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 AT CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward
Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne, North Ward
Councilmember James H. Ward, III, South Ward
Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large
Council President Clifford R. Ross, At-Large

Also Present: Trisha A. Scipio, Acting Municipal Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., Deputy City Attorney
Marlin G. Townes. Esq., Legislative Research Officer

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced that the requirements of **N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 et seq.**, commonly known as the **Open Public Meetings Act ("Sunshine Law")**, have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Star-Ledger* on **Friday, July 10, 2026**, and on the City's official website (**www.orangenj.gov**). Notice was also posted on the Municipal Council's website (**www.orangetwpnjcc.org**), posted on the official bulletin board at City Hall, and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2026 Public Hearing was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert.
Motion Adopted

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2026 Conference and Regular Meeting was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten.
Motion Adopted

DEPARTMENT REVENUE COLLECTION

➢ Department of Community Services	August 2026	$44,290.00
➢ Municipal Clerk's Office	August 2026	$207.95
➢ Parking Meters	August 2026	$15,732.05
➢ Department of Planning	August 2026	$111,910.00
➢ Department of Public Works	August 2026	$10,901.00
➢ Tax Assessor	No report submitted	
➢ Tax Collector	No report submitted	

OPRA REPORTS
August 2026: 148 Requested, 61 Complete, and 87 Remaining

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS
None

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS
The Acting Municipal Clerk announced that members of the public wishing to address the Council may do so during this portion of the meeting. Speakers must sign their name on the Comments Sign-Up sheet and approach the microphone, when called upon. To allow maximum public involvement, each speaker is permitted one 3-minute period to interact with the Council and must provide his or her name and street address prior to beginning any remarks. Visual aids are not permitted.

Speakers are reminded to be courteous and mindful of other individuals. Each person has the right to speak on any subject but is responsible for abuse of that right. The City bears no liability for any comments made by the public and maintains discretion 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.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Aisha Samuel, 401 Highland Terrace, appeared before the Board and requested updates on several City matters. She asked about the status of the Community Benefits meeting, when Highland Terrace would be repaved, whether any apartment buildings owe PILOT payments or taxes, and what actions are being taken regarding outstanding obligations. She also asked about the City's current wells, plans for replacing water pipes, and the wells that have been rented and the revenue generated.

Ms. Samuel questioned the rental of the property at 482 Glee Street, stating that she attended an Essex County Commission meeting on September 2 where a budget item indicated that Essex County was renting a City-owned property for $28,000 for two years. She questioned how the rental amount was established and expressed concern that the City could receive greater revenue from the property, particularly given the City's parking needs. She offered to provide documentation from the County meeting for review.

Ms. Samuel also asked about the Chamber of Commerce, noting the closure and opening of local businesses and expressing concern about the lack of promotion for new businesses. She requested updates on the Scattered Sites program and the Scotland Road project, and expressed her position regarding additional PILOT agreements.

Ms. Samuel asked about the future of the Highland Avenue train station following construction. She was advised that the station will be restored as a functioning train station with commercial space that will be bid and marketed, although the specific commercial use has not yet been determined. She was advised that the City would be responsible for the commercial space.

Regarding the Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Samuel was advised that it had disbanded due to insufficient paying membership and that there is currently no Chamber operating in the City. Ms. Samuel was advised that her allotted speaking time had expired and that she could continue the discussion afterward. She thanked the Board.

CITIZENS COMMENTS continued

Alysha Rodriguez, 487 Mountain View Avenue, questioned the authority for Council members to use City-owned vehicles, including the Council President's take-home vehicle, the related cost to taxpayers, mileage documentation, and the City's liability when personal vehicles are used for City business.

Business Administrator Christopher Hartwyk explained that the City Code gives the Mayor or his designee authority to assign City pool vehicles without Council action. He stated that City vehicles provide liability and workers' compensation protections and are regularly maintained.

Ms. Rodriguez also asked about Todd Warren's appointment as Acting Public Safety Director, including the appointing authority, duties, and duration. Mr. Hartwyk stated that Mr. Warren was appointed by letter from the Mayor for up to 90 days and is performing the duties provided under the City Code. The exact appointment date was not available at the meeting.

Ms. Rodriguez requested information regarding matters discussed in Executive Session and was advised that confidential matters could not be discussed publicly. She also expressed concern regarding the lack of meeting alerts and requested consistent notifications to residents.

