

A CONFERENCE 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, MAY 17, 2011, AT 7:09 PM.

1) ROLL CALL		PRESENT	ABSENT
Hon. Elroy A. Corbitt	(At-Large)	___X___	_____
Hon. Tency A. Eason	(North Ward)	___X___	_____
Hon. Linda Jones-Bell	(East Ward)	_____	___X___
Hon. Edward B. Marable, Jr.	(South Ward)	___X___	_____
Hon. Rayfield Morton	(At-Large)	___X___	_____
Hon. Donna K. Williams	(At-Large)	_____	arrived @ 7:11
Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed	(West Ward)	___X___	_____
Council President			

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced there was a quorum.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed stated that Council Member Williams was in transit and would be arriving late, however, Council Member Jones-Bell was not feeling well and would not be in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT

Claude Wallace, Acting, Municipal Clerk	___X___	_____
Hon. Eldridge Hawkins, Jr., Mayor	___X___	_____
Marvin T. Braker, City Attorney	___X___	_____
Teresa Pollard, Legislative Research Officer	___X___	_____
John F. Mason, Business Administrator	___X___	_____
Shinell Smith, Clerk's Office	___X___	_____

Council Member Williams arrived at 7:11pm

PLEASE STAND FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE

SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall sign one (1) book. There will be two (2) columns in the book, one (1) for Agenda Items and one (1) for General Issues. Each person signing the book will check Agenda Items or General Issues. If they check only Agenda Items or General Issues, they will be allowed to speak for five (5) minutes. If they check General Issues and Agenda Items, they will be allowed to speak for ten (10) minutes.

- 2) Acting Municipal Clerk announced 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 Orange Transcript* on July 8, 2010, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

3) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**Presentation by Orange Recreation Step Team –Sponsored by Darrell Holcomb, Director of Community Services and Keith Pressey, Recreation Supervisor.**

Mr. Holcomb, Director of Community Service, said he would like to present a step team that was comprised of young women and men from the after school program. He said this was a positive activity that should be showcased. He said the group was called catastrophic and they have been in a number of competitions. He explained how the program started and the people involved in its success, such as Mr. Charles. He mentioned the recent competitions that the group had placed first in New York, third in New York and second at a competition at Six Flags. He also mentioned an upcoming competition in Pennsylvania. He said funds were being raised through donations. He said the group could do a brief demonstration if it was the pleasure of the Council.

Mr. Pressey, Supervisor of Recreation, also mentioned community service projects this group has participated in throughout the town.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked what grades were the participants in.

Mr. Charles introduced himself as the leader of the team as well as a co-founder of the group. He mentioned programs and projects that he had been involved in such as the movies such *Stomp the Yard* and *How She Moves*; he also has toured with the national step team. He said he wanted to bring something positive for the youth to be involved in. He stated that currently the members of the group were sophomores through seniors. He stated that catastrophic started last year and everyone who was a part of the group had graduated and moved on to college.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked the group to be mindful of the people in the first row as well as the cameras and the tripods.

The group gave a brief demonstration.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked if there was anyone in the group who would like to say a few words on what the group has meant to them as well as how they planned to use these skills in the future.

Mayor Hawkins commended the young people of the program. He said that Mr. Charles was a member of his fraternity Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. He said this is something positive for the community and it did not break the backs of the taxpayers. He said Mr. Charles has taken the group all over to competitions and he said they should also be commended for that as well their accomplishments.

Daniel Lawrence stated that he had been stepping for about a year. He said that this saved his life by keeping him off the streets and by giving him something positive. He said he has made lifelong friends as well as getting to visit colleges and having fun in the process.

Another young man from the step team spoke and said when he first started with catastrophic, he did not like it, but he was asked to stick with it and give it a try. He said the experience from the first competition was great and he too gets to do things with friends he has made and hopes to continue his experience in college.

Mayor Hawkins said this was all from this presentation and he thanked the Council for allowing it. He asked the members to step in the hall to take a picture.

Council Member Williams stated that if anyone were interested in having Catastrophic perform at an event, they should reach out to Mr. Pressey or Mr. Charles.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked that Mr. Holcomb email the contact information to the clerk's office in case anyone wanted to contact the group.

Police Department Presentation – requested by Council Member Rayfield Morton

Council Member Morton said that he needed a few minutes to get the presentation together.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed stated that they would move the agenda and come back to the presentation.

4) RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

The resolutions and ordinances to be presented at tonight's meeting are listed on the attached Regular Meeting Agenda. If any Council Member wishes to discuss any resolution or ordinance, it may be discussed at this time.

Council Member Corbitt asked about resolutions 126-2011 and 127-2011; he said the resolutions were related. He wanted to know if they were going to spend the money but the money was coming back to them; he wanted to know if this was accurate.

Mr. Mason said he was correct. He said the funds were available through a federal grant for a Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) which was really needed. He said there were representatives here tonight if further explanation was needed.

Council Member Corbitt said that he did not need a further explanation on what was being purchased because he remembered the presentation from before. He was concerned with if and when the money was spent, how fast would they be reimbursed.

Mr. Mason said that it should come back fairly quickly because it has been earmarked in a previous federal government budget. He said they would not pay the vendor until the services were rendered.

Council Member Corbitt asked if there were certain guidelines that had to be followed in order to get the money from the federal government.

Mr. Mason stated he was correct.

Council Member Eason questioned resolution 129-2011; she wanted to know if this was coming back for the Council to vote on. She also wanted to know if resolution 131-2011 was being withdrawn.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed replied that resolution 131-2011 for the executive (closed) session was being withdrawn.

Ms. Kemp, Director of Public Works, said that resolution 129-2011 was being withdrawn and it would be submitted at a later date.

Council Member Eason asked if this would include the area of Thomas Boulevard with the deep potholes in it.

Ms. Kemp said the project she was referring to was completed last year. She there were not funds available to repave that section, however they could patch it.

Council Member Eason said there was a hole that citizens continuously complained about.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said they would complete this section of the meeting and go back to Council Member Morton's presentation.

Council Member Marable asked about Ordinance 17-2011. He wanted to know what was the next stage of this project and he also wanted to know if there was anything going on with the Board of Education in order to use this as an educational facility. He said if there was no movement to build townhouses or condominiums, was there anything going on with Board of Education in case this did not happen.

Mr. Mobley, Deputy Director of Planning and Economic Development, said the next step after the redevelopment plan was adopted was to take a look at the area and implement the plan. He said they have not had a chance to sit down and talk with the Board of Education.

Council Member Marable said that the lines of communication needed to remain open with the Board of Education and be considered as a viable option or else the option was put in to make it more presentable to the Council.

Council Member Eason said that as a member of the Planning Board, she said this was the process for getting the ball rolling and the option for the Board of Education was not precluded.

Mr. Mobley said that ultimately the decision of what would go there would be up to the Council.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked if it was originally the plan of the Planning Department to only do housing redevelopment in this area and the school option was put in by the planning board.

Mr. Mobley confirmed that he was correct.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked if it was correct to say that whatever happened would be as a result of how the Council voted.

Mr. Mobley stated that that was correct as well.

Council Member Marable asked about resolution 132-2011; he wanted to know if anyone could speak on the potential cost to the city.

Ms. Kemp said it was mandatory as a DEP regulation to have other sources of water in case of contamination and they have two connections which were thirty to forty years old. Recently the DEP decided that contracts needed to go along with the connections. She said hopefully they would be seeing another agreement in a couple of months for the second connection. She said that she could not accurately give an amount because the city was billed according to the bulk rate and it periodically changed. She said she could give the rate from the last bill but it could change with the next. She said that there were only two places that they could get connections from.

Council Member Marble wanted clarification that they have had this relationship with these companies and have been paying them without a contract.

Ms. Kemp stated they have and it was because of the DEP. She said that this was just not for Orange.

Council Member Marable said that they have been paying these companies without a contract and now they contract said that if they were late with a payment they would have to pay 1.5% interest. He said this was a significant part of the agreement.

Ms. Kemp said they were doing that now without the contract. She said they had certain regulations with their rates. She said if the Council did not pass this and the city were to have a water main break next week, they would have to use the emergency interconnection.

Mr. Mason said the rate of this company was regulated by the Board of Public Utilities, so they would not see a huge change in rates in a short period of time.

Ms. Kemp said she could send the Council a copy of the last bill so that they would know what they were paying. She added that they were not paying anything different for other bulk users.

Council Member Morton asked about resolution 133-2011; he noticed a lot of movement with the zoning board. He said Mr. DeSormes was moving up from an alternate member to a regular member to replace the unexpired term of his appointment and he wanted to know his position on his appointment.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed stated that with the passing of Marilyn Jackson, Mr. DeSormes was the first alternate and he moved into the regular position and the others moved up accordingly.

