s meeting are listed on the attached Regular Meeting Agenda. If any Council Member wishes to discuss any resolution or ordinance, it may be discussed at this time.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED/AMENDED/REMOVED

Council President Kerry J. Coley

Resolution 215-2022 – This Resolution is asking for an additional \$35,000 for an outstanding invoice but does not have supporting documents. City Attorney Gracia Montilus apologized for not having the supporting documents and some of the bills are outstanding and some in dispute. He requested a close session to discuss the details of this resolution, as it also involves Personnel matters. Councilmember Harold J. Johnson, Jr. asked about the proper process of paying additional/old bills. Chief Financial Officer, Nile Clement explained the process and explained that after three months into the year there is a different process. This bill was presented after three months into a fiscal new year. 216-2022 is a resolution that would put money up for this resolution.

Councilmember Clifford R. Ross

Resolution 216-2022 - Councilmember Clifford R. Ross inquired if this Resolution should be pulled as it is connected to Resolution 215-2022. CFO, Nile Clements explained it was not necessary to remove Resolution 216-2022 because of it being connected to Resolution 215-2022 and that it had other items that were needed to be approved. Once 215-2022 comes back at the next meeting, the items covered in 216-2022 will already be covered.

Council President Kerry J. Coley

Ordinance 25-2022 – Council President asked for an explanation. Public Works Director, Marty Mayes explained Valley Street is being removed from the list of through streets because of the four-way stop signs being installed on four streets along Valley Street.

Councilmember Adrienne Wooten

Ordinance 27-2022 – Councilmember Wooten will be reintroducing the Ordinance 15-2022 as it was voted down in the last Council Meeting and there was language replaced to make sure that no one was offended by such language. The Ordinance is now 27-2022. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross inquired which item was being removed and if this was approved by the City Attorney. Law Department, Aaron Mizrahi, Esq. explained that the Law Department reviewed and has approved and explained further what the legislation is regulating. Council Vice President Tency A. Eason shared her concerns of the section being removed as it does not apply to the City of Orange today. Councilmember Adrienne Wooten explained this was regulating selling to habitual drunkards.

Ordinance 13-2022 is recommended to be voted down as it will be replaced by Ordinance 28-2022

Business Administrator, Chris Hartwyk

Ordinance 29-2022 – This ordinance will be held. Resolution 218-2022, 219-2022 will move forward with Ordinance 28-2022

CFO, Nile Clements

Resolution 220-2022 (WO) – There is a request to Walk-On 220-2022, a special Bill list from Suez, items that are being disputed. The MOA Summary of invoice and Bill list was provided by Nile Clements.

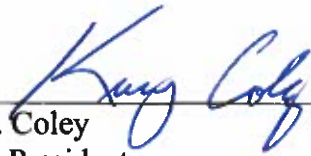
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon Montague, III.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Approved: May 3, 2022



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Kerry J. Coley
Council President