

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 15, 2022 AT 7:03 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 Jamie Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Council President Kerry Coley, East Ward

Also Present: Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Chris Mobley, Planning Department
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Stephanie Flood, Library Director
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief - arrived at 7:27pm
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Avram White, Esq., Law Department
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Keith Pressy, Recreation
Wendy Sykes, Director of Community Services - arrived at 7:27pm
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

Absent: Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large
Laquana Best, Planning Director
Gerard Long, Fire Director
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director

The City Clerk called for a moment of silence and the Council President recognized the passing of City Attorney, Gracia R. Montilus' father.

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.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Caitlin George, Representative from Millennium Consultants – Grant Writer Services, provided an overview of all work performed by Millennium Strategies on behalf of City of Orange Township to date during calendar year 2022 and 2021. They had feedback from FEMA that was used for a better chance at some grants.

2022 Overview**Grant Applications Approved, Funding Awarded**

- NJ Department of Transportation – Safe Streets to Transit Grant Program - Orange Transit Station Underpass and Railroad Place Improvement Project \$570,000.00 Feb 2022
- NJ Department of Transportation - Transit Village Grant Program - Orange Train Station Improvement Project \$100,000.00 January 2022
- NJ Department of Community Affairs – Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG) Program - Metcalf Park Improvement Project \$75,000.00 Jan 2022

Grant Applications in Progress

- Rolling - Firehouse Subs Foundation - Public Safety Grant \$50,000.00 7/12/2021
- 4/8/2022 - NJ Department of Health (DOH) – Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Grants Program FY23 \$291,042.00 1/29/2022
- 4/30/2022 - NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety - State and Community Highway Safety Grant (Federal Funding) Varies 1/29/2022
- 4/30/2022 - NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety - Pedestrian Safety, Enforcement and Education Fund Grant Program (State Funding) Varies 1/29/2022

Grant Applications Submitted, Pending Review

- 2/4/2022 - FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Eight Firefighters \$2,199,469.28 Fall 2022
- 1/21/2022 - NJLPS Summer Expansion Program Mayor's Circle of Excellence Summer Camp \$14,600.00 Summer 2022
- 12/29/2021 - Essex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Thomkins Street Improvement Project \$415,600.00 Summer 2022
- 12/29/2021 - Essex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Laurel Street Improvement Project \$218,700.00 Summer 2022
- 12/17/2021 - FEMA - Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Portable Radios \$489,521.20 Summer 2022
- 11/24/2021 - NJ Department of Transportation - Local Transportation Projects Fund Grant Program Various Street Improvements \$1,787,306.16 Spring 2022
- 11/5/2021 - Sustainable Jersey – Gardinier Environmental Fund Grants Program Orange Solar Panel Replacement Project \$50,000.00 Spring 2022

Other Grant Opportunities Sent to Client

- Rolling - NJ Economic Development Authority – NJ Zero Emission Incentive Program (NJ ZIP), Amount Varies 1/25/2021 No Project Identified
- Rolling - PSEG – Electric Vehicle Charging Program, Amount Varies 2/9/2022 Pending Decision to Apply
- Rolling - NJ LPS Safe and Secure Communities Grants Program, Amount Varies 10/25/2021 Determined Not Eligible
- 4/14/2022 - New Jersey Historic Trust (NJHT) – Capital Preservation Grants \$750,000.00 12/10/2021 Pending Decision to Apply
- 4/14/2022 - New Jersey Historic Trust (NJHT) – Historic Site Management Grants \$50,000.00 12/10/2021 Pending Decision to Apply
- 4/14/2022 - New Jersey Historic Trust (NJHT) – Heritage Tourism Planning Grants \$75,000.00 12/10/2021 Pending Decision to Apply
- 3/21/2022 - AARP Community Challenge Amount Varies 1/30/2022 Pending Decision to Apply
- 3/4/2022 - NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) – Electrification Projects Grants Program Amount Varies 2/9/2022 Application Cancelled
- 3/1/2022 - NJ DHTS Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund (DDEF) Grants Program Amount Varies 12/13/2021 No Project Identified
- 2/11/2022 - Sustainable Jersey and PSEG Foundation Small Grants Program \$20,000.00 12/13/2021 No Project Identified

- 2/11/2022 - Sustainable Jersey Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program Sustainable Jersey Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program 12/13/2021 No Project Identified
- 1/21/2022 - NJ DOH COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Grants Program Varies 12/13/2021 No Project Identified
- 1/15/2022 - NJ DCA LEAP Challenge Grants Program Varies 11/1/2021 No Project Identified

2021 Overview

Grant Applications Approved, Funding Awarded \$2,750,476.00

- NJ LPS Bolstering Police-Youth Trust Grants Program Junior Police Academy \$16,500.00 December 2021
- NJ Department of Transportation - Municipal Aid Grant Program Orange Various Streets Improvement Project \$782,700.00 October 2021
- NJ Department Environment Protecting - Green Acres Local Government Land Acquisition and Park Development Grants Program Military Park Improvement Project \$1,200,000.00 October 2021
- US Department of Justice - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Police Overtime \$27,609.00 October 2021
- NJ DHTS State and Community Highway Safety Grant (Federal Funding) Pedestrian Safety Police Overtime \$20,000.00 October 2021
- Essex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Orange Ward Street Repavement Project \$280,000.00 August 2021
- Essex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Orange Senior Bus Project \$70,000.00 August 2021
- NJ Department of Health – Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Grants Program COVID-19 Vulnerable Populations Outreach \$291,042.00 June 2021
- NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety – Click It or Ticket Mobilization Seatbelt Enforcement Police Overtime \$7,500.00 May 2021
- NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety – Distracted Driving Statewide Crackdown Grant Police Overtime \$9,000.00 April 2021
- NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety (HTS) State and Community Highway Safety Grant Education on Pedestrian Safety \$20,000.00 April 2021
- NJ Division of Criminal Justice – State Body Armor Replacement Fund Program Police Body Armor \$20,625.00 January 2021
- NJ Division of Highway and Traffic Safety– Distracted Driving Statewide Crackdown Grant Police Overtime \$5,500.00 January 2021

Grant Applications in Progress

- 12/29/2021 Essex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Varies 11/15/2021
- 12/29/2021 Essex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Varies 11/15/2021
- 1/6/2022 Firehouse Subs Foundation - Public Safety Grant \$50,000.00 7/12/2021

Grant Applications Submitted, Pending Review \$3,309,139.86

Councilmember Jamie Summers Johnson was pleased to see the report and requested a copy be sent to the Clerk’s office. She also inquired if there were grants for residents who lived in historic districts to help with costly repairs. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross asked what prompts an application to be made and can these grants be applied for each year. Caitlin George spoke about the green acres project and stated they would make applications at the request of Council if the grant applied to the needs of the city. There are some grants that are reoccurring and those are applications are made automatically.

COVID-19 Update

Health Officer, Vincent DeFilippo stated that Essex County is now in the green and the City of Orange is at the 79 percentile, our numbers went up about 1%. Ages 5-11 are at 70%, 6-12 are at 78%, 13-18 79% 65 and over 91%. 39% have received Booster shots. We are averaging 4-7 people a day positivity rate. He gave a reminder that on April 2, 2022 the County sites will be closed. The new strand BA2 has been identified in the city. If you are exposed to someone with the virus, wait 72 hours to be tested. He gave a description of different types of masks and reminded everyone to keep the same precaution as the variants keep coming.

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.

The City Clerk announced there is one Walk-On Resolution 164-2022.

Councilmember Jamie Summers Johnson requested 4-2022 be postponed.

Council President, Kerry J. Coley requested a review of Ordinance 13-2022, Resolutions 158-2022 and 162-2022. Business Administrator, Chris Hartwyk stated Ordinance 13-2022 is to pay for emergency repairs to the water and sewer system during the 2021 calendar year. We budget a certain amount, over 1.5 was paid on top of this. Some of these funds are eligible for FEMA reimbursement because it is related to the IDA storm. This is considered an issuance of emergency refunding bonds (not in the traditional manner). An application needs to be made and approved by the Finance Board for these refunding bonds. Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements stated Resolution 158-2022 is incrementally increasing the budget adding grants to the budget that have been accepted this year and Resolution 162-2022 is the application that was mentioned by Business Administrator, Chris Hartwyk in explaining Ordinance 13-2022. Council President Kerry J. Coley inquired about a line item in 158-2022 ILSA after school programs. Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements stated it is for staff. Recreation, Keith Pressey stated the after school program will start this upcoming Monday. Council President, Kerry J. Coley asked if these programs can start up earlier in the school year, August so they can run through the year.

Councilmember Clifford R. Ross wanted to discuss Resolutions 156-2022 and 157-2022, the increase in fees will they carry through the duration of the law suit or will there be another increase needed and how close we are to a settlement. Avraim White, Esq. stated this is not easy to predict. He suggested an Executive Session to discuss strategy and procedures. Council President Kerry J. Coley inquired about the total spent thus far and is this number was not available at the time. The fees are being paid by the PEGIF. Councilmember Harold J. Johnson, Jr. inquired is there a pool of funds to cover these cases and this should have more clarifications. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk gave some clarification to the PEGIF.


Library Director, Stephanie Flood stated the library has been working with the Administration to improve the conditions of the Library from a discretionary funds. There was a surplus from 2021 which was used to replace the boiler and some pipes and to establish a capital improvement fund to make repairs to the historic building. They want to replace the roof and air-conditioning which will cost approximately \$350,000 and a firm estimate of \$190,000 to replace air conditioning and electrical upgrades. They are getting estimates to repair the roof, and power wash the building. Audits have been completed for 2015-2017, 2018-2021 are in the process of being completed. The current operating hours are Mon.-Fri. from 9am-5pm. The impact on the budget due to the pandemic cause the library not close on weekends. Looking forward to discussing the budget in the near future to open reopen on the weekend. The Board submitted their Annual Report which can be sent upon request. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross stated the website needs to be refreshed and the phone number needs to be updated which is on the list of items to be addressed in about a month. He also asked if there were any grants applied for to help with funding. The repairs that were needed could not get funding for but library did receive I-Pads for the public utilize for things such as tele health. Library Director, Stephanie Flood would love to get grants for the historic items. The plumbing and boiler were the important items. The library is taking advantage of free programs such as chess and hair braiding. The budget is an issue so the library is focusing on free programs. Councilmember Jamie Summers

Johnson congratulated her on the progress. Council Vice President Tency A. Eason inquired about the Friends of the Library which the Library is interested in bring this back. Councilmember Harold J. Johnson, Jr. inquired about the Trustee report, does it speak to the audit. Council Vice President Tency A. Eason inquired if the endowment was depleted, requested an update next month, and that a list of current Trustees be forwarded. The endowment still exists but having three Trustees is a requirement but there is only one at the time. Nicole Williams attended the last meeting to try to refresh the endowment. Council President Kerry J. Coley asked if there is a full complement of Trustees and how many is needed. Library Director, Stephanie Flood responded there is at least two needed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Jamie Summers Johnson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Approved: April 5, 2022



 Joyce L. Lanier
 City Clerk



 Kerry J. Coley
 Council President