Council Member Morton asked if he would then appoint someone.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said he was correct. He added that they needed to check with the clerk's office to see if they needed to make any other appointments.

Council Member Eason clarified that Council Member Morton could appoint someone today and they would fill the unexpired term of the fourth alternate.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said that if what Council Member Eason said was true, they could confirm that with the clerk's office and they could still proceed with the vote tonight.

Council Member Williams asked Council Member Eason to explain what the planning board was trying to accomplish by passing ordinance 16-2011.

Council Member Eason replied that this was starting the process of redeveloping an area by declaring the area as a redevelopment area. The next phase was deciding what would go in this area and that had not been determined yet.

Council Member Williams stated that she was speaking on ordinance 17-2011 not 16-2011.

Council Member Eason then explained that this ordinance was to set up a committee to review site plans before they came before the planning board. She said this would help save the applicants money by making sure everything was in place before they came before the board.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed stated that it was a technical pre-emptive committee to make sure everything was in place so that when it came before the board, all they had to do was hear it and vote on it.

Mr. Braker stated that it was for the benefit of the applicant and he explained that many other towns had this in place already.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed questioned an item on the bill list on page 8. He asked about a payment to the associated humane society and if this payment was only for one month.

Mr. Mason replied that this was for the shelter service for the month not the contract.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed then asked about a payment to Anthony Monica.

Mr. Holcomb, Director of Community Service, said that he is an Orange resident with years of cable experience and he helps Mr. Godfrey with the cable station. He said that Mr. Monica was watching the council meeting right now and he will inform Mr. Godfrey if there is a problem and he will assist in fixing it. He provides technical assistance at a very low price.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed stated that would go back to the presentation honoring the police department.

Police Department Presentation – requested by Council Member Rayfield Morton

Council Member Morton explained how this came to be. He stated that he was in a meeting with Director Rappaport and he noticed the plaques for officers on his desk and said the public needed to be aware of what the officers did and they should do it at the council meeting. He said people complained about what the police did not do and this was something good that they have done. He added that they did not honor the fire or police enough for what they do with what they have.

Mayor Hawkins said this was focusing on the positive and the community was moving forward together. He thanked Council Member Corbitt for his role in the Summit on Violence and Council Member Eason for co-moderating the event. He said Council Member Morton was helping them move forward by highlighting the positive. He said that there were about 45 officers that have taken guns off the streets to help keep the streets safe between 2010-2011. Even though all the officers were not present, they would call all the names. He said each officer should be commended for taking a gun off the streets with the limited resources.

Mr. Rappaport, Police Director, stated that these officers were being recognized for a little more than the normal duties. He then presented Council Member Corbitt with an award for his Summit on Violence on behalf of the police department. He also presented Council Member Eason with an award for her role in helping to coordinate the summit with Council Member Corbitt. Next, he presented Mayor Hawkins with a certificate for his role as an event panelist at the summit. He also recognized those who were attendees and presented them with certificates.

Mayor Hawkins said that teamwork made a difference in the city and there was no limit on what could be accomplished when they work together. He then called off the names of the officers being recognized; he said that some were present and some were responsible for taking more than one gun off the street.

Mr. Rappaport recognized one officer for taking six guns off the streets and was the leader in the department.

Mayor Hawkins said these were the officers responsible for putting their lives on the line everyday to protect the city. He thanked Council Member Morton for bringing this forward. He said some of the names read were officers that were laid off and they wanted to remember the things that they have done. He added that even though they have not completed the negotiations with the unions, they have secured a grant to bring back five of the laid off officers and they would come back next week.

5) MOTION TO ADJOURN

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Eason

The roll call by the Acting Municipal Clerk was as follows:

Yeas: Corbitt, Eason, Marable, Morton, Williams, Council President Abdul-Rasheed
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absences: Jones-Bell

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adjourn was carried by the vote of Six Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and One Absence.

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:09pm.

Dwight Mitchell
Municipal Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President

MINUTES APPROVAL

Passed on July 5, 2011

Conference and Regular Meetings on May 17, 2011

Motion to Adopt: Corbitt

Second: Williams

The roll call by Municipal Clerk was as followed:

Yeas: Abdul- Rasheed, Corbitt, Marable, Williams and Council President Eason
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absences: Morton

Councilman Jones-Bell cannot vote because she was not present.

Council President Eason ruled the Motion to Adjourn was carried by the vote of Five Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and One Absence.