

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, JUNE 18, 2024 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward (*Arrived at 7:31pm*)
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: Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Laquana Best, Planning Director
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Aaron Mizrahi, Deputy City Attorney
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
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

Absent: Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large
Joyce Lanier, City Clerk
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services

The Deputy 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

- **June 5, 2024 Conference Meeting Minutes** (*Councilmember Hilbert was absent and should abstain.*)

A motion to adopt the Minutes from the June 5, 2024 Conference Meeting 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

- **June 5, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion to adopt the Minutes from the June 5, 2024 Regular Meeting was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Motion Adopted

- **June 6, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes**

A motion to adopt the Minutes from the June 6, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting was made by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III and seconded by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross.

Motion Adopted

- **June 11, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes**

A motion to adopt the Minutes from the June 11, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Motion Adopted

- **June 12, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes**

A motion to adopt the Minutes from the June 12, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

Motion Adopted

- **June 13, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes**

(Councilmember Summers-Johnson was absent and should abstain.)

A motion to adopt the Minutes from the June 13, 2024 Budget Hearing Meeting 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

REPORTS

DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REVENUE COLLECTION

The Planning Department collected \$137,674.00 for the month of May 2024.

The Community Services Department collected \$56,887.08 for the month of May 2024.

The Historic Preservation Commission collected \$160.00 for the month of May 2024.

The Clerk's Office collected \$50.00 for the month of May 2024.

OPRA REPORTS

There were 39 OPRA request received, 30 completed and 9 remaining for the month of May 2024.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

Police Department

Police Chief Vincent Vitiello reminded the residents that there would be a PCC Meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 7:00pm on the second floor of the Police Station. Councilmembers and residents are all welcome to come and have a conversation with the officers. The department was awarded a Fast ID Program from the Criminal Justice Department of the Attorney General. A fingerprint system that would speed up the department's processing. He thanked Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten for calling him and gave accolades to officers she witnessed with a resident who suffered from mental health. This was a lead into the RISE pilot program. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III inquired about permit parking for out of state visitors which the Chief will assist him with. He also addressed home safety to deter from being robbed.

Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer took questions to relay to Director Wendy M. Sykes.

Tax Assessor

Director Chris Murray gave an update on the County Boards. The first hearing date was on the June 13th, there were 45 cases scheduled. Eight were settled, four were tried and thirty-three were dismissed due to lack of prosecution. There are ten more cases that are coming up at the next hearing.

Tax Collector

Director Paula Ferreira stated quarter estimated taxes bills will mailed out shortly, the last day to pay without interest is Monday, August 12th.

Department of Public Works

Director Marty Mayes had nothing to report but was open for questions. Council President Tency A. Eason inquired about paving on Cleveland Street and he will investigate.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Derrick Brown stated there was nothing to report on the fire side. He spoke about the JPSA orientation on July 1st and applications can be found the website. The program starts on July 8th for children 8-11. He gave locations of cooling stations. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III reminded residents that there a no passes need for the pool during the heatwave.

Planning Department

Director Laquana Best wished a belated Father's Day to all of the Fathers on the call. The 4th Annual Tri-Community Commercial and Residential Development Seminar (East Orange, Irvington, and the City of Orange Township) will be held Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Sandwiches Unlimited, 23 North Center Street, Orange. The Clerk's Office has distributed the flier as residents must register for this event. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert inquired about the developer on Mountain Avenue and Scotland Road working past the time allotted. The Business Administrator gave his number (973-280-2587) for residents who would like to call and make a complaint about this issue.

Law Department

Attorney Gracia R. Montilus, Esq. wanted to make the Councilmembers aware that on June 3rd, Governor Phil Murphy signed into legislation, a new law mandating access to periodic cancer screening for fire fighters. On June 5th there was a law making various changes to the process accessing government records. The law now encourages public records to be placed on agency websites so they are readily accessible. He will prepare a full memo to Councilmembers with this information. Council President Tency A. Eason stated that Governor Murphy will be at St James to start a committee to assist inmates who would like clemency.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no Communications and Petitions.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The Deputy City Clerk announced a “SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be advised that members of the public wishing to address the Council on any subject shall be permitted to do so during this portion of the meeting by indicating a “raised hand” and activating their cameras at this time.

