

THIS WAS A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

The Chair led all assembled in a Salute to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilman Kerry Coley, East Ward
Councilman Elroy A. Corbitt, At-Large
Councilwoman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Harold Johnson, Jr. West Ward
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson., South Ward
Councilwoman Donna K. Williams, At-Large
Council President April Gaunt-Butler, At-Large

Also Present: Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Adrian Mapp, Finance Director
Avram White, Assistant City Attorney
Kevin Harris, Legislative Research Officer
Margarette Homere, Senior Clerk,
Kenneth Douglas, Fire Director,
John Wade, Acting Police Director
Joy Lascari, Chief Financial Officer
Marty Mayes, Director of DPW

The City Clerk announces that the requirement 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 and published in the Record-Transcript on July 16, 2015, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES MEETINGS

December 1, 2015- Conference & Regular Minutes

Motion to approve the Conference and Regular meeting minutes from December 1, 2015 by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

By consensus the Regular and Conference meeting minutes were approved.

December 14, 2015- Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes from December 14, 2015 by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

By consensus the Special Meeting minutes were approved.

REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REVENUE COLLECTION:

- **Department of Planning & Economic Development**
Month of November-\$49,389.00
Month of December-\$54,369.00
Total collection for the of 2015 -\$808,284.00

- **Department of Community Service**
September 2015 -\$16,335.00
October 2015 - \$8,080.00
November 2015 - \$13,337.00
December 2015 - \$15,961.00

- **Clerk’s Office- Month of December- \$707.26**

CONSTABLE REPORTS:

Richard Noizy- Month of December 2015- Pro-Cops - Security Service - 12-1-2015 and 12-15-2015

Darnell Brodi-Month of December 2015-No Activity

OPRA REQUESTS:

87 OPRA Items requested in December 2015, 74 was completed 14 remain outstanding.

The total number of OPRA requested items received in 2015 were 1,163 of which 1,048 were completed leaving 115 outstanding for 2015.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Johnson, Jr. no report.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, - The Library printer is still not fixed but is schedule to be fixed that coming Friday.

A report on the Library next month will include the Library roof, grants, matching grants and fund raising.

Councilwoman Williams the Finance meeting will be held on January 26th to discuss some of the financial items that have to be seen the Council. The

Councilwoman had the City CFO, Ms. Lascari, come to the podium to discuss the amended transfer appropriations. Councilwoman Williams asked if the transfer could wait until the Finance committee meeting. The CFO stated that there are some obligations on it that should be paid.

Councilwoman Eason - No report.

Councilman Corbitt- No Police report.

Fire Director Douglas reported that Code Blue was in effect. A code Blue is an Essex County program for residents that need shelter in the winter. Councilwoman Eason asked Director Mayes if there were complaints called in to the DPW. Director Mayes stated that the weather had been going up and down, so there haven't been too many complaints this year. Councilwoman Eason asked if the fire hydrants had been fixed. Director Douglas stated that a list was given to the DPW. Director Mayes will give an update at the February meeting.

Councilman Corbitt commented on the resolution regarding wiring and the Police department electrical issues with the heating units. Director Mayes stated that the city is working on solving the heating issues.

Council President directs Clerk to file reports

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS – None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

The City Clerk made the following statement:

Pursuant to section 4-10 of the Code of the City of Orange Township, each person addressing the Council shall step up to the microphone, shall give his or her name in an audible tone for the record, and unless further time is granted by the presiding officer, shall limit his or her address to Five (5) minutes.

The public is expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner, any derogatory, abusive or threatening statements will not be permitted. The Chair will immediately rule such conduct out of order and terminate any further comments.

The following residents and business owners made comments.

- Mr. William Lewis gave an overview of himself. Mr. Lewis commented on the discussions about the YWCA.
- Mr. Jeffery Feld commented that the bill list was not delivered to the Clerk's Office the Wednesday before the meeting. He reviewed some items on the bill list that he did not understand. Mr. Feld commented that the Council meetings are not being recorded for resident to review. He

reminded residents that the Mayors YWCA meeting was recorded and rebroadcasted over and over on Ch. 35 but when it came to the Council meetings they are not recorded. Mr. Feld asked what was the status of Acting Director Wade; he could only be in that position as Acting Director for 90 days and its been 6 months. Asked how many years have the first responders been working without a contract. Mr. Feld reported that he was told that there was no documentation on how much Mr. Willis Edwards had been paid. Mr. Feld asked why the website was down for so many days.