Regarding Mountain View Avenue, Ms. Rodriguez reported that PSE&G work had blocked portions of the street and driveways, reportedly damaged a waterline, and resulted in multiple utility poles. She questioned whether the older poles would be removed and expressed concern about the lack of resident notification. Mr. Hartwyk stated that he would look into the matter.

There were no Citizen Comments received by e-mail.

A motion to Close Citizen Comments was made by Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten and seconded by Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne.
Motion Adopted

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten briefly acknowledged the Jewish New Year and expressed appreciation for spending time with family and friends. She extended condolences to families who have experienced losses in the City and encouraged residents to participate in the upcoming November election and exercise their right to vote.

Councilmember James H. Ward, III discussed two pieces of legislation before the Council concerning scattered sites and traffic studies, noting that these were matters he had previously raised as a private citizen. He expressed hope for productive discussion and emphasized the importance of communication and coordination regarding street, road, park, and utility projects. He cited a traffic issue on Berkeley Avenue during school dismissal and stressed the need for better coordination of project schedules and emergency work. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of transparent, measurable, and responsive municipal government.

Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne congratulated the Italian Day Heritage event awardees and praised the event's activities for children and adults. She discussed concerns regarding dumpsters at large apartment buildings, particularly in the North Ward, and the reported increase in rat infestations. She expressed hope that the matter could be addressed through appropriate resolutions. She also thanked those who supported her recent throwback party and indicated she may host another event in the future.

COUNCIL COMMENTS continued

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley welcomed residents back to their school-year routines and shared that he and Councilman Ross met with the new management/owners of Axia Healthcare, the former St. Mary's Hospital. He noted the facility's ongoing improvements and its plans to provide short- and long-term care services. He announced a car show scheduled for Saturday, September 26, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Axia Healthcare and expressed support for the facility's services to the Orange community.

Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert announced upcoming West Ward events, including the September 22 West Ward Meeting **and** October 10 community cleanup, and shared information about an Essex County Environmental Center event on September 20. She also requested that Ordinance 40-2026 be postponed to allow proposed amendments concerning the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Board to be incorporated, noting resident interest in serving on the boards. The Council agreed to postpone the ordinance.

Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III highlighted the recent Back-to-School Basketball Tournament at Colgate and thanked those involved. He asked about the Open Space Board membership, parking enforcement and permits, the status of the Recreation Center proposals, and negotiations concerning the Orange Memorial site. Business Administrator Christopher Hartwyk provided updates on each matter, including over 1,800 parking tickets issued during the first two weeks of enforcement, ongoing discussions regarding parking permits, two Recreation Center proposals under review, and continued negotiations regarding a financial agreement for the Orange Memorial site.

Council President Clifford R. Ross requested a financial report from the CFO detailing year-to-date spending, budget variances, and potential adjustments, with a report to be provided for the October 6 meeting. He also asked about the new brewery at the former Four City Brewery location, the status of the parking garage, and expansion of parking enforcement beyond Main Street. Business Administrator Christopher Hartwyk provided updates, including the need for new access software for the garage and plans for expanded parking enforcement. He also agreed to provide quarterly reports on parking meter and ticket revenues compared with the prior year. Council President Ross further asked about the 6–9 Program and Safe Haven at the Central Playground Fieldhouse and was advised that the Board of Education is handling the program. He emphasized that the Parking Utility is intended to supplement, not replace, police parking enforcement, and that police enforcement responsibilities should continue.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

There were no Ordinances on Second Reading.

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION | FIRST READING

39-2026 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 200-52-1, Handicapped Parking Spaces (54 North Essex Avenue).

A motion to adopt Ordinance 39-2026 on First Reading was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten and Hon. Clifford R. Ross

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Final Reading October 20, 2026

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION | FIRST READING continued

40-2026 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, restructuring and updating Chapter 4, Articles XIII and XIV of the City of Orange Township Municipal Code.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 40-2026 on First Reading was made by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert and seconded by Councilmember James H. Ward, III.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten and Hon. Clifford R. Ross

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Final Reading October 20, 2026

41-2026 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, suspending implementation of the scattered sites redevelopment plan pending review and consideration of final recommendations by the City of Orange Township Planning Board regarding continued designation of the scattered sites redevelopment area and/or the bulk zoning standards applicable thereto. (Sponsored by Council Member James H. Ward, III)