To allow maximum public involvement, each speaker will have one 5-minute period to interact with the Council, and must provide his/her name and street address prior to beginning his/her remarks. Screen-sharing or visual aids are not permitted.

Members of the public are reminded to be courteous and mindful of other individuals’ rights when speaking. Each person has the right to speak on any subject and is responsible for any abuse of that right. The City bears no liability for any comments made by any member of the public, and reserves the right to remove any person engaging in obscene or disruptive conduct.

The Council will consider all comments and questions, and will respond if and when appropriate, which may or may not be during this meeting.

Aisha Samuel of 401 Highland Terrace expressed her concerns about her court date, lantern flies, Highland Terrace paving, water, Highland Avenue Train Station, Scotland Road Beautification, Hospital Site, and parking issues in her driveway.

Debbie Bryant of 456 Orange Road expressed concerns about sidewalks and offered services to residents who needed help. She is a Public Adjuster

Richard Martha of 740 McLaughlin Place expressed concerns about trash and rodents at 588 Argyle, pavement on Valley Street, Tennis Courts at Metcalf Park, and the paint for the logo.

Rachel Tennant of 461 Waverly Place thanked DPW for fixing the sign she put a ticket in for. She expressed her concerns about the water bill, a lawsuit on the agenda, noise issues in her neighborhood, Resolution 323-2024, and Resolution 319-2024.

Abisola Oshuntolu of 223 High Street expressed her concerns about the parking sign in front of her house, and the relationship between city hall and the public library.

Ebo Nkrumah of 711 South Center Street expressed concerns as he was offended by another residents comments. He spoke about his dedication to the city.

A Manuel Ortega Poir of 152 Heywood Avenue replied to comments made by Mr. Nkrumah.

Council President Tency A. Eason was offended that anyone would call Orange “ghetto”. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert requested comments from the Law Department to find a medium between resident’s quarrels.

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 wished all a Happy and safe summer. He encouraged residents to attend the City sponsored Gospelfest on Saturday, June 29th at Monte Irvin Park.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert wished all a Happy Juneteenth and Happy Father's Day. She invited all to come to former Councilmember Johnson's BBQ. She also wished all a Happy Puerto Rico Day and congratulated those graduating this month.

Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III spoke of making this city a better place for all resident. He wished all a Happy Father's Day and Happy Juneteenth.

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross spoke about the budget hearings and he is looking forward to adopting the budget. He wished all a Happy Father's Day and Happy Juneteenth. There will be a Juneteenth celebration at Colgate Park on Saturday, June 22nd. June 20th officially begins the summer and he asks all to be safe.

Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson stated she has been going door to door to hear from the residents. She has concerns about traffic on Argyle. She has attended a few events in the city and proud to be a resident. She is solution based and wants to hear from anyone that has positive solutions.

Council President Tency A. Eason wished all a Happy Father's Day and Happy Juneteenth. She inquired about speed bumps and Director Mayes will investigate. She encourage all to be positive and respect each other.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

13-2024 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, amending Chapter 210 of the City of Orange Township Municipal Code, entitled "Development Regulations" to revise the definition of 'Retail Sales' to include "Personal Service Establishments".

A motion for Ordinance 13-2024 to remain tabled 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: Tabled

22-2024 An ordinance to amend Chapter 200-33 of the City of Orange Township Code.
(Tabled at the June 5, 2024 Council Meeting)

A motion to lift Ordinance 22-2024 from the table 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

Resident Rachel Tenant expressed her concerns with the traffic.

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

Motion Adopted

A motion to adopt Ordinance 22-2024 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

23-2024 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township to approve a tax exemption for twenty-three (23) year period and to authorize the twenty-three (23) year exemption and authorizing the execution of a financial agreement for payments in lieu of taxes between the City and Morrow Street Urban Renewal, LLC.

Resident Rachel Tenant expressed her concerns about the number of years for the exemption.

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Motion Adopted

A motion to adopt Ordinance 23-2024 was made by Council President Tency A. Eason 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: Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted

24-2024 A bond ordinance of the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, providing aid to a redevelopment project located at 566-588 Morrow Street and 507-515 South Jefferson Street in the City of Orange Township and appropriating \$250,000, therefor, and providing for the issuance of \$250,000 in bonds or notes of the City of Orange Township to finance part of the cost thereof.