- Katlin Gordon commented on the last meeting and the response that she received by a Director Mayes and that the Council should have done something.
- Ms. Gloria Stewart commented that she was raising issues about the community hoping that the Council will listen and make a difference. She is disappointed in the broadcasting of the meeting and many times things are missed in the broadcast. She would like a report on what is going on with the broadcasting of the meetings. Ms. Stewart would like the new water company to come to a meeting and give a report on what they will do for the water issues in the city. The city should have a BA and she does not like that Director Mapp is a Mayor in another city. She asked about the recycling in the city, the status of the library and the traffic light on Central Ave. Ms. Stewart asked what the status of the Acting Director is? Any information on the new houses that are being built.

Motion to close citizen comments by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

The Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Some answers to residents' questions.

Ms. Lascari stated that the bill list is presented to the Clerk's Office on the Friday before the meetings that is why it is dated as it is. That is the procedure for the Bill List.

Director Mayes will find out why the Council meetings are not being recorded.

Director Mayes stated that some DPW employees volunteered to hand out campaign flyers in city vehicles after their shift but their supervisor was not with them. It was a mistake by the employees, their supervisor was in the hospital. The Council President asked what the status of those employees was. Director Mayes stated that they are still employed and have been spoken to. Councilwoman Summers-Johnson stated that going forward things like this should be handled through legal channels. The Council meetings should not be used in this manner. Councilman Johnson, Jr. commented that the Legal Department was supposed to send out a memo about campaigning. The Council President asked if a memo was sent out and Attorney White did not know if one had been sent out. He would check on it tomorrow.

Director Mayes stated that he had spoken to Attorney Smith and the attorney was handling it.

Director Mayes did not know the status of Acting Director Wade.

Councilwoman Eason stated that an answers About Acting Director Wade should be coming by the end of the week.

Director Mayes did not know why the website was down but would find out.

The Council President asked Director Mayes to find out if the Mayor exercised an option to purchase the YWCA.

Council President Gaunt-Butler commented that at the last meeting when Director Mayes was having a conversation with Ms. Gordon, she had stopped the conversation because she felt that his comments were inappropriate toward Ms. Gordon.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson commented that the comments from the Director were inappropriate and she had gone over to the Director to speak to him about his comments privately. Not everything has to be done on camera.

The Council President asked Director Mayes to have Mr. Royster come to the meeting and give a report.

Council President Gaunt-Butler stated that United Water would no longer be the City's water company. But the new water company will come in front of the Governing Body.

To answer Ms. Stewart's question Director Mayes reported that currently he was Acting Business Administrator for the City.

Councilwoman Williams asked Director Mayes when was the last day of the previous person in the BA position and when was his first day in that position. Director Mayes did not have that information. Director Mayes stated that he was serving as Director of Public Works and is in a transition period with the position of Director of Planning.

Councilman Coley questioned why Director Mayes was not sure of the date that he became Acting BA. Director Mayes stated that he did not have the paperwork with him so he did not have the effective date.

Council-President Gaunt-Butler asked Director Mayes if he had an update on the traffic light on Oakwood. Director Mayes stating that he was still working on that issue. The Council President asked about the Tonnage Grant and Director Mayes stated that the city received the grant this year. He will report on the figures at the next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilwoman Summers-Johnson - stated that she did not vote for the resident's speaking time to be shorten and she providing her reasons. She commented on some of the rude comments about Council Members and the

Council as a whole that are made by some of the residents when they are speaking. The residents should speak if they have concerns or suggestion that will make the city better. The Councilwoman also stated that she calls Directors to get answers when she needs information so that is why she doesn't ask many questions during meetings. She thinks everyone should speak with respect when speaking with another person. Calling Council Members stupid and saying that you don't belong up here in the dais is not respectful and hurtful.