A motion to adopt Ordinance 41-2026 on First Reading was made by Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne and seconded by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten and Hon. Clifford R. Ross

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Final Reading October 20, 2026

42-2026 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, New Jersey, amending Chapter 210 of the City of Orange Township Municipal Code, entitled "Development Regulations", to require traffic studies in connection with certain site plan approval applications submitted to the Planning Board or Zoning Board of adjustment, as applicable. (Sponsored by Council Member James H. Ward, III)

A motion to adopt Ordinance 42-2026 on First Reading was made by Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten and Hon. Clifford R. Ross

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted: Final Reading October 20, 2026

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 *461-2026 THROUGH *471-2026

***461-2026 A Resolution Celebrating the Life, Legacy, and Memory of Maxine Gilchrist Johnson (Sponsored by Council President Clifford R. Ross and the City of Orange Township Municipal Council)**

***462-2026 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RACHEL LATISHA YOUNG GARRETSON (Sponsored by Council President Clifford R. Ross and the City of Orange Township Municipal Council)**

***464-2026 A resolution to accept funds in the amount of $119,372.00 from the New Jersey Department of Health-Division of Local Public Health**

***465-2026 A resolution authorizing the services of Hatfield Schwartz, LLC, to represent the City of Orange in the matter, "Shawn Harris, Sr. v. City of Orange Township" Docket No. ESX-l-6263-26 in an amount not to exceed $20,000.00 for calendar year 2026.**

***466-2026 A resolution authorizing settlement in the matter of Forbyh Pierre v. City of Orange Police Department, Captain Isaac Eason, John Does 1-10, and XYZ Corp. 1-10, Docket No. 2:25-cv-18321, in the amount of sixty thousand dollars ($60,000.00).**

***467-2026 A resolution reappointing Rashida N. Hasan as Judge of the Orange Municipal Court for an additional three (3) years commencing October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2029.**

***468-2026 A resolution for the approval to hire six (6) new firefighters for the City of Orange Township, to attend the County of Morris Department of Law & Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Plains, 07950 commencing on September 8, 2026 through December 1, 2026 in the amount not to exceed $12,600.00**

***470-2026 A resolution authorizing the extension #2 of awarding of a contract for the 2026 "on call" emergency repair water, sanitary and storm sewer to Shauger Property Services, Inc., 429 Dodd Street, East Orange, New Jersey 07017 in the amount not to exceed $866,410.00 for an additional ninety (90) days**

***471-2026 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on September 15, 2026 dated September 9, 2026 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: $4,808,382.26).**

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember James H. Ward, III.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Clifford R. Ross

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

***463-2026 A resolution to approve the corrective action plan for calendar year 2025.**

A motion to adopt Resolution 463-2026 as Amended was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Clifford R. Ross

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

***469-2026 A resolution authorizing Lewis Consulting Group, Inc., 2604 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 600, Wall, New Jersey 07719 to provide professional services – remediation investigation, grant management and implementation for the Washington Street Firehouse in an amount not to exceed $56,431.50.**

A motion to adopt Resolution 469-2026 was made by Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten and seconded by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Clifford R. Ross

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Adopted

NEW BUSINESS, WALK-ON ORDINANCES | RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER PENDING BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

457-2026 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Orange Township directing the preparation and introduction of an ordinance to move the City's regular municipal elections from May to the November General Election date pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1 and related law. (Sponsored by Councilmember James H. Ward, III).
(Postponed from September 1, 2026 Municipal Council Meeting)

A motion to adopt was made by Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne and seconded by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley.

Councilmember Kerry J. Coley rescinded his motion and Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne rescinded her motion.

A motion to postpone Resolution 457-2026 was made by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert and seconded by Councilmember Lynn A. Ogbourne.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hon. Kerry J. Coley, Hon. Quantavia L. Hilbert, Hon. Weldon M. Montague, III, Hon. Lynn A. Ogbourne, Hon. James H. Ward, III, Hon. Adrienne K. Wooten, and Hon. Clifford R. Ross
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Motion Adopted: Postponed

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS
There was no other Pending Business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Kerry J. Coley and seconded by Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten.
Motion Adopted

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The next scheduled Municipal Council Conference and Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey 07050.

Approved: October 6, 2026

Trisha A. Scipio
Acting Municipal Clerk

Clifford R. Ross
Council President