

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP

NEW JERSEY

THIS IS THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD VIA AUDIO-VIDEO CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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
Council President Tency A. Eason, North Ward

Also Present: Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney (*Arrived at 7:55pm*)
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor (*Arrived at 7:17pm*)
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Office
Avram D. White, Esq., Law Department
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

Absent: Laquana Best, Planning Director
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief

The Clerk announce 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 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2022 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the October 4, 2022 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne Wooten and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

December 20, 2022 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the December 20, 2022 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hon Adrienne Wooten

Motion Adopted

REPORTS**DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REVENUE COLLECTION**

There were no Department Monthly Revenue Collection.

CONSTABLE REPORTS

There were no Constable Reports.

OPRA REPORTS

There were no OPRA Reports.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

Finance Committee

Council President Tency A. Eason stated Ordinance 24-2021, and 61-2022 will remain postponed. Ordinance 66-2022 will be held over until the next meeting to add changes.

Public Works

Director Marty Mayes stated the department is working on ongoing projects. Colgate Park Pool is being renovated and plastered despite the weather. The other pools in the city have also been updated. There is a lot of movement at Military Park which will continue until the weather causes it to stop, but will begin again in the spring. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired about signs at request of Father Miguel. Director Mayes will respond to the status of the signs when he returns from vacation on Thursday. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III inquired about pumps and the brining machines. Director Marty Mayes stated the pumps need to be inspected and filled. The tanks for the brining machine has arrive but they must be mounted to a platform. The department has gone out to bid for the platform. If it arrives in time the brining will be used this year. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about the gas contract and when the contract expires. Director Marty Mayes stated the contract is through the CoOp, Petroleum Traders and Griffith Allied, and the contracts expired and need to be redone. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross stated the department did a good job when there was an expected storm, and asked about the garbage contracts. The bid specifications for the garbage contractors were completed last week and will be published within the next week. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about the ordinance that was recently passed in reference to garbage collection and how it will be rolled out which is included in the bid specifications. He also inquired about community notifications. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated they are working on notification including a summary of the new ordinance and fines. There will be hand delivered pamphlets and meetings by ward, and meetings with business owners and multi-family buildings.

Fire Department

Police Chief Derrick Brown gave congratulations to the members of the department who welcomed new babies in December. He offered condolences to employees of the City of Orange who suffered loss. Chief Brown stated Public Safety for Police and Fire held a celebration of giving Toys for Tots on Thursday, December 22nd in the lobby of the Municipal Court. The department responded to a fire, all residents were vacated from the property, no injuries and the property was saved. There were thirty-five occupants displaced. This took place the same day as the Toy for Tots.

Finance Department

Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements stated there is a very important resolution on tonight's agenda. The resolution is for the adoption of our current fund and water and sewer temporary budget appropriations for the beginning of 2023 until we adopt the 2023 year budget. These appropriation will be in the percentage of 26.5% of our prior year budget. This gives the City operating expenses until the 2023 budget is adopted.

Tax Collector

Director Paula Ferreira gave highlights from the tax sale. There were 1,266 properties on the initial tax sale list, 759 properties paid prior to the tax sale, 507 properties went into the tax sale, 481 properties sold to outside buyers, and 26 properties were struck off to the city. There was a certificate amount of \$2,070,347.79 and we got a total premium amount of \$4,119,900.00. The city had a successful sale. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross requested the report be sent to the Clerk's Office and forwarded to Councilmembers

Tax Assessor

Director Chris Murray stated the department is working on final changes before the books are closed on Friday. January 10th the department will sign off on the book and that is when the new assessments will go into effect. Councilmember Adrienne Wooten inquired about tractor trailer trucks parked across from the Bravo Supermarket and if the space is assessed as a parking lot. Director Chris Murray stated it was assessed as a vacant lot. Changing the assessment would open the city to litigation. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated to change the assessment, the city would have to check the zoning to make sure the use is appropriate for the zoning. The lot is owned by the same people who own Bravo Supermarket. The Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk will speak with Zoning to check on this.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no Communications or Petitions.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The City Clerk announced that a "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall be allowed to participate in this portion of the Council Meeting via the audio call in number and video conferencing platform by stating their name and address when directed to do so by the Council President. All public comments submitted though electronic mail or written letter before the meeting shall be read aloud by the City Clerk. The City Council reserves the right to respond to not respond during the meeting to any citizen's questions or comments. If the Council wishes to address any comments, it shall be done during the remote public meeting.

