

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 OCTOBER 4, 2022 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

Council President Tency A. Eason 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
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
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Aaron Mizrahi, Deputy City Attorney
Gracia R. Montilus, City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Office
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office
Tamara Robinson, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office

Absent: Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

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

May 26, 2022 Special Budget Meeting Minutes

(Councilmembers Hilbert and Summers-Johnson were not present and should abstain.)

A motion to adopt the May 26, 2022 Special Budget 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. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Adrienne Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, and Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

REPORTS

There were no Department Monthly Revenue Collections.

CONSTABLE REPORTS

There were no Constable Reports.

OPRA REPORTS

There were no OPRA Reports.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

Councilmember Adrienne Wooten stated there was a Library Meeting which included the Library Director, Mayor Dwayne Warren, Esq., Department of Public Works Director Marty Mayes, Public Works Deputy Director Raymond Wingfield, Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements, Kim Fisher, and Louis Copeland. They discussed the library in its entirety, software, improvements that are needed, applying for State Aide. The Library Board. All bills are current, union dues and pension matters have been addressed, a Capitol Improvement Account was established in 2021, and needed repairs have been initiated. Councilmember Wooten will forward this report to the City Clerk.

Planning Department

Director Laquana Best stated the 205 Mt Vernon project is waiting to receive the final electrical inspection and once complete the Ribbon Cutting will be scheduled. The Wawa project should be complete within the next sixty days. Special thanks to the Police Department, Fire Department and the Board of Education and those who came to support the Street Smart New Jersey Pedestrian Safety Campaign last Tuesday. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross stated the Porta-A-Potty's are seen in front of homes and developments. There was a resolution passed requiring they be moved to the side or back and sanitized at the end of the day. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about what would be developed at Central and Oakwood the lot across from the gas station. Director Best stated this project at 668 Central Avenue has not been approved by the Planning Board. It is tentatively a Five Story Building, 82 Units with up 123 parking spots. Council Tency A. Eason requested the Planning Board Meeting Schedule be sent to the City Clerk's Office so that residents can attend if they choose to do so.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Derrick Brown stated there was nothing to report on the fire side. Last week the department held an event where Mayor Dwayne Warren, Esq, Police Director Todd Warren, Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk, Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross, Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, Chaplin Wilson and Tony Wingfield attended. The department presented the Mayor a helmet and shield in honor of his leadership. On the same day the department welcomed two new members, Mr. Vincent Perry and Mr. Zachary Panzer. This department is preparing for education on fire prevention as this is fire prevention month. The department is also preparing for the cold season. Mentoring the youth of the city is an initiative they are focusing on. The city car accidents are increasing so he reminded residents not to be preoccupied with phones. The department is reaching out to all departments for CPR training. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross, Council President commended and encouraged the Chief because of the job well done. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about smoke detectors.

Police Department

Police Chief Vincent Vitiello stated violent crime is down 10% and non-violent crime is down 6% from last year. The department is entering the trial phase of body worn cameras. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired about the "Day Laborers" which it appears they are thinning out. Council Vice President Ross also inquired about the stolen cars which is also down. Chief Vitiello commended Director Best for the Safe Streets for Schools event. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert also inquired about Wind of the Spirit an initiative created after Hurricane Sandy.

Public Works

Director Marty Mayes stated the Department of Public Works will have a shredding event on Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 9am – 12pm at Orange City Hall parking lot. The School Zone paintings are becoming more refined with new electronic signage. Some projects are weather dependent. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert inquired about the School Zone Paintings, was there a plan for parking. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated the loss of parking will be addressed. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert stated there has been e-mails sent to the department and Director Mayes has responded. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about response from DOT regarding flooding which there were cones placed to avoid accidents, they are aware of the issue and are looking into getting this fixed.

Finance Department

Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements stated there is a Walk-On Resolution regarding the Department of Public Works for the painting of the School Zones.

Director Adrian Mapp also asked that Councilmembers support the Walk-On Resolution.

Tax Collector

Director Paula Ferreira state residents should have received their fourth quarter tax bills which are due November 1st. The stubs for the 2023 first and second quarter are also included in this bill. The department encourages residents to pay online at www.ci.orange.nj.us. The added omitted bills should be sent by the end of this week. Council Kerry J. Coley inquired about the rate increase for the water, there may be some incorrect billing and there may need to be an audit. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated that there was not an increase, estimated readings can affect the bills. The department can do a random audit. Council President Tency A. Eason inquired about finance with the loss of water. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated it did not affect residents. Council President Tency A. Eason reminded the residents there was a Tax Freeze for Senior Citizens, the information is in the tax bill.

Tax Assessor

Director Christopher Murray stated the department is sending out statements to all exempt properties that fall under the charitable and religious exemption status which must be returned by November 1st in order for them to continue receiving the tax exemption.

Law Department

City Attorney Gracia R. Montilus wants to schedule a meeting for a litigation update for the governing body. Council President stated he should work with the City Clerk to poll the Councilmembers for a date.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no Communications and Petitions.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

“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.

Aisha Samuel of 401 Highland Terrace mentioned a newspaper article concerning the water bill. She requested water bills be checked as there has been reports of issues with equipment. Council President Tency A. Eason informed residents they should visit the Tax Office if they are concerned about billing being incorrect. Ms. Samuel thanked Director Mayes for fixing the sink hole on Highland Terrace and fixing it quickly.

