

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, APRIL 2, 2024 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward (*Arrived at 7:25pm*)
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 (*Arrived at 7:18pm*)
Council President Tency A. Eason, North Ward

Also Present: Joyce Lanier, City Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Laquana Best, Planning Director (*Arrived at 7:35pm*)
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Vincent DeFilippo, Health Officer
Paula Ferreira, Tax Collector
Marty Mayes, Public Works Director
Aaron Mizrahi, Esq., Deputy City Attorney
Chris Murray, Tax Assessor
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office

Absent: Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney
Wendy M. Sykes, Director of Community Services
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
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 be approved.

REPORTS

There were no Department Monthly Revenue Collections to report.

OPRA REPORTS

There were no OPRA requests to report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President directs Clerk to file reports.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Derrick Brown stated the city has been safe on the fire side. He commended the Recreation Department for the Easter Egg Hunt which the Fire Department supported. Council President Tency A. Eason inquired about lithium battery safety which the Fire Chief will distribute information.

Tax Collector

Director Paula Ferreira reminded residents that the second quarter taxes are due on May 1st and the easiest way to pay is on the city's website.

Department of Public Works

Director Marty Mayes stated the Shredding event will be this Saturday, April 6th from 9-12pm at City Hall. Councilmember Kerry J Coley inquired about cleaning for an abandoned house which DPW will take a look at tomorrow. Director Mayes also informed Councilmembers that changing direction on streets is actively being worked on, construction on the basketball courts has been paused due to weather, and the department is exploring different ways for dividers near Dunkin Donuts. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley had a concern about a sink hole near Hampton Terrace.

Finance

CFO Nile Clements stated there is legislation on the agenda from the Finance Department that he wanted the Councilmembers to adopt. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about the bill list which CFO Nile Clements explained that they rolled over 14.6 million dollars in bond anticipation notes in March and the Health Insurance Bill was also included in this amount.

County Liaison

Reginald Bledsoe stated he could set up a discussion through the Clerk's Office along with the Business Administrator to allow Councilmembers to address their concerns with DPW. Councilmember Kerry J. Coley inquired about a permit to park ordinance for residents who live on Central Avenue that was kicked back. Mr. Bledsoe will revisit this after conversations with the Councilmember. Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III requested more signage on Scotland Road. Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert inquired about Scotland Road traffic issues and the YMCA Sale which Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk addressed her concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

A virtual public hearing will be held on April 10, 2024 by the New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc. regarding a petition filed for the approval of increased tariff rates and charges for water and wastewater services, change in depreciation rates and other tariff modifications. 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 her driveway striping, the neighbor leaving tree trimmings on her property, permit parking, beautification program, Open Space and Recreation account, Parking Authority and the Quiet Zone Ordinance.

Richard Martha of 740 McLaughlin Place Avenue expressed concerns about Ballot Drawing.

Devon Livingston of 190 Oxford expressed his concerns about freedom of speech, recreation, Opra requests, federal employees, and his feelings about Councilmembers.

Alely St. Hilaire of 472 Alden Street expressed concerns about park renovations for children on the spectrum, library events, and how the city is addressing mental health awareness.

Aisola Oshuntolu of 223 High Street expressed concerns about the library, it's board, and speeding on her block.

Kweli Campbell of 55 Randolph expressed her concerns about citizens being censored.

Carmen Engle and Carolyn McMillian of 174 Heywood Avenue expressed concerns about the atmosphere in the city as it is not welcoming. She encourages Councilmembers to enforce nuisance laws.

Fabiola Jedy of 741 McLaughlin Place expressed concerns that her questions raised at the last Council meeting was not addressed. She gave her phone number (973-223-2654) for the Business Administrator to reach out to her off line.

Carolyn Hayward King of 498 Mountainview expressed her concerns about a pothole and the sidewalk paving on Mountainview. Director Mayes gave his number 973-885-1921 for her to follow-up with him.

Sherene Williamson of 447 Alden Street expressed her concerns about Citizens Comments, speeding on Alden, and a sink hole in front her driveway. Director Mayes gave his number 973-885-1921 for her to follow-up with him.

A Manuel Ortega Poir of 152 Heywood Avenue expressed concerns about mental health awareness, the hate speech that has to be endured, residents having to deal with city streets being used as a latrine.

Veronica Scott was disappointed that citizens cannot express themselves in Council Meetings. She gave accolades to Director Mayes for the work being done in the city.

Jocelyn White of 2617 Bellgreen Street, Philadelphia, PA expressed her concerns about in-person Council Meetings, the hacks during the meetings, and the rights of the residents.

Lyndsay Hollerin and Natasha McCoy of 588 Argyle Avenue expressed concerns about slum lords and code enforcement. She gave her number to 929-508-6514 to Director Laquana Best to give her direction.