Debbie Bryant of 456 Orange Road had a question regarding the tax list and if she could gain access to it. Director Paula Ferreira stated Ms. Bryant should email her request to taxcollector@orangenj.gov.

Zonasha Ward of 743 Hauxton Ave inquired if Veolia is taking over for Suez and if there was a presentation in regards to the switch to inform residents. Residents are experiencing trouble with water bills. They are not accustomed to the bill and assume there is a scam. Some have received letters stating they would receive a lien on their home, back payments and late fees. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated there was no switch, Veolia has acquired Suez and residents were sent a letter. The department will send out further notification.

Aisha Samuel of 401 Highland Terrace inquired about driveway blocking as this is an ongoing issue. Council President Tency A. Eason asked if she called Ticket and Tow which she has and believes there should be new signs. There is an ordinance that includes ticket and tow and fines on the next meeting that will address this.

Tamara Coley of 251 Elmwynd Drive stated there were a few incidents she wanted to discuss. There are individuals who perpetually doing donuts on her block and it is a public nuisance and a safety hazard. She is looking for a solution such as speed bumps or cameras. Council Tency A. Eason gave Ms. Coley her phone number to call offline and send the footage that she has (973-868-8244). Councilmember Jamie B. Summers Johnson was not aware of this concern and will look into it. Ms. Coley requested that an officer be stationed there but was told no.

Eyesha Marable 291 Elmwynd Drive came in support of Ms. Coley and requests police presence and speed humps. Council President Tency A. Eason stated Director Marty Mayes will look into the speed bumps

Fire Chief Derrick Brown wanted to add that EMS service for the city has been changed to University Hospital as of 12 midnight 1/1/2023. He thanked Saint Clare's for the past service. They will be located in the same place.

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross stated as we begin 2023 he will be focused on a timely lean 2023 budget that will help stabilize our tax base, the development of the recreation center on Main Street, the planning and development to the hospital site, movement toward already approved Parking Authority, and the roll out for the garbage plan to keep the city clean and rodent free.

Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III stated he has already utilized University Hospital because his father is not well. Keep him and his family in prayer.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert wished all a Happy New Year and she is looking forward to the work on the 2023 budget.

Councilmember Jamie B. Summers offered her prayers to family of Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bill's. She gave her number 862-272-1155 to the residents to keep Council aware of issues. The speeding problem in the city needs to be addressed especially around schools.

Councilmember Adrienne Wooten wished all Happy Holidays. She asked for prayers of City Hall employees who suffered loss and the football player from the Bills who suffered a heart attack on the field. She will host a "Coffee and Conversations" Saturday, 12:20pm at the Brewery. Blessing to her Council colleagues and we are off to a great start to a fantastic year.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired who we would speak to as 300 Oakwood Ave needs 24 hour security as required by ordinance. The Business Administrator will speak to the building owner. Councilman Coley also inquired if it is illegal, improper, or good practice for a full time director to have a full time position at another municipality. The Business Administrator stated this would be something that has to be looked at more closely.

Council President Tency A. Eason wished all a Happy New Year and thanked all for working as a team. 98 High Street is also fighting for a 24 hour security. The Ordinance needs to be sent to the owners.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

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)

A motion to postpone Ordinance 24-2021 was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers Johnson

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Postponed

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

61-2022 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. (352 Mechanic St.)
(Postponed at the 11/01/2022 Council Meeting)

A motion to postpone Ordinance 61-2022 was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne Wooten

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Postponed

66-2022 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, to amend and supplement Chapter 200 of the Code of the City of Orange Township entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”. (Sponsored by Councilmember Eason) *(Postponed at the 12/20/2022 Council Meeting)*

A motion to postponed Ordinance 66-2022 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Postponed

CONSENT AGENDA

ALL ITEMS LISTED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS A COUNCIL MEMBER SO REQUESTS, IN WHICH EVENT, THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE OF THE AGENDA.

