

**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, NOVEMBER 21, 2023 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East 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  
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator  
Laquana Best, Planning Director  
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief  
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer  
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector  
Aaron Mizrahi, Esq., Deputy City Attorney  
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney  
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer  
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief  
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk  
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office  
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office  
Gabrielle Sims-Shelton, City Clerk's Office (*Arrived at 7:22pm*)

**Absent:** Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward  
Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large  
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer  
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director  
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor  
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services

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](http://www.orangetwpnjcc.org)), the City's website ([www.orangenj.gov](http://www.orangenj.gov)) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

There were no minutes to approve.

**REPORTS**

There were no reports.

**CONSTABLE REPORTS**

There were no Constable Reports.

**OPRA REPORTS**

There were 72 OPRA requests received, 59 OPRA requests completed, and 13 OPRA requests remaining for the month of October 2023.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

**Fire Department**

Fire Chief Derrick Brown wished all a healthy and Happy Thanksgiving. There was a four alarm fire reported at the old Meat Market on Center Street and the cause of the fire is still undetermined. There were no injuries to personnel. He asked residents to be careful with the unattended cooking and frying turkey for the holiday. On Thanksgiving Day from 11am-2pm at the Central Playground Field House, the Fire Department will serve Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. The number to call is 973-346-2300.

**Planning Department**

Laquana Best stated there are no new updates but they are planning Ribbon Cutting ceremonies. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III asked for an update on the recreation building which will be given next month. Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross wanted to comment on the swift movement of the Cleveland Avenue development. Director Best wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Tax Collections Department**

Director Paula Ferreira stated the Tax Sale date was moved from December 21<sup>st</sup> to December 28<sup>th</sup>. The last day to pay is December 27<sup>th</sup> and the department would not be accepting any payments after that date. The tax sale list will be posted online next week.

**Law Department**

City Attorney Gracia R. Montilus, Esq. wished all a Happy Holiday.

**Police Department**

Police Chief Vincent Vitiello stated on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm there will be a “Coffee with a Cop” event at the Police Station. There will be a PCC Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. There will be an Officer from Hudson County giving a presentation. On December 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a “Toys for Tots” event. All are welcome. He wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross inquired about crime and parking. Parking will be discussed with the Business Administrator and the car theft issues are being addressed.

**Administration**

Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and Safe Holiday.

**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 Terrace** inquired about the number of apartments being planned and expressed concerns about trash pick-up. She also asked Council to vote no on the resolution about Scotland Road. Director Best will research an answer concerning the number of apartments and how many single units.

**Devon Livingston of 190 Oxford Street** asked if his cease and assist letter was received and the City Attorney Gracia R. Montilus, Esq. confirmed receipt. He requested responses to his complaints. He inquired about recreation programs and expressed items that he is not pleased with.

**Kweli Campbell of Argyle Avenue** inquired about the fire mentioned by the Fire Chief. She had a concern about the Open Space Recreation Historic Preservation Committee. She is also concerned about the Scotland Road Project in particular the parking.

**Anthony Burke of 477 Hillside Avenue** inquired about permit parking on his street. He reached out to Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert with no response. He also inquired if developers were contributing to the city. The city has received an excess of \$10 million dollars from Community Benefit Agreements. Business Chris Hartwyk asked Mr. Burke to reach out to him.

**Rachel Tennant of 461 Waverly Place** expressed her concerns about the Community Benefit Agreements, Board of Ethics, the location of Human Resources in City Hall, and Leased vehicles. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk and CFO Nile Clements addressed her concerns.

**Veronica Scott of 548 Argyle Avenue** expressed concerns about robo calls, speed humps and the uptick in homeless individuals near the Scotland Train Station and Central Avenue. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk will speak to Public Works to address her concerns.

**There were no Citizen Comment 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 Jamie B. Summers-Johnson** wished everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday. There will be a South Ward Meeting in Council Chambers of City Hall on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross** stated the NJ League of Municipalities was a great event and he learned a great deal. He wished everyone a Happy and great Thanksgiving.

**Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III** wished everyone a Happy and safe Holiday. He spoke about the greatness of the Councilmembers and giving during this season.

**Councilmember Kerry J. Coley** stated the League of Municipalities was a great event and he wished everyone a Happy and safe Thanksgiving.

**Council President Tency A. Eason** wished everyone a Happy and safe Holiday. Safe Travels, Grace and Mercy.

**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. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Clifford R. Ross, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert and Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

**Motion Adopted:** *Postponed*

**ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING**

**75-2023** An ordinance of the City of Orange Township to approve a tax exemption for a Twenty-Two (22) year period and authorizing the execution of a financial agreement between the city and 617 Scotland Urban Renewal LLC

A motion to adopt Ordinance 75-2023 on First Reading 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:** None

**Absent:** Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert and Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

**Motion Adopted:** *Final Reading, December 19, 2023*

**76-2023** An ordinance of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, creating a Parking Authority in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:11A-1 et seq.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 76-2023 on First Reading was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

**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:** None

**Absent:** Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert and Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

**Motion Adopted:** *Final Reading, December 19, 2023*

**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 \*457-2023 THROUGH \*460-2023**

- \*457-2023** A resolution designating 617 Scotland Urban Renewal LLC as the Redeveloper for the property located at 611-617 Scotland Road and 517-519 Beach Street identified on the official tax map of the City as Block 6105, Lots 2, 3, 4 and 5 and authorizing the execution of a redevelopment agreement with 617 Scotland Urban Renewal LLC for the redevelopment of this property.
- \*458-2023** A resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a Community Benefits Agreement with 617 Scotland Urban Renewal LLC for the redevelopment of the property located at 611-617 Scotland Road and 517-519 Beach Street identified on the official tax map of the City as Block 6105, lots 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- \*459-2023** A resolution approving the Bill List for Council meeting vote on November 21, 2023 dated November 15, 2023 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$10,048,739.41)
- \*460-2023** A resolution awarding a contract to Reliance Graphics, Inc., 80 Pompton Avenue, Verona, New Jersey 07044 to provide local printing services for the Local Municipal Election to be held on May 14, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$21,090.00. (Amended)

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

**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:** None

**Absent:** Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert and 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**

There was no New Business, Walk-On Ordinances or Walk-On Resolutions.

**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 Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson.

**Motion adopted**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

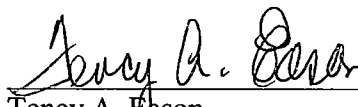
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 virtually at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: January 4, 2024



Joyce L. Danier  
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason  
Council President