MINUTES CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP

NEW JERSEY

A SPECIAL MEETING TO HOLD A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD VIA AUDIO-VIDEO CONFERENCING ON MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026, 7:03PM

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East
Councilmember Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward
Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Councilmember Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward

Also Present: Trisha A. Scipio, Acting Municipal Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Nile S. Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Marlin G. Townes, Esq., Legislative Research Officer
Blair Landolfi, Budget Consultant

Absent: Council President Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced a moment of silence. Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III dedicated this moment to David Marshall

The Acting Municipal 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, published on the City's website (www.orangenj.gov), posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall, and the Council's website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org), and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

ADMINISTRATION

Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk presented remarks concerning the proposed Calendar Year 2026 Municipal Budget and provided an overview of the Administration's approach to developing a fiscally responsible spending plan. Mr. Hartwyk acknowledged the extensive efforts undertaken by the Mayor, Municipal Council, Chief Financial Officer Nile S. Clements, department directors, and municipal staff throughout the budget preparation process. He stated that the 2026 Budget was developed during a period of continued economic uncertainty and increasing operational costs affecting municipalities throughout New Jersey. He noted that significant budgetary challenges included rising healthcare expenses, pension obligations, insurance premiums, contractual obligations, and debt service costs. Despite these financial pressures, the Administration remained committed to delivering essential municipal services while maintaining fiscal discipline and accountability.

Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk explained that the budget reflects a careful balance between meeting the needs of residents and preserving the City's long-term financial stability. Departmental requests were thoroughly reviewed to identify operational efficiencies and prioritize expenditures that directly support public safety, public works, infrastructure improvements, code enforcement, recreation, community services, and other vital municipal functions. BA Hartwyk emphasized that every effort was made to control spending while ensuring that City departments have the resources necessary to effectively serve the public.

BA Hartwyk further highlighted the Administration's continued focus on economic development initiatives, grant acquisition, and strategic partnerships designed to enhance municipal services and reduce reliance on local property taxes. He noted that the City continues to pursue opportunities for outside funding and alternative revenue sources that can help offset operational costs and support capital improvement projects.

Additionally, he recognized the dedication of municipal employees who work daily to provide quality services to residents and businesses throughout the City of Orange Township. He stated that the proposed budget represents a collaborative effort among all departments and reflects the Administration's commitment to transparency, accountability, and sound financial management.

In closing, BA Hartwyk thanked the Municipal Council for its participation throughout the budget review process and expressed appreciation to residents who attended the public hearing and remained engaged in municipal affairs. He reiterated the Administration's commitment to responsible governance and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are utilized effectively to meet the needs of the community.

The Municipal Council thanked Mr. Hartwyk for his report and continued leadership throughout the budget development process.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Alysha, 487 Mountain View Avenue, inquired about departmental budget increases, staffing levels, potential firefighter hiring, and the status of a Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. Administration explained that several departmental increases were related to inspections, licensing, lifeguards, and fire services, and noted that discussions regarding future firefighter recruitment were ongoing. It was also stated that no Citizens Budget Advisory Committee had been appointed, as such a committee is not required.

Kweli Campbell, 55 Randolph Place, requested information regarding Community Services programs, Planning Department functions, open space funding, the City's grant-writing services, fleet management operations, and budget reduction methodologies. Administration responded by outlining the responsibilities of Millennium Strategies, reporting that the grant-writing contract generated more than $3 million in grant funding during the prior year, and explained that budget reductions are evaluated across departments with emphasis on discretionary operating expenses. Additional explanations were provided regarding fleet management and planning-related functions.

A motion to Close Citizens Comments was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III.
Motion Adopted

Following public comment, Councilwoman Quantavia Hilbert raised questions concerning the Public Agency Compliance Officer stipend within the Planning Department budget. The Business Administrator explained that the position oversees compliance requirements associated with grants, redevelopment agreements, affirmative action obligations, and local hiring requirements, noting that the duties had previously been shared among staff members.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Tency A. Eason.
Motion Adopt

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday June 11, 2026.

Approved: July 1, 2026

Trisha A. Scipio
Acting Municipal Clerk

Clifford R. Ross
Council President