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 TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2026, 7:06PM

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 Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Council President Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large

Also Present: Trisha A. Scipio, Acting Municipal Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Nile S. Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq. City Attorney
Marlin G. Townes, Esq., Legislative Research Officer
Aaron Mizrahi, Deputy City Attorney
Alex Cirroco, Assistant City Attorney
Louis Copeland, Orange Public Library
Alice Mc McMillian, Orange Public Library
Marty Mayes, Director of Public Works

Absent: Councilmember Clifford R. Ross, At-Large

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced a moment of silence.

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced 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

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE | COUNCIL

Acting Municipal Clerk Trisha A. Scipio presented the Municipal Clerk's Office budget. CFO Clements reviewed the proposed Salary and Wage appropriation of $172,053, representing a decrease from the prior year budget of $361,306. The Other Expenses budget remained unchanged at $93,695. The Elections Salary and Wage budget was proposed at $15,000, an increase of $5,000 over the prior year allocation. Council members discussed staffing needs and the possibility of future personnel additions within the department.

The Clerk concluded by thanking the Mayor, Municipal Council, Administration, and Senior Clerk Margarette Homere for their continued support and reaffirmed the office's commitment to transparency, accountability, professionalism, and exceptional customer service.

LAW DEPARTMENT

City Attorney Gracia R. Montilus, Esq. presented the Law Department budget. CFO Nile Clements reviewed the proposed 2026 Salary and Wage appropriation of $492,811, a decrease from the 2025 budget of $538,585. The department's Other Expenses request totaled $555,200, an increase from the prior year primarily due to the inclusion of reverse tax appeal attorney services within the department's operating budget. A settlement reserve line item of $625,000 was also discussed, reflecting a reduction from the prior year.

Attorney Montilus stated that the Law Department remains committed to providing legal guidance and services to the Administration, Municipal Council, and residents of Orange Township.

ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Representatives of the Orange Public Library provided an overview of recent improvements and accomplishments. The Library highlighted significant capital investments, including repairs to the roof, replacement of HVAC equipment, restoration of interior walls and ceilings, and refinishing of floors. The first phase of interior renovations is expected to be completed by the end of the summer. Library officials thanked Mayor Warren, the Municipal Council, and the Administration for supporting these improvements.

CFO Clements reviewed the Library's 2026 budget request totaling $1,402,424.62, including a statutory funding requirement of $923,689 and $185,000 in health benefit costs. The proposed Salary and Wage budget totaled $633,695.19, while Other Expenses were projected at $433,729.43.

Library representatives discussed expanded programming initiatives, including workforce development partnerships with the National Career Institute, resume-writing workshops, and monthly food distribution efforts serving more than 500 families.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director Marty Mayes presented the Department of Public Works budget and provided an overview of completed and upcoming infrastructure projects. He highlighted recent improvements, including roadway and infrastructure projects throughout the City, and discussed the department's continued focus on fiscal responsibility and community service.

CFO Clements reviewed the department's various budget components, including Street Services, Snow Removal, Refuse Collection, Buildings and Grounds, Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance, Parks, and Utilities. Snow Removal appropriations were increased to address severe winter weather experienced during the year, while utility appropriations were increased by $100,000 to account for rising energy costs.

Director Mayes requested additional funding for off-duty police officers used in roadway projects, explaining that increased funding would allow the City to complete additional paving projects. Council members discussed the potential use of flaggers in certain construction situations to reduce costs while maintaining public safety.

Director Mayes also raised concerns regarding an unused emergency generator located behind City Hall, noting that approximately $90,000 would be required to complete its installation. Business Administrator Hartwyk advised that this and other infrastructure projects would be addressed through the City's capital budget and future capital ordinances.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Council President Wooten opened the public comment portion of the workshop. Resident Alysha Rodriquez of Mountainview Avenue questioned the availability of budget documents to the public, salary increases, staffing levels, tax appeal expenditures, and library legal services.

Business Administrator Hartwyk responded that the municipal budget had been publicly available on the City's financial transparency webpage and clarified that requests subject to OPRA pertained only to draft budget workbooks prepared for Council review. He further explained that the City's overall salary budget had decreased by approximately $2.6 million from the prior year and that salary adjustments reflected contractual obligations. He also clarified that the reverse tax appeal line item represented professional services provided by outside counsel to pursue under-assessed commercial properties.

Resident Kweli Campbell also questioned Open Space funds.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Council President Adrienne K. Wooten.
Motion Adopt

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday June 16, 2026 in person.

Approved: June 16, 2026

Trisha A. Scipio
Acting Municipal Clerk

Adrienne K. Wooten
Council President