Danielle McMillian-Bennett of 458 Tremont Place expressed concerns about parking, public safety, planning board projects, and making a path for new business owners.

Ronald D. Scott, Jr., of 548 Argyle Avenue expressed his concerns about allowing residents to speak. The residents of the city have become very frustrated.

Rachel Palumbo of 351 Alden Street and 563 Argyle Avenue expressed her concerns about parking, alternate side of the street parking and traffic control.

There were no Citizen Comments received by e-mail.

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

Motion Adopted

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley stated that he and his Council colleagues need to work on communication as perception is everything. He also spoke about ATV's and the frustration in being able to deal with them.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert spoke about Library meeting times, quiet zones, and citizens comments.

Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III stated he is available to residents whenever they need him.

Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross is concerned about the citizen's comments and frustration as the Councilmembers are working hard to answer all of their concerns. He spoke about an event he attended that featured an author who is an Orange resident.

Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson started with the Serenity Prayer. She stressed that the Councilmembers have been working hard to be on the same page. She understands that residents are frustrated but they must realize that everything is not fixed overnight. She also noted that there are somethings said and done during an election year. She reminded residents she can be reached by phone or e-mail.

Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten wished all a Happy Holiday. She wants residents to know their rights and looks forward to a more cohesive meeting.

Council President Tency A. Eason thanked the residents for coming to Council Meetings and looks forward to more collaborations. She loves the city and will continue to try and move it forward. She asked the community to visit Care Well Hospital to keep it open.

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 remain postpone Ordinance 24-2021 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, Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: *Postponed*

2-2024 An ordinance to amend Chapter §200-32 and Chapter §200-38 of the City Of Orange Township Code (Frankfort Street) (*Tabled at the March 5, 2024 Council Meeting*)

A motion close Citizens Comments was made by Council President Tency A. Eason and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

Motion Adopted

A motion to keep Ordinance 2-2024 tabled was made by Councilmember 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, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION | FIRST READING

14-2024 An ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14 for the Calendar Year 2024 Budget.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 14-2024 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. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, 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: Final Reading May 7, 2024

15-2024 A refunding bond ordinance authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$8,100,000 aggregate principal amount of water-sewer utility refunding bonds, Series 2024 by the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey for the purpose of restructuring the outstanding 2014 refunding bonds previously issued by the City, and appropriating the proceeds of such refunding bonds to such purpose and authorizing the issuance of such refunding bonds pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Qualified Bond Act.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 15-2024 on First Reading 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, Hon. Clifford R. Ross,
Hon. Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Final Reading May 7, 2024

16-2024 A capital ordinance amending Capital Ordinance Number 58-2023 finally adopted by the City Council of the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey on October 3, 2023 to amend the title of the Capital Ordinance and Sections 1 and 3 therein.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 16-2024 on First Reading 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, 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: Final Reading May 7, 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 *190-2024 THROUGH *220-2024

- *190-2024** A resolution celebrating the life of Dr. Robert D. Cunningham.
(Sponsored by Council Member Quantavia Hilbert & the Orange City Council).
- *191-2024** A resolution recognizing Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson as the first African American Councilwoman of the South Ward.
(Sponsored by Council Member Wooten & the Orange City Council)
- *192-2024** A resolution honoring James A. Summers for his exemplary service as a Veteran and contributions to the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten)
- *193-2024** A resolution celebrating the Muslim Community during Ramadan, announcing the 2nd Annual Community Iftar. (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten)
- *194-2024** A resolution recognizing Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day in the City of Orange Township/ (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten)

