

**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, FEBRUARY 7, 2023 AT 7:06P.M.**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward (*Arrived at 7:07pm*)  
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward  
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large  
Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross, 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  
Kenneth Goodman, Legislative Research Officer  
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director  
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director  
Aaron Mizrahi, Esq., Deputy City Attorney  
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor  
Avram White, Esq., Deputy City Clerk  
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief  
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk  
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office  
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office  
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office  
Tim Walker, Essex County Liaison  
Janine Bauer, Esq, Historic Preservation Commission Board Attorney

**Absent:** Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward  
Councilmember Adrienne Wooten, At-Large  
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney  
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer  
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services

Council President Tency A. Eason called for Recognition of a Moment of Silence in recognition of Black History Month, Heart Health Month, Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour of Sayreville, New Jersey who was killed on Wednesday, and prayers for Senator Ronald Rice

The Deputy City Clerk announced a "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall email their statements or questions to [citizencomments@orangenj.gov](mailto: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 Deputy 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, the Council's Website ([www.orangetwpnjcc.org](http://www.orangetwpnjcc.org)), the City's Website ([www.ci.orange.nj.us](http://www.ci.orange.nj.us)) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION****Historic Preservation Commission**

Board Attorney Janine Bauer, Esq. stated she is with the law firm Szaferman Lakind, P.C. and has been the Counsel representing the Historic Preservation Commission since 2017. She wanted to go over some data from the Historic Preservation Commission reflecting how busy they have been. In 2022, notwithstanding the COVID pandemic, there were 50 applications all disposed with the exception of few that did not show to the meeting. Some were done administratively and some through the TRC (Technical Review Committee) which does on site reviews. The TRC Committee is authorized by the Municipal Land Use Law and comprised of three members of the HPC including the HPC Chairman Troy Simmons. The TRC will schedule onsite visits when information provided by the applicant is not clear during the meeting. Within a week of the determination, a letter created by her is sent to the Building Department to make sure residents can obtain their permits and proceed. The HPC Commission is well attended, and they always reach a quorum. She has done work on a grant application to receive funds for a website to give more information to the residents and it adds value. She suggested signage in a way finding as she attended a grant workshop by the New Jersey Historic Trust. To obtain these grants you must have an active Historic Preservation Commission. Attorney Bauer issued a memo to the Mayor, Business Administrator and the City Clerk describing the four categories of grants and what projects are eligible. There are a lot of opportunity for the city to apply for grants with respect to the Historic Preservation. There was a meeting January 16<sup>th</sup> with the Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Deputy City Attorney Aaron Mizrahi and others. There was concern and it seems the Administration assumes that there is no record of personal service of the original Historic Preservation Ordinance that set forth the Historic District. Attorney Bauer stated if this is the case it predates her term and the present City Clerk. She asked that the City Council authorize the funding and the action to send out personal notice. If this is not resolved they would have to ask a Superior Judge to issue a ruling on the legal question. The Master Plan has been updated to include the Historic District where the personal service is no longer required under Section 62 that is the exception of the Municipal Land Use Law. The Guidelines of the HPC was adopted by the Council. She tries to add value to the City, and the HPC. Council Tency A. Eason inquired if she had worked with the Law Department which she presently had a meeting with Attorney Aaron Mizrahi and in the past with Attorney Avram White. Attorney Avram White stated there was a meeting in 2018 and Attorney Eric Pennington was in attendance as well. Attorney Avram White stated there is an issue with the notice to residents and Aaron Mizrahi is working on the road map and resolving it with a notice to the residents so they are fully informed. Janine Bauer, Esq. stated it appears notice was not sent out and if inquired if Council decides to send out notification must they re-pass the ordinance. Or can the notice be sent out now. Formally Administration would not allow a personal notice in the after math. Council President Tency A. Eason inquired if a meeting could be scheduled between the HPC Attorney and the Law Department. Deputy Attorney Aaron Mizrahi will take the lead in setting up a meeting.

**COVID Update**

Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo stated the City of Orange Township has been doing well and moderate. Variant XXB15 accounts for 65% of cases and the Delta Variant dropped down to 25% of the cases. As of today there are 800 active cases in New Jersey. The Governor is not resigning declaration of emergency. Vaccines will be administered until the end of summer. Residents may have to go to their Primary Care Doctor or Pharmacist for a vaccine. CDC states that one dose of Bivalent is considered fully vaccinated. There are talks that the vaccine will be a yearly shot like the Influenza shot.

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 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

- 1-2023 An ordinance to amend and supplement the Code of the City of Orange Township Chapter 220, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" to update handicapped parking regulations.  
(Sponsored by Councilmember Eason)

*Council will vote in favor of this ordinance.*

City of Orange Township City Council's Website – <https://orangetwpnjcc.org>

**ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

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)*

*Prohibit parking in front of driveways; Recommend to postpone until Engineer Report is received. We will move forward on this ordinance.*

3-2023 An ordinance to amend and supplement the Code of the City of Orange Township Chapter 200 entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” to update handicapped parking regulations. (Sponsored by Councilmember Eason)

*Council will vote this down as it is a duplicate of ordinance 1-2023*

5-2023 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, approving and authorizing a 30-year tax exemption and authorizing the execution of a financial agreement between the City and PEEK Cleveland I Owner Urban Renewal, LLC.

*Council will vote to postpone this ordinance until the first meeting in March*

**RESOLUTIONS NO \* 50-2023 THROUGH \*84-2023**

\*76-2023 A resolution authorizing the extension of a professional services agreement with Nishuane Group LLC to provide professional planning consultant services to the City of Orange Township and its Land Use Boards for a period beginning January 1, 2023 and continuing through December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

*This Resolution will be postpone.*

**POSTPONED RESOLUTIONS**

20-2023 A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township amending Resolution No. 276-2022 to authorize additional funds to Szaferman Lakind, P.C. for legal counseling to the Orange Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Orange Township in the amount of \$3,564.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$8,564.00.

21-2023 A resolution authorizing the award of a professional service contract to Szaferman Lakind, P.C. to provide legal counseling to the Orange Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Orange Township in matters as they relate to the Historic Preservation Commission in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for the Calendar Year 2023.

28-2023 A resolution authorizing the award of a professional services contract to Gail Mitchell, Esq. of Schwartz, Barkin and Mitchell LLC to provide legal services to the Orange Municipal Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Orange Township in matters relating to zoning and land use in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for the Calendar Year 2023.


*These Resolutions will remain postponed until investigation from the Law Department is complete.*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Approved: February 21, 2023

  
 Joyce L. Lanier  
 City Clerk

  
 Tency A. Eason  
 Council President