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

Motion Adopted

A motion to adopt Ordinance 24-2024 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: Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted

25-2024 An ordinance of the City of Orange Township granting Morrow Street Urban Renewal, LLC a non-exclusive perpetual easement and authorizing the execution of an easement agreement.

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson.

Motion Adopted

A motion to adopt Ordinance 25-2024 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: Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert

Absent: Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten

Motion Adopted

26-2024 An ordinance amending Chapter 88, “Fees”, Article I, “Fees Derived from Code Provisions”, Section 88-1, “Schedule of Fees” setting rates and fees for the use of the water/sewer system as initially established by Ordinance No. 58-2013 and as amended by Ordinance No. 29-2017 and 43-2021.

Resident Rachel Tenant expressed concerns about usage fees and the Board of Public Utilities.

A motion to close Citizens Comments was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers Johnson.

Motion Adopted

A motion to adopt Ordinance 26-2024 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

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 *317-2024 THROUGH *325-2024

- *317-2024** A resolution for emergency temporary appropriations #9 to the Calendar Year 2024 Budget.
- *318-2024** A resolution authorizing a refund of seventy dollars (\$70.00) paid by Mamah Sanogo of 50 South Essex Avenue, Apt. 309, Orange, New Jersey for the soccer program sponsored by the Orange Recreation Division Reference Receipt Number 42108084, paid online date 5/8/2024.
- *320-2024** A resolution authorizing Change Order No. 1 through 5 to modify the contract for the project known as the Ropes Playground Improvements to Picerno Giordano Construction, 200 Market Street, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033 in the amount not to exceed \$53,975.66.
- *321-2024** A resolution authorizing an agreement between the City of Orange Township and Municipal Inspection Corporation, 183 West 4th Street, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002, to provide elevator subcode inspection and plan review services for a one (1) year renewal option.
- *322-2024** A resolution ratifying and authorizing payment for psychological evaluations for fire recruits for the City of Orange Township Fire Department from the Institute for Forensic Psychology, 5 Fir Court, Suite 2, Oakland, New Jersey 07436 commencing on September 12, 2023 through September 25, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$8,400.00.
- *323-2024** A resolution authorizing payment to University Hospital Emergency Medical Services for service rendered in prior years 2020 – 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$98,972.00.
- *324-2024** A resolution approving the Bill List for Council meeting vote on June 18, 2024 dated June 12, 2024 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$16,021,289.65)
- *325-2024** A resolution celebrating LGBTQIA+ Pride Month and honoring Dr. Jeffrey Poirier. (Sponsored by Councilmember Hilbert)

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert.

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

***319-2024** A resolution authorizing the extension of the awarded contract with Bright View Engineering, 5 Pitcairn Drive, Roseland, New Jersey 07068 to provide engineering design services on Scotland Road (CR 638) & Highland Avenue in the amount not to exceed \$69,500.00. Amended

A motion to adopt Resolution 319-2024 as amended 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

POSTPONED RESOLUTIONS

There were no Postponed Resolutions.

NEW BUSINESS AND WALK-ON ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

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

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

There was no Pending Business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross and seconded by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert.

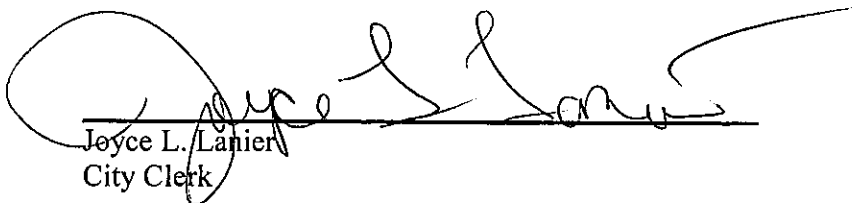
Motion adopted

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

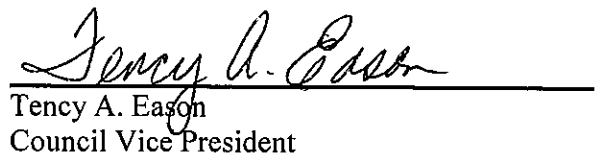
PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024.

Approved: October 1, 2024



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason
Council Vice President