Kweli Campbell wanted to discuss the “No Pet” signs. She has still not heard from the Law Department. She is frustrated with the lack of communication as it should be more than e-mail. Ms. Campbell is excited about the Safe Street Initiatives and has encouraged residents in her area to participate. She wants to have a conversation about the Commissions and Boards that residents can be involved in. She was appointed to the Open Space and Recreation Committee and there has been one meeting. The committee should be active as tax dollars go toward this. Policing and paroling areas, a lot of residents don’t feel like they get the services they deserve as far as policing. Chief Vincent Vitiello asked if there was a specific incident, as the department works hard to address all concerns. He also suggested a meeting for those who do not feel safe.

A motion to Close Citizen Comments was made by Councilmember Adrienne Wooten and rescinded her motion.

Council President Tency A. Eason stated Ms. Scipio will reach out to Ms. Campbell tomorrow concerning the Open Space, Recreation Committee as she has been working with Councilmembers and residents concerning the Committees and Advisory Boards to get them up and running. If a resident has a desire to be on a committee or advisory board, they should reach out to their Councilmember.

A motion to Close Citizen Comments was made by Councilmember Adrienne Wooten and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Adrienne Wooten greeted her Jewish family and friends with Shana Tovah (Happy New Year) and Happy Fast which is Yom Kippur which begins tonight at sundown. Councilmember Wooten thanked all that participated in the Purple Tree Lighting Ceremony in light of Domestic Violence. Saturday, October 8, 2022 there will be a Coffee and Conversations Event with guest speaker Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley stated he spoke with Director Marty Mayes about Freeway Drive West and Park Place and the paving. He wanted to inquire about the funds and why the bidding went out so late into the season. Councilmember Coley will reach out to Director Marty Mayes for a direct answer.

Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III deferred his time.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert stated she will host a Self Defense Training at First Shiloh (The Main Street Church). The class will be from Thursday through Saturday. We are in the fourth quarter of the year and she is excited about this time of the year. On the 29th she will support the HUBB for the Fall Fest and end of the year garden competition.

Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson spoke about the Committees and Advisory Board appointments. She also spoke about policing in the Valley and advised residents to call the tip line first and then Councilmembers. She advised against complaining in group chats. She is excited about the way Council meetings are improving. She asked for prayers for her father as his health is not good at this time.

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross was happy to report the debris from the fire on Main Street is being taken care of now.

Council President Tency A. Eason wanted to remind the residents this is Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Hopefully next year we can revive Pink Out.

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 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: Postponed

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

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)*

A motion to postpone Ordinance 47-2022 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross 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

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)*

A motion to postpone Ordinance 48-2022 was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers Johnson 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

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)

A motion to adopt Ordinance 54-2022 on First Reading was made by Councilmember Adrienne Wooten 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

Final Reading: November 1, 2022

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 adopt Ordinance 55-2022 on First Reading was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross 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

Final Reading: November 1, 2022

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. *395-2022 THROUGH *399-2022

***395-2022 A resolution recognizing and honoring Dr. Salamishah Tillet for becoming the latest writer to win the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism. (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten)**

***396-2022 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to apply for Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF) grant funding for 321 Scotland Road, City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey.**

***397-2022 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to apply for Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF) grant funding for 507 Mitchell Street, City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey.**

- *398-2022** A resolution approving the Bill List for Council meeting vote on October 04, 2022 dated September 28, 2022 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$3,013,664.88)
- *399-2022** A resolution authorizing the Mayor to adopt a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Orange Township and the Policemen’s Benevolent Association Local No. 89 (“PBA”).

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

POSTPONED RESOLUTIONS

- 368-2022** A resolution approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Orange Township and the Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) Local 10.

A motion to adopt Resolution 368-2022 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross 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

- 369-2022** A resolution approving an agreement between the City of Orange Township and the City of Orange Fire Officers Association.

A motion to adopt Resolution 369-2022 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross 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

370-2022 A resolution authorizing the Mayor to adopt a side bar agreement between the City of Orange Township and the Policemen’s Benevolent Association Local No. 89 (Patrolmen).

A motion to adopt Resolution 370-2022 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne Wooten

On the motion Councilmember Kerry J. Coley thanked the Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk for the work on these resolutions.

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

NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

400-2022(WO) A resolution authorizing payment to Crossroads Pavement Maintenance LLC, 512 Newark Pompton Turnpike, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444, for thermo-marking and installation of lettering, stripping and speed bumps around selected City of Orange Township schools between September 1, 2022 to September 17, 2022 in an amount not to exceed fifty-one thousand and eighty eight dollars. (\$51,088.00)

A motion to Walk-On Resolution 400-2022 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross 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

A motion to adopt Resolution 400-2022 was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers Johnson and seconded by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross

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

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

There was no Pending Business.

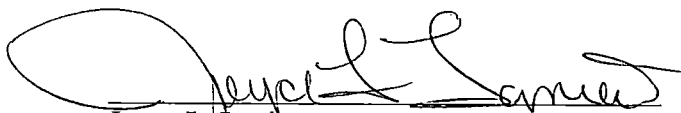
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne Wooten

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm

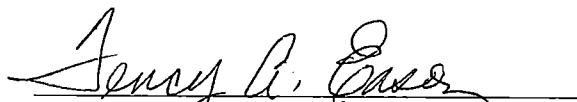
PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 virtually at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: January 3, 2023



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason
Council President