RESOLUTIONS NO * 1-2023 THROUGH *15-2023

- *1-2023 A resolution certifying compliance with the directive of the Division of Local Government Services, regarding the annual audit for the Calendar Year 2021.
- *2-2023 A resolution appointing Leonor Young as a member to the Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee for Calendar Year 2023 Municipal Budget process. (Sponsored by Councilman Ross)
- *3-2023 A resolution authorizing the adoption of current fund and water/sewer utility fund temporary budget appropriations for the beginning of 2023 prior to the adoption of CY 2023 Budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.
- *4-2023 A resolution authorizing a refund of twenty five dollars and zero cents paid by Elyssa Pierre- Le Bris for Skills and Drills Basketball program sponsored by the Orange Recreation Division paid online reference receipt number 3837001392 date 9/30/2022.
- *5-2023 A resolution authorizing a refund of twenty five dollars and zero cents paid by Alexandra Laurore for Skills and Drills Basketball program sponsored by the Orange Recreation Division paid online reference receipt number 3837615042 date 10/11/2022.
- *6-2023 A resolution authorizing a refund of twenty five dollars and zero cents paid by Renee Duncan for Skills and Drills Basketball program sponsored by the Orange Recreation Division paid online reference receipt number 3838042018 date 10/17/2022.
- *7-2023 An omnibus resolution authorizing application for eligible federal, state, county and private grants in 2023.
- *8-2023 A resolution authorizing the services of David C. Stanziale, LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township and Christopher Hartwyk in the matter, "Keri Payne v. City of Orange Township, et al" Docket No. ESX-L-006850-22 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 for Calendar Year 2023.
- *9-2023 A resolution authorizing the services of Lamb Kretzer, LLC, to represent Sergeant Rene Wilson in the matter, "Keri Payne v. City of Orange Township, et al" Docket No. ESX-L-006850-22 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 for Calendar Year 2023.
- *10-2023 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to submit certain project applications for inclusion within the County of Essex Community Development Block Grant application for the year 2023.
- *12-2023 A resolution approving the Bill List for Council meeting vote on January 03, 2023 dated December 28, 2022 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$4,452,084.37)
- *13-2023 A resolution amending Resolution No. 51-2021 entitled "A resolution designating Lincoln Avenue at Mountainview Avenue and ending at Lincoln Avenue and Fairview as Adekunle James Way – Memoriam." (Sponsored by the Orange Municipal Council)
- *14-2023 A resolution authorizing a one (1) year contract with Inservco Insurance Services, Inc., Crossroads Corporate Center, located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for administration of the City's multiline liability program in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.
- *15-2023 A resolution authorizing a one (1) year contract with Inservco Insurance Services, Inc., Crossroads Corporate Center, located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for administration of the City's worker's compensation program in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

*11-2023 A resolution designating a representative and an alternate to the Essex County Community Development Block Grant Committee for the Year 2023. Alternate number one will be Council President Tency A. and alternate number two will be Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert

A motion to appoint Council President Tency A. Eason as alternate number one and Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert as alternate number two to the Essex County Community Development Block Grant Committee for the Year 2023 on Resolution 11-2023 was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

POSTPONED RESOLUTIONS

There were no Postponed Resolutions.

NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

There was no New Business, no Walk-On Ordinances, and no Walk-On Resolutions.

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

There was no Pending Business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

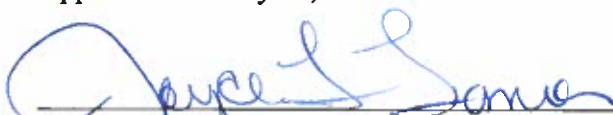
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.


PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 virtually at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: January 17, 2023



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason
Council President