- Councilwoman Williams offered condolences to the family of Mr. Dowd Jefferies. She thanked Mr. Feld for bring up the status of the employees contracts. The Councilwoman asked Attorney White if there was an update on the signing of the contracts. Attorney White did not have an update. The Council President asked Director Mayes to have an update by the next Council Meeting.
- Councilman Johnson Jr. commented on Ordinance 1-2015 which states that there should be transparency which includes salaries on the website. The website only has salaries for the year 2016 but not for the past 3 years, also there are no totals pages for the residents to review. The Councilman feels there is not enough transparency in the Warren Administration. Councilman Johnson asked what recourse does the Council have since the Administration does not follow the law. Attorney White said that there is litigation, sending a formal communication by Councilman Johnson to the administration regarding it. Attorney White said that it sounds like there is information about salaries on the website but not all of it; so there is some compliance. Councilman Johnson stated that all the information is wrong. The Council President stated that the Acting BA should look into that and update the Council at the next meeting. Councilman Johnson also reported that the YWCA has a closing date of February 28th, 2016.
- Councilwoman Williams had Acting Director Wade come to the podium and asked him about the registration fees for home security systems. Director Wade stated that residents that have alarm systems have to register them with the City yearly and there is a \$25.00 charge.
- Councilman Coley asked about an officer that was hired over other candidates. Director Wade stated he was hired according to his test results and his rank on the list. Attorney White had the conversation stopped because of the nature of the conversation.
- Councilwoman Eason stated that she has always registered her alarm system. The Councilwoman asked Act Director Mayes to give an update on the Aldon St. Park. He stated they the City and Green Acres program representative are planning the completion of the park in spring time. Improvements have been made in the park but there is still more to do. The Councilwoman asked about the quotes for Dodd St and Director Mayes stated in had the roadway quotes for Dodd St but he has not had a chance to share the quotes with the CFO and the Director of Finance. Councilwoman Eason supported the 5 minutes time on citizen comments providing her

reason why. Councilwoman Eason provided her reasons for her support of the purchasing of the YWCA property.

- Councilman Corbitt agreed with Councilwoman Summers-Johnson that some of what is said about the Council is hurtful. The Council needs to move forward to make sure that the meetings are being aired. The Councilman stated that Attorney Harris needs to speak to the City Attorney's office to determine what was wrong with the ordinance that he created regarding the courses of action that the council can take with insubordinate personnel. Councilman Corbitt spoke about Orange's past and how that the City needs to bring in revenue.
- Council President spoke that she heard Rev. Jackson preach Sunday morning in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. The Council President stated to Ms. Gordon that she, the Council President, had stopped the conversation between Ms. Gordon and the Director because the Director was disrespectful toward Ms. Gordon. Council President Gaunt-Butler reminded everyone about campaigning during business hours and that there has to be mutual respect between the Governing body and the residents. The Council President stated that there needs to be communication between the Administration and the Council. That information should be given to the Council before the meeting not during it. Council President Gaunt-Butler reported that St Matthews was having a Youth Conference scheduled for Jan 30th and 31st. A college fair is being held at the Springfield branch of Newark library on March 9th.

Motion by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr. to close the Council comments.

The Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Motion to recess for 5 minutes by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

The Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Motion to reconvene by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

The Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ORDINANCES–SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

None.

ORDINANCES INTRODUCTION/ FIRST READING

ORDINANCE TABLED FROM JANUARY 5, 2016

The Clerk read Ordinance Number 4-2016 by Title.

4-2016 An ordinance amending the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township creating A City of Orange Township Identification Card Program for residents of the City of Orange Township. (Sponsored by Council Member Kerry J. Coley)

Motion to lift from the table by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

Motion to withdraw the ordinance by Councilman Coley, seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

The Clerk read Ordinance Number 6-2016 by Title.

6-2016 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Section 200-33 No parking certain hours on Heywood Avenue. (Sponsored by Council Member Summers-Johnson)

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr. that Ordinance 6-2016 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held February 16, 2016.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

The City Clerk read Ordinance Number 7-2016 by Title.

