

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 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022 AT 7:06 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III
Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross
Councilmember Adrienne Wooten
Council President Tency A. Eason

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
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Christopher Mobley, Planning Department
Aaron Mizrahi, Law Department
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney
Keith Pressey, Director of Recreation
Wendy Sykes, Director of Community Services
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office
Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor

ABSENT

The City Clerk announced 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 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 stated that 45% of positive cases are the Delta Variant and 45% is the Omicron Variant. The City of Orange numbers are high, our long-term care facility numbers are high, and even in some of our camps. The leading causes of death between March 2020 through October 21st, Heart Disease was first, Cancer was second and COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death. Those vaccinated ages 5-11 are 75%, ages 12-17 are 80%, 18 and older are 81%, and 65 and older are 90%. The City of Orange residents who have had one dose are at 40%. Essex County residents are 50% vaccinated. The new concern is the Monkey Pox. As of last Friday, the City of Orange is at number 90 in New Jersey and as of two hours ago we were at 165. Essex County is number two in New Jersey with Monkey Pox cases and Hudson County is number one. The World Health Organization has declared this as a public health emergency. There are 142 cases of Lyme Disease in New Jersey. The Department of Health is trying to pass a program in the school education for Kindergarten to Second graders to do educate on Ticks and Lyme Disease. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired if there is a vaccination for Monkey Pox. Director Vincent DeFilippo stated the city does not offer a vaccine, but residents can get the vaccine if they have a primary care doctor, or they can go to the local Health Department. If they do not want to go to the Health Department, there are five clinics one can visit to be tested: The Sonic Health Clinic, The Mayo Clinic, The Quest Lab, Lab Corp, and Angus Science Labs. Residents can visit the city website for more information. Monkey Pox is more contagious than Covid-19. To prevent being infected with Monkey Pox, use the same precautions as with Covid-19. Domestic animals can transmit Monkey Pox as well. There is a waiting list in Newark to receive the vaccine for Monkey Pox. The sites to receive a vaccine are posted on the website. The vaccines are not effective until two weeks after the second dose. Council President Tency A. Eason inquired about the County flier with Monkey Pox vaccine sites which is on the website. Director Vincent DeFilippo stated the three other Monkey Pox vaccine sites not listed are Asbury Park (732-502-5100), Jersey City (201-706-3480) and Newark. Council President Tency A. Eason also asked if there was any consideration in getting rid of the deer which it is not due to near mishap in previous attempts. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired about the lantern flies which can be deterred by obtaining a \$4 chemical powder agent at Walmart called Sevin or combing 2 ½ teaspoons of vegetable oil, 2 ½ teaspoons pure liquid soap of and a gallon of distilled water. Councilmember Adrienne Wooten stated lantern flies were reported with photographs and location late last week to the DEP with no response. Her neighbor's tree is infested, and they are coming to her tree. Director Vincent DeFilippo suggested spraying the tree. Director Keith Pressey stated the Mosquito Squad has a service that you can subscribe to and they will treat the trees.

Business Administrator and Director of Planning

Director Laquana Best stated as we bring in new redevelopment throughout the city, there are areas that may be in need of redevelopment but aren't practical to dedicate as part of a bigger redevelopment area because of the proximity or because of the number of parcels that's involved. To solve that issue, the local redevelopment law allows us to designate an area that is not necessarily defined by continuous blocks but by specific block and lot. In this instance we have identified about 112 parcels that would fit into this category in what is known as the scattered sites, and it needs a study. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley stated some of the properties listed in the resolution have been rehabilitated years ago and people are living in them. How can the city move forward with these type of plans with properties listed that are occupied? He would feel more comfortable if the list was amended removing the parcels which are known to be occupied. Director Laquana Best stated the purpose of the study is to identify which parcels qualify. This is authorization is for a study not a destination. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III inquired about the cost associated with the study. Director Laquana Best stated the cost of the study are incorporated in the monthly fees that of the contract. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert inquired about the criteria used to create the list presented. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated during discussion or review with existing redevelopment plans or projects, properties will come to the attention of the planner or administration that need to be looked at from the standpoint of a rehab or in need of redevelopment study. This does not mean that the properties are not lived in or not. It means there are properties that have been identified that have either been excluded inadvertently from a redevelopment area or which are under performing or which may have the potential to be included in the scattered sight development. That is what the study does, it takes an in-depth look at each of the parcels to determine whether they meet the qualifications. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert inquired who would be included in the study as there were some concerns with the PSE&G project. Director Laquana Best stated the PSE&G application was not a part of a study. Business Chris Hartwyk stated the study is defined by the statue, it must be undertaken by a planner and certain guidelines must be followed. A report is presented to the Planning Board, then there is a public hearing on the report and then it is presented to the City Council where there is a public hearing. The City Council can direct community meetings on the report before they act. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert expressed concern about properties presented under new ownership that have been making improvements and they are also affordable housing. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated the Administration has demonstrated a substantial track record in preserving low- and moderate-income housing. The buildings that Councilmember Hilbert is referring to on Lincoln have request to be included in the scattered sight development study as there are benefits that could help them in making improvements.

