

## 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, MARCH 21, 2023 AT 7:04P.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 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  
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director  
Aaron Mizrahi, Esq., Deputy City Attorney  
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor  
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services (*Arrived at 7:12pm*)  
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer  
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief  
Avram White, Esq., Deputy City Attorney (*Arrived at 7:09pm*)  
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk  
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office  
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office

**Absent:** Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward  
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director  
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney  
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

The Deputy City Clerk announced a Moment of Silence.

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.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**COVID Update**

Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo introduced new staff members in the Health Department. Dawn Gibson, RN Nurse Supervisor, Jennifer Okapalaugo-Odih, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Shawna Carter in charge of grants, and Kezia Wallerson, Health Educator. The City of Orange is in the green. The dominant variant is B16017.2 at 25% of the Covid cases. There were about 157,000 people who tested positive in New Jersey. By April 2, 2023, the state of New Jersey will have 73,883 vials of vaccines that will expire. About 16% of people who have recently been vaccinated have been vaccinated with the bi-variant vaccine. The average age of positive cases are 40 years of age and that was 54% women. March 11, 2023 will marks the third year of the Covid pandemic and over seven million people have passed because of the virus. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquires about the expiring vaccines which they will be tossed out. The virus has mutated into different strands and the vaccines has changed as well. Council President Tency A. Eason welcomed the new staff members in the Health Department.

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.

Council President Tency A. Eason stated there was a typo on Resolution 146-2023, the word convenience should be conveyance.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about the debt ceiling, bond debt. The Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements stated the bonds on the agenda are related to the sewer and water utility which is self-liquidating. None of the debt being authorized in these ordinances will count against the City’s net debt. The ceiling for the net debt, the statutory limitation is 3.5% and the city is currently at 2.283% which leaves about \$20,000,000.

**ORDINANCES – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING**

24-2021 An ordinance to amend the City Code of the City of the 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 6/01/2021 Council Meeting)*

**ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

- 7-2023 A bond ordinance providing for the acquisition and installation of a permanent PFAS Treatment System, by and in the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$10,500,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$10,500,000 bonds for notes to finance the cost thereof.
- 8-2023 A bond ordinance providing for various acquisitions and improvements to the City’s water and sewer systems, by and in the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$2,500,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$2,500,000 bonds or notes of the water and sewer utility of the City to finance the costs thereof.
- 9-2023 An ordinance consenting to (1) the purchase of the senior housing project located at 98 High Street by Jerusalem Towers Urban Renewal LLC, (2) the transfer and assignment of the project’s tax exemption from the current owner to the purchaser, (3) an extension of the tax exemption, and (4) an amendment to the tax exemption relating to the annual pilot.
- 10-2023 An ordinance to amend Chapter 200-32, Chapter 200-33, Chapter 200-35 and Chapter 200-52.3 of the Code of the City of Orange Township.

**RESOLUTIONS NO \* 134-2023 THROUGH \*155-2023**

- \*134-2023 A resolution reappointing Nakeema K. Simmons to the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Advisory Board. (Sponsored by Councilmember Coley)
- \*135-2023 A resolution reappointing Alexandra Laureore to the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Advisory Board. (Sponsored by Councilmember Montague, III)

- \*136-2023 A resolution recognizing Dr. Fatimah Z. Turner as a Phenomenal Woman during Women’s History Month in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten, Summers-Johnson and the Municipal Council)
- \*137-2023 A resolution honoring IyaSokoya “Coach Iya” Karade as a Phenomenal Woman during Women’s History Month in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten, Summers-Johnson and the Municipal Council)
- \*138-2023 A resolution recognizing and celebrating Lieutenant Aydil Olivera for being a Phenomenal Woman during Women’s History Month in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten, Summers-Johnson and the Municipal Council)
- \*139-2023 A resolution celebrating the 100-year anniversary of John’s Market and commending the Modugno family and staff for their dedication to providing exceptional service and giving back to the community. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten, Summers-Johnson and the Municipal Council)
- \*140-2023 A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Catherine Hooper. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten, Summers-Johnson and the Municipal Council)
- \*141-2023 A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Inez Broadus. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten and Summers-Johnson)
- \*142-2023 A resolution recognizing Ramadan. (Sponsored by Councilmember Hilbert)
- \*143-2023 A resolution authorizing the cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate No. 19-00761 on Block 6007 Lot 2 also known as 542 Valley Street in addition to issuing a refund for all accrued interest, penalties to Madison Trust Co.Collateral Stonefield in the amount of \$47,145.04.
- \*144-2023 A resolution authorizing a refund of seven thousand nine hundred forty four dollars and twelve cents (\$7,944.12) to David Hammonds, an employee of the City of Orange Township, for an overpayment of his contribution for medical coverage.
- \*145-2023 A resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant totaling \$363,522.00 from the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials for the enhancement of local public health infrastructure.
- \*146-2023 A resolution authorizing the use of the competitive contracting for the procurement of services in operation and management of water supply, sewer conveyance and storm water distribution.
- \*147-2023 A resolution for emergency temporary appropriations #5 to the Calendar Year 2023 Budget.
- \*148-2023 A resolution of the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizing the submission of an application to the Local Finance Board requesting approval of (i) a bond ordinance of the City under the provisions of the Municipal Qualified Bond Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:3-1 et seq., (The “Act”), (ii) the issuance of qualified bonds under the provisions of the Act, and (iii) the issuance of qualified bonds through the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 58:11B-9(a).
- \*149-2023 A resolution of the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizing the submission of an application to the Local Finance Board requesting approval of a bond ordinance of the City under the provisions of the Municipal Qualified Bond Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:3-1 et seq. (The “Act”).
- \*150-2023 A resolution authorizing a one (1) year extension of the agreement between the City of Orange Township and Municipal Inspection Corp., 182 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002 to provide elevator subcode services for the City of Orange Township expiring on July 1, 2024.
- \*151-2023 A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township authorizing a release of unused Planning Board and inspection escrows totaling \$13,730.79, deposited by PEEK Reock I Owner Urban Renewal LLC in connection with construction of a multi-unit residential development at Block 2804, Lot 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11, commonly known as 258-276 Reock Street, Orange, New Jersey.
- \*152-2023 A resolution renewing a professional service agreement with The Antoine Law Firm, LLC as Special Counsel to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter, “Anthony Antonucci, et al. v. City of Orange Township,” Docket No. ESX-L-005093-21, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for Calendar Year 2023.
- \*153-2023 A resolution authorizing the services of the Antoine Law Firm, LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter, “Katalin Gordon v. City of Orange Township,” Docket No. A-001449-20T1 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for Calendar Year 2023.

- \*154-2023 A resolution for the transfer of appropriation reserves #5.
- \*155-2023 A resolution approving the Bill List for Council Meeting vote on March 21, 2023 dated March 15, 2023 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$3,910,459.01)

**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.


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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.

Approved: April 4, 2023

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 Joyce L. Lanier  
City Clerk

 Tency A. Eason  
Council President