

## 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 21, 2023 AT 7:49P.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  
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, Esq., Deputy City Attorney  
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney  
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor  
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services  
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer  
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

### Absent:

The Deputy Clerk announced a Moment of Silence. Councilmember Adrienne Wooten requested the Moment of Silence be dedicated to the memory of resident Gordon Roberts, Jr. who fought for civil rights and a advocate for the high school.

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.orangenj.gov](http://www.orangenj.gov)) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

Council President Tency A. Eason wanted to say a few words being that we are coming to the end of Black History Month. She quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, and a soul generated by love” - We should all be mindful of our words because words can hurt and destroy. We all need to work together as this is all about the City of Orange. Let’s stay on a positive plane. Make comments about the City and not any individual. Our number one priority is the City of Orange.

## **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **COVID Update**

Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo stated as of May 11, 2023, President Biden has decided not to sign the Emergency Health Bill. Essex County’s numbers are low and good standing. The state of New Jersey’s seven day average: 611 new Covid cases and 10 deaths. Covid numbers are down by 11%, Admissions into hospitals are up 14%, the numbers for ICU are down, the numbers for Ventilators are up by 9%, and Long Term Care Facilities had over 30,000 Covid cases. He spoke about “The Long Term COVID”, people having difficulty breathing, difficulty sleeping, and headaches. Children are experiencing anxiety attacks. The variants of interest are: Omicron, BA5, BA2, and the largest is the Delta B1617.2 which accounts for 30% of Covid cases. The CDC stated three out of five high school girls are stressing out and in some cases committing suicide.

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**

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”. (Amended) (Sponsored by Councilmember Eason)

## **ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

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.

This ordinance will be postponed

## **RESOLUTIONS NO \* 85-2023 THROUGH \*112-2023**

\*85-2023 – 107-2023

\*108-2023 A resolution authorizing the application of a grant by the Department of Public Works and Engineering from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Programs for Orange multi-parks.

This Resolution is for Green Acres

\*109-2023 An enabling resolution authorizing the application of a grant by the Department of Public Works and Engineering from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Programs for Orange multi-parks.

This Resolution is for Green Acres

\*110-2023 - \*112-2023

**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.

This Resolution will remain postponed

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.

This Resolution will remain postponed

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.

This Resolution will remain postponed


\*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.

We will take action and vote down because it has been replaced by Resolution 110-2023

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Approved: March 7, 2023

  
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Joyce L. Lanier  
City Clerk

  
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Tency A. Eason  
Council President