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 ON SECOND READING

40-2022 An ordinance to supplement the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" to regulate the use of electric scooters. (Sponsored by Council Member Ross)

There is a recommendation to change the age from 18 to 17, keep the public hearing open, readvertise and put on the September meeting.

42-2022 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, creating a parking authority in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:11A-1 et seq.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley requested a full presentation, and he will not be in support until the presentation is given. Council President Tency A. Eason stated the Council will act tonight and a more detailed presentation will be given at the next meeting in September. Councilmember Adrienne Wooten inquired if this is on second reading, if there were changes the Council wanted the Ordinance could be amended which they can. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated the legislation creates a Parking Authority for the purpose of operating, maintaining and managing all parking facilities that the city own. This will include parking lots, metered spots, and the new addition of the garage levels at Crane, Lincoln, and the Recreation Center. The Commission would be composed of seven Commissioners, five appointed by Councilmembers and two by the mayor. The Commissioners will run the Parking Authority once it is formed. There are several steps that must be taken from a planning perspective between now and the end of the year. The city will have to enter into an agreement with the Parking Authority regarding the management, operations, and enforcement. The Parking Authority ultimately must be self-supporting. In the first year or two it may need assistance included in the City's budget, but once they start the revenue collection, they will become self-supporting included with-in the agreement, revenue sharing. The city will maintain control over parking fines and regulations on streets by ordinance. The Parking Authority would make recommendations on altering some ordinances and it would relieve the city of dealing with parking issues. They will hold regular public meetings and must abide by the same open public meetings act that the City Council abide by, and they must be audited by and independent auditor. The agreement is an on-going relationship between Parking Authority and Council. The Commissioners are volunteers. There will be prep time between approval and the actual start time. The Executive Directors salary will be set by the Commissioners. Council can determine which five Councilmembers set the initial appointments.

RESOLUTIONS

There were minor adjustments to a few resolutions concerning certification of funds. Resolutions 313-2022 and 340-2022 are the same. 313-2022 was postponed from the last meeting because the certification of funds was not attached. These will be discussed in Executive Closed Session: 313-2022, 337-2022, 338-2022, 339-2022, and 340-2022.

326-2022 A resolution recognizing domestic violence as a public health crisis and October 2022 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. (Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)

327-2022 A resolution recognizing ACCESS Family Services as a formidable domestic violence service provider in the community. (Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)

There will be an action to this resolution, Council President Tency Eason suggested partnering with The Lime House.

328-2022 A resolution honoring the life and service of Mr. John R. Harris, Sr. to the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)

Councilmember Adrienne Wooten

336-2022 A resolution authoring the appointment of Tamara Robinson as the Deputy Municipal Clerk for the City of Orange Township.

Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten had questions and this will be discussed in the Executive Closed Session.

337-2022 A resolution amending Resolution No. 71-2022 to authorize additional attorney fees for Michael A. Armstrong & Associates, LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter, "Anthony Carey v. City of Orange Township, et al." Docket No. ESX-L-002475-20 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

338-2022 A resolution amending Resolution No. 462-2021 to authorize additional attorney fees for Lamb Kretzer, LLC, as special counsel in Calendar year 2022 with regard to "Tyshammie L. Cooper v. City of Orange Township, Mayor Dwayne D. Warren and Louis Copeland" Docket No. ESX-L-006733-21 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

339-2022 A resolution amending Resolution No. 463-2021 to authorize additional attorney fees for David C. Stanziale, LLC, as special counsel in Calendar Year 2022 with regard to "Tyshammie L. Cooper v. City of Orange Township, Mayor Dwayne D. Warren and Louis Copeland" Docket No. ESX-L-006733-21 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

340-2022 A resolution renewing a professional service agreement with David C. Stanziale, LLC as special counsel to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter, "Steven Campione and Amy Campione v. City of Orange, a Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey", Docket No. ESX-L-6795-18, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for Calendar Year 2022.

These resolutions will be discussed in Executive Closed Session and then Council will take action.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne Wooten

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Approved: September 20, 2022



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason
Council President