

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, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson.

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
Council President Tency A. Eason, North Ward

Also Present: Joyce 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 (*Arrived 8:23pm*)
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
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office

Absent: Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There were no Meeting Minutes to approve.

REPORTS

Department Monthly Revenue Collection for the month of January 2024.

The Health Department collected \$85,446.80 for the month of January 2024.

The Planning Department collected \$93,242.00 for the month of January 2024.

CONSTABLE REPORTS

There were no Constable reports.

OPRA REPORTS

For the month of January 2024 there were 65 OPRA requests received, 51 completed, and 14 remaining.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

Police Department

Police Chief Vincent Vitiello gave an update on a home invasion that transpired the past week and gave tips on keeping safe. Thursday at 4:00pm, the Department will honor Director Corbett who was the first black Director. He also gave an update on the Pharmacy robbery in the West Ward. Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and Council President Tency A. Eason thanked the department for their service.

Community Service

Director Wendy Sykes gave a list of events that residents should be aware of and gave the number to the Department of Recreation for interested parties to call for details. Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson requested Director Sykes send an e-mail to the Clerk with information about the opening of the Field House during break. Council President Tency A. Eason requested better communication with seniors who do not live in senior buildings.

Tax Assessor

Director Chris Murray stated the Division of Taxation posted the 2023 senior freeze application. The income requirements has changed. This will be posted to the website and a hard copy can be obtained from the Tax Assessors Officer.

Tax Collector

Director Paula Ferreira stated the Tax office is now accepting credit cards.

Planning Department

Director Laquana Best thanked Councilmembers who attended the walk-through held today.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

A virtual public hearing will be held on February 28, 2024 by the New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc. regarding a petition filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, seeking to change rates for water and sewer service through revisions to the Purchased Water and Purchased Wastewater Treatment Adjustment Clauses. Additional details and instructions for dialing into the meeting are available with the Clerk's Office or by visiting the New Jersey-American Water Company website: <https://amwater.com/njaw/customer-service-billing/your-water-and-wastewater-rates>.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The City Clerk announced a "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be advised that members of the public wishing to orally address the Council on any subject matter shall be permitted to do so during this portion of the meeting by indicating a "raised hand" at this time. When called upon by the Council President, each speaker must enable his/her camera and microphone, and state his/her name and street address before proceeding further. Those unable to activate a camera feed may still be permitted to speak at the Council President's discretion.

To facilitate maximum public involvement and maintain order, each speaker will have one 5-minute period to interact orally with the Council. Screen-sharing or visual aids will not be permitted. Written comments submitted in advance of this meeting were forwarded to all Council Members, published on the City's website, and will be appended to final approved minutes – they will not be read aloud, and anyone submitting a written statement will not be permitted to also speak at this meeting. The Council will consider all comments and questions, oral or written, and respond if and when appropriate, which may or may not be during this meeting.

Members of the public are reminded to be courteous and mindful of other individuals' rights when speaking. A Council meeting is not the proper venue to discuss personal matters or lodge complaints against specific City employees or private individuals who may have personal protections afforded them under State and/or Federal law. Therefore, each speaker should consider how his/her remarks may trigger those protections for anyone identified in or affected by them, and should be aware that they are legally responsible for their own statements. The City bears no liability for any comments made by any member of the public, and anyone repeatedly speaking out of turn or making comments that are disruptive, obscene or otherwise offensive in nature may be permanently removed from this meeting.

Aisha Samuel of 401 Highland Terraced expressed her concerns about parking that blocks her driveway. She also reported large pot holes on Jefferson Street and permit parking.

Gloria Fisher of 254 Elwyn Drive thanked DPW for the clean up on Center Street and Elmwyn Drive.

Rachel Tennant of 461 Waverly Place expressed her concern with Resolution 188-2024, the law suit concerning Vose, the timeliness of the Council Meeting agendas being posted and a gas leak.

There were no Citizen Comments received by e-mail.

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Motion Adopted

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson prayed for the students and elderly in the city. She encourage Councilmembers to continue to work together. She wished all a Happy Black History Month.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert thanked those who attended the West Ward Brunch and Black History Celebration. She will host a meeting concerning Parking permits.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley thanked Public Works for their diligent work.

Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III attended a Black History Month program which was very informative. He asked Director Mayes about the shredding event which is April 6, 2024.

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross asked Director Mayes about resolutions on the agenda, accessibility for the train station and the house clean up on Elmwyn, and the dividers on Main Street. He thanked Director Best for the groundbreaking on Main Street. Orange is Moving Forward and doing great things.

Council President Tency A. Eason inquired about the resolution concerning Metcalf Park which is still working.

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)*

A motion to postpone Ordinance 24-2021 was made by Council President Tency A. Eason and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

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, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted: *Postponed*

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION | FIRST READING

8-2024 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, authorizing the grant of an air easement to VA 100M Urban Renewal LLC over portions of the City’s public rights of way along South Main Street and Prince Street, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 8-2024 on First Reading was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers- Johnson.

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted: *Final Reading March 19, 2024*

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 *102-2024 THROUGH *125-2024

***102-2024** A resolution recognizing Sandwiches Unlimited Restaurant in the City of Orange Township during Black History Month.

(Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)

***103-2024** A resolution recognizing Dr. Montrae Thomas, M.D., Pediatrics Specialist, during Black History Month in the City of Orange Township.

(Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)

***104-2024** A resolution recognizing Alice West Indian Restaurant in the City of Orange Township for service to the community during Black History Month.

(Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)

***105-2024** A resolution honoring Woody Home for Services Funeral Service established in 1913 in the City of Orange Township during Black History Month.

(Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)

- *106-2024** A resolution in support of nonprofit “Not Orange” and their efforts to combat gun violence and protect our children and our future.
(Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)
- *107-2024** A resolution of the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizing City officials to undertake certain actions in connection with the issuance and sale of \$13,970,500 General Obligation Notes, Series 2024 consisting of \$10,770,500 Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2024A (tax-exempt) and \$3,200,000 Special Emergency Notes, Series 2024B (federally taxable).
- *108-2024** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to submit application for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs 2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Program.
- *109-2024** A resolution authorizing the acceptance of New Jersey Department of Transportation grant funds for the City of Orange Township for 2023 Various Streets Project.
- *110-2024** A resolution requesting a grant extension of the New Jersey Department of Transportation grant funds for the City of Orange Township for 2022 Safe Streets to transit improvements (Orange Train Station Underpass Project) for an additional six (6) months.
- *111-2024** A resolution authorizing the acceptance of the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres 2023 Urban Parks grant – Metcalf Park Improvements Project #0717-23-UPG in the amount of \$500,000.00.
- *112-2024** A resolution authorizing the acceptance of the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres 2023 – Metcalf Park Improvements Project #0717-23-014 in the amount of \$481,590.00.
- *113-2024** A resolution awarding a contract to Select Auto and Truck Repair, Inc., 52 Washington Street, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 for vehicle maintenance and repairs to all City owned vehicles and equipment for two (2) years commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$159,285.00 per year.
- *114-2024** A resolution awarding a contract to Parts Authority, LLC, 3 Dakota Drive, Suite 110, New Hyde Park, New York 11042 (Northern New Jersey Branch located at 456 3rd Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07107) for the purchase of automotive parts for two (2) years commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 per year.
- *115-2024** A resolution approving qualified consultant engineers to provide consulting engineering on an “as needed” basis for one (1) year commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
- *116-2024** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract to Hatfield Schwartz LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter “Alice Lang v. M&N 300 LLC, German Valverde, City of Orange Township, John Does 1-10 and ABC Corp. 1-10, (1-10 said names being fictitious until the true identity is secured)” Docket No. ESX-L-005170-18 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.
- *117-2024** A resolution awarding a three (3) year contract for Municipal refuse and recycling collection services Option #2 for the City of Orange Township with an option to extend contract on year four (4) and year five (5) to Joseph Smentkowski, Inc., 3 New York Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07307 commencing March 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$1,497,000.00 per year.
- *118-2024** A resolution authorizing the services of Marco Di Stefano, LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter, “492 Conover Street and James Ray v. City of Orange Township” Docket No. ESX-L-008346-23 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.
- *119-2024** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract to Hatfield Schwartz LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter, “Erica Nazario v. City of Orange Township, et al” Docket No. ESX-L-6112-22 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.

- *120-2024 **A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract to Hatfield Schwartz LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township and Dwayne D. Warren, Mayor, in the matter, “Keri Payne v. City of Orange Township, et al” Docket No. ESX-L-8869-20 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.**
- *121-2024 **A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract to Hatfield Schwartz LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township and the Orange Police Department in the matter, “Nicholas Victoria v. Joshua Anderson, et al” Docket No. 2:23-CV-03765 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.**
- *122-2024 **A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract to Hatfield Schwartz LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township in the matter, “Marie Edmond Saint Jean v. Orange Fire Department, City of Orange and ABC Corps” Docket No. ESX-L-006431-22 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.**
- *123-2024 **A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract to Hatfield Schwartz LLC, to represent the City of Orange Township and Christopher Hartwyk, in the matter, “Keri Payne v. City of Orange Township, Orange Police Department, Chief Vincent Vitiello, Captain Christopher Dunn, Director Todd Warren, Sgt. Rene Wilson, B.A. Christopher Hartwyk, Head Doe, John Does (1-10) Harry Roes (1-10)” Docket No. ESX-L-6850-22 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.**
- *124-2024 **A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) broom street sweepers with Belt Conveyors from W.E. Timmerman Company, Inc., 3554 Route 22 West, P.O. Box 71, Whitehouse, New Jersey 08888 under the Sourcewell Co-Op Contract #093021-ELG in the amount not to exceed \$688,100.00.**
- *125-2024 **A resolution approving the Bill List for Council Meeting vote on February 20, 2024 dated February 14, 2024 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$3,842,838.03)**

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III 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, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the consent agenda.

POSTPONED RESOLUTIONS

There were no Postponed Resolutions.

NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

A motion to Walk-On Resolution 126A-2024WO was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and seconded by Council President Tency A. Eason.

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, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson.

Motion Adopted

A motion to adopt Resolution 126A-2024WO was made by Council President Tency A. Eason and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

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, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

There was no Pending Business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson.


Motion adopted

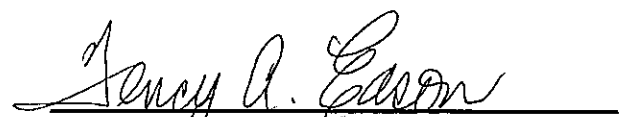
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 virtually at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: April 16, 2024


Joyce L. Danier
City Clerk


Tency A. Eason
Council President