- *195-2024** A resolution recognizing National Autism Awareness Month in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten)
- *196-2024** A resolution recognizing April 6, 2024 as National Library Day in the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Council Member Wooten)
- *197-2024** A resolution authorizing and ratifying the award of a contract for communications services contract with Direct Development, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
- *198-2024** A resolution of the City of Orange Township, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey authorizing the submission of an application to the Local Finance Board (I) pursuant to N.J.S.A. §40A:2-51 and N.J.S.A. §40A:2-55 in connection with the issuance of not to exceed \$8,100,100 aggregate principal amount of water-sewer utility refunding bonds, Series 2024, (II) for the approval of a refunding bond ordinance of the City pursuant to the provision of the Municipal Qualified Bond Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:3-1 et seq. (The “Act”), and (III) for the approval of the issuance of refunding bonds as qualified bonds under the provision of the Act.
- *199-2024** A resolution authorizing an emergency temporary appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20.
- *200-2024** A resolution for emergency temporary appropriations #5 to the Calendar Year 2024 Budget.
- *201-2024** A resolution to accept grant funds from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs in the amount of \$75,000.00 for self-contained breathing apparatus equipment.
- *202-2024** A resolution authorizing the cancellation of tax sale certificate #23-00172 on Block 301 Lot 17, also known as 496 Meade Street, in addition to issuing a refund for the certificate amount of \$1.82 to Pro Cap 8 LLC for a total amount of \$1.82.
- *203-2024** A resolution authorizing the cancellation of tax sale certificate #23-00121 on Block 6003 Lot 23, also known as 554-556 Nassau Street, in addition to issuing a refund for all accrued interest and penalties to Benjamin Fleck in the amount of \$0.12.
- *204-2024** A resolution authorizing the cancellation of tax sale certificate #23-00229 on Block 1403 Lot 37, also known as 144 Summer Street, in addition to issuing a refund for the certificate amount of \$42.67 plus recording fees of \$67.00 to Pro Cap LLC for a total amount of \$109.67.
- *205-2024** A resolution authorizing a refund of one hundred eighty six dollars and forty-eight cents (\$186.48) intended for Jersey City by Veolia located at 461 From Street, Paramus, New Jersey 07652 but deposited into the City of Orange Water/Sewer account.
- *206-2024** A resolution authorizing a refund of three thousand five hundred and seventy three dollars and ninety cents (\$3,573.90) intended for the Jersey City Municipal Utility Authority located at 13-15 Linden Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07035 by Veolia but deposited into the City of Orange Water/Sewer account.
- *207-2024** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to enter into a “Renewal” Cooperative Pricing agreement with Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) for the purchase of work materials, supplies and equipment for the duration of five (5) years commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.
- *208-2024** A resolution authorizing an addendum to Resolution #70-2023 to increase the contract amount for car washing services with KC Car Wash, 360 Thomas Boulevard, Orange, New Jersey 07050 in an amount not to exceed \$2,002.23.
- *209-2024** A resolution awarding a contract to KC Car Wash, 360 Thomas Boulevard, Orange, New Jersey 07050 for car washing services to all City owned vehicles for one (1) year commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount not exceed \$15,000.00.
- *210-2024** A resolution declaring an emergency and ratifying a contract between the City of Orange Township and Lewis Consulting Group, Inc., 2604 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 600, Wall, New Jersey 07719 for emergency air testing services for the Baby Clinic at City Hall in the amount not exceed \$4,220.00.

- *211-2024 A resolution awarding a contract to W.E. Timmerman Co., Inc., 3554 Route 22 West, Whitehouse, New Jersey 08888 for parts and repairs to two (2) Elgin sweepers for two (2) years commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 per year.
- *212-2024 A resolution authorizing the extension of the awarded contract with Remington & Vernick Engineers, 2059 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003 to provide professional engineering construction administration service of the Ropes Playground Improvements in the amount not to exceed \$7,558.35.
- *213-2024 A resolution authorizing the execution and award of a non-fair and open contract to Hatfield & Schwartz, LLC for special counsel in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 for Calendar Year 2024.
- *214-2024 A resolution amending Resolution No. 118-2024 authorizing the services of Marco Di Stefano, LLC to represent the City of Orange Township in the in the matter, "Forever Greatful Art Studios, LLC 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.
- *215-2024 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, "Angel Ortega v. City of Orange Township" DCR Docket No. P2024-000011 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for Calendar Year 2024.
- *216-2024 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 NW Financial Group, LLC 552 Broad Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey, 07003, for financial advisory services in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.
- *217-2024 A resolution approving the Bill List for Council Meeting vote on April 2, 2024 dated March 27, 2024 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (Grand Total: \$18,218,179.50)
- *218-2024 A resolution authorizing payment of legal fees to the law firm of Blau & Blau, LLP as tax appeal counsel for an amount not to exceed \$92,046.29 for services rendered in prior years.
- *220-2024 A resolution awarding a contract to CV Electrical Contractors, P.O. Box 1263, Linden, New Jersey 07036 for electrical services to all Municipal owned buildings for two (2) years commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$95,843.40 per year.

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley 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, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

***219-2024** A resolution authorizing award of a non-fair and non-open professional services contract to Greater Essex Counseling Services to provide mental and social services to the City of Orange Township from April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

A motion to adopt Resolution 219-2024 was made by Council Vice President Clifford R. Ross 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, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten and Hon. Tency A. Eason

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

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 Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten

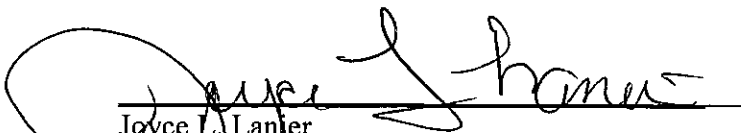
Motion adopted

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.

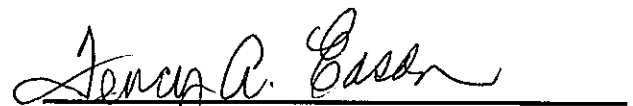
PUBLIC NOTICE

The next City Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2024 virtually at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: October 1, 2024



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Tency A. Eason
Council Vice President