

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, OCTOBER 17, 2023 AT 7:03 PM.

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 K. 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
Aaron Mizrahi, Esq., Deputy City Attorney
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services (*Arrived 7:11pm*)
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office

Absent: Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

The City Clerk announced a Moment of Silence.

The 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 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 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 Star Ledger, published in the Record Transcript on July 13, 2023, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall, the Council's Website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org), the City's Website (www.orangenj.gov) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

COVID Update

Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo stated there has been a spike in Covid cases. The top three strands are Omicron Variant EG.5 at 25%, F151 at 15%, EXBB 10%. You can get free Covid tests mailed to you at www.covidtest.gov. There is a study stating there may be an increase in blood pressure for those taking the vaccine. Walgreen and CVS will administer vaccines by appointment. The department has been administering Flu Shots.

Council President Tency A. Eason asked Councilmembers to suspend the rules to hear from the City Attorney for Matters of Discussion.

A motion to suspend the rules to add City Attorney Gracia R. Montilus, Esq. to Matters of Discussion was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and 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 K. Wooten and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

City Attorney Gracia Montilus, Esq. spoke about the Sunshine Law, OPMA, and Daniels Law. He gave a description of these items so that residents would be clear on these laws and make clear how they are implemented. The City of Orange Township ordinances require members of the public who wish to comment to provide their name and address. Comments for an Ordinance on Second Reading will be limited to that Ordinance only, and no public comments are allowed on Ordinances on the First Reading. Comments must be confined to the business of the City of Orange and the matter at hand. Derogatory statements will not be accepted. If a comment is disruptive or deviates from the topic, the person will be muted. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley thanked City Attorney Montilus for shedding light on this issue.

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

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". *(Postponed since the June 1, 2021 Council Meeting)*

This Ordinance will remain postponed.

61-2023 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, amending Chapter 60 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township, currently entitled “Barbershops and Beauty Parlors” to include regulations governing body art establishments located within the City of Orange Township. **(AMENDED)**

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert requested to add content to this ordinance. Council President Tency A. Eason stated this ordinance will be postponed until the November 8, 2023 Council Meeting.

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

68-2023 An ordinance to amend and supplement the Code of the City of Orange Township Chapter 4, Article XII entitled “Department of Community Services” to create a Division of Homelessness Prevention. (Sponsored by Councilmember Hilbert)

City Attorney Gracia Montilus, Esq. recommended that this ordinance be withdrawn for further review.

RESOLUTIONS NO *416-2023 THROUGH *431-2023

***421-2023** A resolution amending #145-2023 authorizing the acceptance of a grant totaling an additional amount of \$365,819.00 from the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) for the Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure grant.

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired about this grant which it will be shared fifty-fifty with the City of Belleville.


***423-2023** A resolution amending Resolution 430-2022 entitled “A resolution authorizing the award of a contract for the Military Park Rehabilitation Project to S. Batata Construction, Inc., 238 Ernston Road, Suite 1R, Parlin, New Jersey 08859 in the amount not to exceed \$1,004,944.00” for the purpose of reallocating the funds available for the project to proper accounts.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley asked for clarification and this is a grant.


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 7:25 pm.

Approved: November 8, 2023



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason
Council President