

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 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022 AT 7:02 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present:

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Councilmember Adrienne Wooten, At-Large (*Arrived at 7:10pm*)
Council President Tency A. Eason, North Ward

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
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director (*Arrived at 7:30pm*)
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Aaron Mizrahi, Law Department
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Office
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Todd Warren, Police Director
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office
Tim Walker, Essex County Liaison

Absent:

Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

The City Clerk announced a Moment of Silence. Council President Tency A. Eason requested all to stand as we dedicate the moment of silence to Latrell Dunkin. He was a star basketball player in East Orange who was killed yesterday. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert asked that Julftson Remy also be acknowledged as he was an Orange resident who was also killed recently.

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 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 July 13, 2022, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and on 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.

The City Clerk polled the Councilmembers to approve hearing presentations from Tim Walker, County Liaison and Todd Warren Police Director and all Councilmembers consented.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

COVID Update

Health Director Vincent DeFilippo stated a couple of weeks ago the numbers were very low in the City of Orange, and currently in the orange and the numbers are increasing. There were fifteen positive cases just today. The Covid variance between the Delta, Omicron, the B161 and BA5. Do not let your guard down and stay vigilant. Current numbers for vaccination: 2yrs olds, less than 10%; 3-4yrs old, less than 10%; 5yrs old, 80%; 12yrs old 83%; 18yrs old, 80%; and 65yrs old, 90%. As of October 29th the County is closing down their site but the mobile clinic will come to the City of Orange every Wednesday and Vaccines are available which include the new protein spike. The Mobile clinic will not be administering tests. There are about 720 cases of Monkey Pox in the state of New Jersey and none have been reported in the City of Orange. Council President Tency A. Eason inquired about the information from the County on Lantern Flies which has been posted to the website. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired if the Lantern Flies hibernate during the winter which they do not. Residents should still spray when they encounter the flies.

Essex County

Tim Walker, County Liaison was open to any comments and questions from Council and Orange Residents. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross asked for an update on the traffic concerns on Central Avenue. Mr. Walker had conversations and visited the site about the sign that was posted and has not heard further complaints. There is a cabinet meeting tomorrow and he will raise this concern with the Mr. Vargas, the Director of DPW. What needs to happen now is a full Traffic Study to find out what the appropriate response would be. Council Tency A. Eason stated there is a development on the corner of Oakwood and Central and requested that Mr. Walker touch base with the developer. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert thanked Mr. Walker for the work done on Scotland Road potholes. She also requested more signage on Scotland Rd. from Franklin to Mitchell in order to reduce the speeding. Council President Tency A. Eason inquired about the Senior Center in Monte Irvin Park which Mr. Walker will get the information. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about the Senior Center, referring to the Center in Weequahic Park. He hopes that Orange can follow suit.

Police Department

Police Director Todd Warren stated that in an attempt to change the face of policing, extend an olive branch to the community and to bridge the gap with the youth, the department has created a Public Safety After School Program. This program will begin October 11th from 3pm-6pm (Monday - Friday) starting at Oakwood and Lincoln Avenue School. The goal is to go to all schools that do not offer after school programs. The activities will consist of: Double Dutch, Basketball, Tutoring, Drills, and Female Empowerment to name a few. Fire and Police personnel will serve as mentors, coaches and just be present. This is a collaboration between Orange Board of Education, Orange Public Safety, and Christian Pentecostal. Due to the high demand there are efforts to make this a year round program. Councilmembers Montague, III and Ross are being enlisted to collaborate as well. The department is trying to establish cohesion with the Fire Department. They are looking into early drop off for parents who need the extra time.

ORDINANCES

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 since the 06/01/2021 Council Meeting)

This ordinance will remain postponed

47-2022 An ordinance to amend and supplement the Code of the City of Orange Township to create Chapter 72 entitled “Commercial Hours of Operation – Main Street”. (Amended) (Sponsored by Council Member Eason) (Postponed at the 09/20/2022 Council Meeting)

Council President Tency A. Eason stated this will be postponed. The Law Department and the Legislative Research Officer will make amendments.

48-2022 An ordinance to amend Chapter 211, entitled Special Needs Registry Section 211-5 of the City of Orange Township Municipal Code. (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten) (Postponed at the 09/20/2022 Council Meeting)

Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten requested this ordinance be postponed and amended.

54-2022 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. (60 South Jefferson Street)

55-2022 An ordinance amending Chapter 150, “Peace and Good Order”, Article 1, “Disorderly Conduct Generally”, Section 150-1 “Unoccupied Buildings to be Locked; Enforcement and 150-9 “Indecent Exposure; Obscene Literature or Plays”. (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten and the Orange Municipal Council)

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37p.m.

Approved: January 3, 2023



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason
Council President