

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, JANUARY 2, 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 L. Lanier, City Clerk
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Chris Mobley, Deputy Planning Director
Aaron Mizrahi, Esq., Deputy City Attorney
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Avram D. White, Esq. Deputy City Attorney
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk
Margaret Homere, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office

Absent: Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Laquana Best, Planning Director
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services
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**November 8, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes**

(Councilmember Summers-Johnson was absent and should abstain)

A motion to adopt the November 8, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted**November 8, 2023 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes**

(Councilmember Summers-Johnson was absent and should abstain)

A motion to adopt the November 8, 2023 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes 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, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted**November 21, 2023 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes**

(Councilmembers Hilbert and Wooten was absent and should abstain)

A motion to adopt the November 21, 2023 Conference and Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted**REPORTS****Department Monthly Revenue Collection for the month of November 2023.**

The Clerk's Office collected \$1,125.00 for the month of December 2023.

CONSTABLE REPORTS

There were no Constable reports.

OPRA REPORTS

There were no OPRA reports.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

Planning Department

Deputy Director Chris Mobley stated projects are moving forward and timely. The parking meters are being updated from 3g to 4g technology which will be complete this week and all meters will be replaced.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Derrick Brown stated the Fire Department is looking forward to educating residents in 2024 on items such as CPR and how to use fire extinguishers. They will swear in 14 new cadets on Friday January 5th at St. Matthew AME Church located at 336 Oakwood Ave. The goal is to have 124 Firefighters. Council President Tency A. Eason requested that the department look into grants for Fire Blankets.

Police Department

Police Chief Vincent Vitiello thanked all who participated in Toys for Tots event which was successful. He mentioned fallen Officer, Kenneth E. McDougal "Magic." Chief Vitiello stated the crime total index is up 1% but the type of crimes should be taken into consideration. He will publish a year-end report soon. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley expressed his concerns about the towing service and the time it takes them to arrive.

Tax Assessor

Tax Assessor Chris Murray stated it has been business as usual working on Tax Appeals, processing deals, and updating tax map.

Finance Department

Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements stated Resolution 7-2024 is the temporary appropriation of funds which is done each year.

Department of Public Works

Director Marty Mayes stated the Day Street project is dependent upon the weather. The damaged street sweeper needs to be repaired and he will look into the warranty. A new Street Sweeper takes about 12 – 18 months to be delivered. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley expressed his concerns when demolition is done in the city and the clean-up when work is complete. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross expressed concerns with the Street Sweepers and the Sweeping Schedule. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert expressed her concerns with the Street Sweepers, the NJ Transit cleaning process and the Liaison which is Dawn Spango. The department will invite Ms. Spango to the February 6th Council meeting for Matters of Discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no communications or petitions.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The City Clerk announced a "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall be allowed to participate in this portion of the Council Meeting via the audio call in number and video conferencing platform by stating their name and address when directed to do so by the Council President. All public comments submitted though electronic mail or written letter before the meeting shall be read aloud by the City Clerk. The City Council reserves the right to respond to not respond during the meeting to any citizen's questions or comments. If the Council wishes to address any comments, it shall be done during the remote public meeting.

Aisha Samuel of 401 Highland Terraced expressed her concerns with cars blocking her and her neighbor's driveway. She echoed Councilmember Coley's concerns about the length of time it takes a tow truck to arrive. She also has concerns about the street cleaning, leaves and grass.

Rachel Tennant of 461 Waverly Place gave congratulations to the Fire Department. She expressed her concerns about citizens having input on the hospital site, Resolution 20-2024 with Concentra having a bad reputation, Resolution 19-2024 contributions to Moving Orange Forward, and she asked for someone to explain Resolution 7-2024 which was concerning the water.

Devon Livingston of 190 Oxford congratulated the Fire Chief with the good news of new cadets. He expressed concerns about the programs with the Recreation Department.

Ronald D. Scott, Jr. 548 Argyle Avenue asked about the garbage can ordinance which there will be a warning period. He expressed concerns about the price of the suggested cans and Sanitation Workers being respectful of the resident's properties.

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 Kerry J. Coley.

Motion Adopted

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley stated his concerns were addressed during the Department Directors reports.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert wished all a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III wished all a Happy New Year and hopes the community will work together to stabilize taxes and make the community a better place to live.

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross wished all a Happy New Year. He gave a snapshot of positive things done in 2023. He gave accolades to the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and the Director of Public Works. He encouraged all to look for upcoming events, housing opportunities, and more development. He will work hard with his Council Colleagues to stabilize taxes and make the city a better place to live, play, and grow.

Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson wished all a Happy New Year and wanted to spread positive energy. She spoke about celebrations that were done in the past month. She thanked Code Enforcement, Public Works and the Planning Department for their work. She also stated the Recreation fees are extremely competitive and if residents have a financial hardship, they should bring it to the attention of the Recreation Department.

Council President Tency A. Eason wished all a Happy New Year and hopes everyone can come together to make the city a better place. She also thanked those who volunteer for the City's Boards and Committees.

A motion to amend the agenda to remove Ordinances 78-2023, 79-2023, 80-2023, 81-2023, 82-2023, 83-2023, 84-2023, 85-2023, and 86-2023 was made by Council President Tency A. Eason 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

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 Vice President Clifford R. Ross 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*

77-2023 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" Section 200-52-1 Handicapped Parking Spaces. (61 William Street)

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Council President Tency A. Eason and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Motion Adopted

A motion to adopt Ordinance 77-2023 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson.

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

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION | FIRST READING

There were no Ordinances on Introduction | First Reading.

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 *1-2024 THROUGH *22-2024

***1-2024** A resolution recognizing January 1, 2024 as Haitian Independence Day in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmembers Wooten & Summers-Johnson)

***2-2024** A resolution acknowledging recognition from the New Jersey Department of Education for the outstanding contributions of teachers and leaders of the Orange Public Schools through various national and state programs. (Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten)

- *3-2024 A resolution recognizing January 2024 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the City of Orange Township and supporting New Jersey Legislation (A883). (Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten)
- *4-2024 A resolution recognizing January 2024 as Cervical Health Awareness Month in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Councilmember Wooten)
- *5-2024 A resolution honoring the life of former West Ward Councilmember Fred James Riviello, Jr. (Sponsored by the City of Orange Township Municipal Council) AMENDED
- *6-2024 A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, appointing Nile Clements as Chief Municipal Financial Officer for the City of Orange Township.
- *7-2024 A resolution authorizing the adoption of Current Fund and Water/Sewer Utility Fund temporary budget appropriations for the beginning of 2024 prior to the adoption of CY 2024 Budget in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19.
- *8-2024 A resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant totaling \$15,215.00 from the County of Essex, Division of Aging for the partial funding of a Senior Citizen Public Health Nurse for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.
- *9-2024 A resolution authorizing the purchase of Dropbox technology supplies, services and accessories from CDW-G under State Contract #ESCNJ/AEPA-22G commencing January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$13,250.00.
- *10-2024 A resolution authorizing a one (1) year contact with Inservco Insurance Services, Inc., Crossroads Corporate Center, located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for administration of the City's Workers' Compensation program in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. AMENDED
- *11-2024 A resolution authorizing a one (1) year contact with Inservco Insurance Services, Inc., Crossroads Corporate Center, located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for administration of the City's Multiline Liability program in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. AMENDED
- *12-2024 A resolution authorizing the renewal of a contract with Occupational Health Centers for New Jersey, P.A. d/b/a Concentra Medical Centers, to provide employment medical examination for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00. AMENDED
- *13-2024 A resolution renewing a professional service agreement with Bell & Shivas, P.C., as Conflict Counsel to represent the City of Orange Township and Dwayne D. Warren in the lawsuit entitled: City of Orange Township and Dwayne D. Warren, Mayor v. Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township (Docket No. ESX-L-003047-21), City of Orange Township and Dwayne D. Warren, Mayor v. Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township (Docket No. ESX-L-005312-21), and City of Orange Township and Dwayne D. Warren, Mayor v. Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township (Docket No. ESX-L-006949-21) in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for the Calendar Year ending 2024.
- *14-2024 A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, authorizing the award of a professional services agreement to Nishuane Group LLC to provide professional planning consultant services to the City of Orange Township and its Land Use Boards, for a period of 1 year, beginning January 1, 2024, and continuing through December 31, 2024, with an option to extend the term for an additional year, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 per year.
- *15-2024 A resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2 and Change Order No. 3 to modify the contract for the project known as the Military Park Rehabilitation to S. Batata Construction, Inc.; 238 Ernston Road, Suite 1R, Parlin, New Jersey 08859 in the amount not to exceed \$49,850.00.
- *17-2024 A resolution approving payment for legal services and expenses rendered by The Antoine Law Firms, LLC in the matter Property Pilot LLC d/b/a GovPilot v. City of Orange Township, et al Docket No. ESX-L-2153-23 in an amount not to exceed \$2,130.00.

- *18-2024 A resolution authorizing the services of the Law Offices of Marco Di Stefano, Esq., LLC, as an Alternate Municipal Court Prosecutor on an as needed basis for the Calendar Year 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.
- *19-2024 A resolution authorizing a list of law firms to represent the City of Orange Township in regards to labor matters on as needed basis for a period of one (1) year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
- *20-2024 A resolution authorizing a list of firms to represent the City of Orange Township in regard to bond matters on an as needed basis for a period of one (1) year from January 1, 2024 through December 1, 2024.
- *21-2024 A resolution qualifying vendors in fair and open manner for Legislative Research Officer services on an as needed basis for a period of one (1) year from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
- *22-2024 A resolution approving the Bill List for Council meeting vote on January 2, 2024 dated December 27, 2023 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$6,201,762.42)

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

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

- *16-2024 A resolution declaring an emergency and ratifying a contract between the City of Orange Township and W.E. Timmerman Co., Inc., P.O. Box 71, 3554 Route 22 West, Whitehouse, New Jersey 08888 for emergency repairs to the Elgin Street Sweepers in the amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. AMENDED

A motion to withdraw Resolution 16-2024 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 RESOLUTIONS

There were no Postponed Resolutions.

NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

- 24-2024(WO) A resolution of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, authorizing the non-fair and open award of a professional services agreement to Lew Environmental Services LLC to provide dust wipe sampling of rental unit as required under P.L. 20221, C.182, for a period of 12 months, beginning January 1, 2024 and continuing through December 31, 2024 at no direct cost to the City.

A motion to Walk-On Resolution 24-2024 was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson.

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 Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

Adopted

A motion to adopt Resolution 24-2024 was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III 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**OTHER PENDING BUSINESS**

There was no Pending Business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross

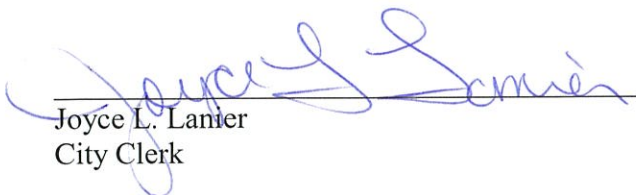
Motion adopted

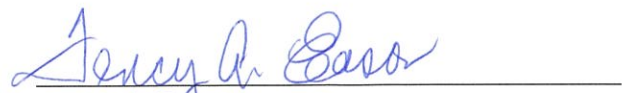
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 virtually at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: January 16, 2024


Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk


Tency A. Eason
Council President