

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, JANUARY 18, 2022 AT 7:03 P.M.

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
Council President Kerry J. Coley

ALSO PRESENT

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Laquana Best, Planning Director
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Gerard Long, Fire Chief
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

ABSENT

Tim Walker, County Liaison
Councilmember Adrienne Wooten
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Stephanie Flood, Library Director
Wendy Sykes, Director of Community Services
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Todd Warren, Police Director

The City Clerk announced a recognition of a moment of silence. Councilmember Summers Johnson asked that we recognize Councilmember Adrienne Wooten as she is attending the trial for her son's homicide. President Coley also wanted to recognize the recent passing of Carol Biggs, a life-long Orange resident on Oakwood Place.

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 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 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 Update - Health Director Vincent DeFilippo**

Director Vincent DeFilippo stated the COVID-19 numbers have been going down and the City has over a 100 positive cases per day. The City is at 74% vaccinated, but we are still considered high and in the red zone. There was a vaccine event for kids at Heywood Avenue and Forrest Ave. Beginning January 24, 2022, the County sites will be closed on Mondays. The hours of operation will be Tuesday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Most of the hospitalizations in New Jersey are due to the Delta variant, and about 15% of the cases are the Omicron variant. The CDC has changed the quarantine guidelines. Last week, there was one death in the City due to COVID-19. Residents should be washing cloth masks daily. There will be a testing and vaccination event on Saturday, January 29th 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Metcalf Pool and on January 27th 2022 from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at HUUB, 35 Cleveland Street, Orange. In New Jersey. There are about 10,000 PRC tests being taken daily. There has been over 200,000 break through cases in New Jersey. There are over 550,000 positive cases in New Jersey's long term facilities. There are 113 schools in New Jersey doing remote learning. Vice President Tency A. Eason inquired when the COVID home testing kits will be available and where can residents obtain them. Councilmember Summers-Johnson stated they would be available at the event in Metcalf Park on January 29th. Director Vincent DeFilippo confirmed that once available, the City will distribute from the Health Department and disseminate to faith-based organizations so everyone would have an equal share. There has been no special instructions on storing the tests. He stated Senator Richard Cody was in Trenton and if tests were available that he would bring some tests to the City. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross stated there is a website where residents can register online to receive free home COVID tests (four per household). Check the website for the information. The kids are at 75% vaccinated and the final numbers will be e-mailed to the Councilmembers.

County Liaison to the City of Orange – Risk Manager Director, Timothy Walker

Director Timothy Walker provided an update on the portable restrooms concerns raised in previous meetings; they are being serviced at Monte Irvin three days a week, but he will raise the concern again at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross raised the concern about the geese which Director Timothy Walker will speak about in the Cabinet and he will follow up with Council on the discussion and resolution, as geese are animals under a protected status. Council President Kerry J. Coley inquired about the three-way stoplight on Oakwood Avenue and Central Avenue, which continues to be a very contentious issue. Director Timothy Walker will speak to Director Sanjeev Varghese tomorrow. Council Weldon Montague, III asked the Director Timothy Walker if he would attend a vendor event in Orange and Director Timothy Walker agreed to attend as there are items that is already in the works.

Resolutions and Ordinances

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.

Council President Kerry J. Coley stated per the Law Department, Resolutions 46-2022, 47-2022, 48-2022, and 52-2022 are being removed.

The City Clerk stated Resolutions 480-2021 and 21-2022 will remain postponed. After the temporary budget is approved, funds can be certified. Resolution 39-2022 will be amended to read "Sponsored by the Orange Municipal". Resolutions 46-2022, 47-2022, and 48-2022 will be returned to

CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2022

Administration. Resolution 52-2022 will be postponed until the next meeting until the funds are certified in the temporary budget.


A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Harold J. Johnson, Jr.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Approved: May 17, 2022



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Kerry J. Cely
Council President