7-2016 An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Orange Township, Chapter 200 entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”, Section 200-44 Bus Stops Designated.

Motion by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason that Ordinance 7-2016 be introduced on first reading and that the public hearing would be held February 16, 2016.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

CONSENT AGENDA

The City Clerk read the following statement.

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 request, in which event, the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence of the agenda.

Motion by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilman Corbitt to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion Carries.

RESOLUTIONS NO. *10-2016- *18-2016

***10-2016 A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to enter into a Fire Mutual Aid Agreement between participating Essex County Municipalities.**

***11-2016 A resolution authorizing approval to submit a grant application and accept/execute a grant agreement with the State of New Jersey, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Energy Allocation Initiative for the City of Orange Township’s Water Well Pumps #3 and #4 generators.**

(Removed for a separate vote)

- *12-2016** A resolution appointing Joe Jones, a resident of Orange, New Jersey, as a Constable from the South Ward for a term of three (3) years. (Sponsored by Council Member Summers-Johnson)
- *13-2016** A resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract with Netta Architects, 1084 Route 22 West, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092 to provide professional architectural, surveying, design and construction inspection services for the Jackson Street Garage Roof Replacement in the amount not to exceed \$15,500.00.
- *14-2016** A resolution authorizing payment to Gnote Electric, 22 Meadowbrook Place, Maplewood, New Jersey for emergency electrical service in City Hall and under bridge lightening repairs at various locations throughout the City in an amount not to exceed \$7,870.00.
- *15-2016** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to fix the rate of interest to be charged on delinquent taxes and other municipal charges. (Postponed till February 2nd)
- *16-2016** A resolution authorizing amnesty to waive interest for property taxes, water charges & sewer charges from 3/1/16 to 3/31/16 and 4/1/16 to 4/30/16. (Postponed till February 2nd)
- *17-2016** A resolution for the Transfer of Appropriation reserves. (Postponed till February 2nd)
- *18-2016** A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on January 19, 2016 dated January 15, 2016 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$3,262,245.00). (Removed for separate vote)

Resolutions for a separate vote.

The Clerk read Resolution 11-2016 by Title.

11-2016 A resolution authorizing approval to submit a grant application and accept/execute a grant agreement with the State of New Jersey, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Energy Allocation Initiative for the City of Orange Township's Water Well Pumps #3 and #4 generators.

Motion to approve Resolution 11-2016 by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler

Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

Motion to postpone Resolutions 15,16 and 17-2016 until the “February 2nd meeting by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Coley, Corbitt, Eason, Johnson, Jr., Summers-Johnson, Williams, Gaunt-Butler
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

The Clerk read Resolution 18-2016 by Title.

18-2016 A resolution approving the bill list for council meeting vote on January 19, 2016 dated January 15,2016 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95 (Grand Total: \$3,262,245.00).

Motion to approve Resolution 18-2016 by Councilman Corbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Eason.

Councilwoman Williams noted that there were missing pages to the bill list. Someone was sent to make corrected copies.

Motion to rescind the vote on 18-2016 by Councilwoman Williams, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

The Motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Council President Gaunt-Butler asked her Council Members if they wanted to discuss the YWCA package that they received at the next Council meeting or have a separate meeting. All the Council Members wanted to have a separate meeting to discuss the YWCA. The Council President had concerns that the meeting would not be televised. A date was scheduled for January 27th at 6:30 P.M.

Motion to approve Resolution 18-2016 by Councilman Eason, seconded by Councilman Johnson, Jr.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Corbitt, Eason, Summers-Johnson, Williams
Nays: Coley, Gaunt-Butler
Abstain: Johnson, Jr.,
Absent: None.

Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

OTHER PENDING BUSINESS – None.

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Eason, seconded by Councilwoman Summers-Johnson.

By consensus the regular meeting adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Approved:

Joyce L. Lanier

April Gaunt-Butler

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

April Gaunt-Butler
Council President

**Original Copy of the Minutes can be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk.