

**MINUTES CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP  
NEW JERSEY**

**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, OCTOBER 18, 2011, AT 7:08 PM.**

1) ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT
Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed (West-Ward)	_____	<u>Arrived@ 7:18 PM</u>
Hon. Elroy A. Corbitt (At-Large)	_____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)	_____X_____	_____
Hon. Tency A. Eason (North- Ward)	_____X_____	_____
Council President		

**ALSO PRESENT**

Shinell Smith, Acting Deputy Clerk	_____X_____	_____
Hon. Eldridge Hawkins, Jr., Mayor	_____X_____	_____
Marvin T. Braker, City Attorney	_____X_____	_____
Dwayne D. Warren, Legislative Research Officer	_____X_____	_____
Valerie Jackson, Acting Deputy Director of Admin.	_____X_____	_____
Shirley Bailey, Clerk's Office	_____X_____	_____

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced that there is a quorum.

***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) The Acting Deputy 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 Orange Transcript* on July 14, 2011, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

3) **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., County Executive, to discuss the proposed leasing of the Orange Reservoir by the County of Essex.

Council President Eason recognized Mayor Hawkins, Jr.

Mayor Hawkins in an opening statement apprised everyone of the proposed lease agreement between the City of Orange and Essex County, as it relates to the Orange Reservoir. He stated that they have been in negotiations for a period of time now and

have filed litigation against the County with respect to the site. Mayor Hawkins stated that they have come to a lease agreement which he feels will be beneficial to the citizens of Orange and the County.

Mr. Braker stated that he provided Council with documentation and there will be more documentation forth coming in the next few days. He stated that the lease agreement is just about finalized.

Joseph DiVincenzo, County Executive, began by stating that he envisioned using the Orange Reservoir for recreational purpose such as that of South Mountain recreational marina. He then named several amenities that would encourage family fun for everyone. Mr. DiVincenzo announced that the Boat House restaurant is now complete and there will be a VIP party from 6 pm to 9 pm on Wednesday October 19, 2011 and Friday they're open for reservation.

Mr. DiVincenzo introduce his Council Frank Tomasi and Dan Salvante, Parks Director

Mr. DiVincenzo stated that boating activities on the premises of the Orange Reservoir will be fifty percent off to Orange residents. There will be a pavilion built and the residents of Orange will have exclusive rights for any function as long as the calendar permits.

Mr. Tomasi stated that the land under the pavilion belongs to County. However, after the lease Orange will own that as well. There will be an opportunity for residents to fish as well but they will need a permit.

Mr. DiVincenzo's presentation gave a complete layout of what currently on the land and what is to come.

Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman Williams

Mr. DiVincenzo stated in response to Councilwoman Williams that the Boat House is being leased from the County and therefore event reservations would be scheduled directly through them. Mr. DiVincenzo stated that the Boat House is a restaurant. He then stated that there will be fishing on the pier, paddle boats and security with a boat will be provided as such.

Mr. Braker stated that a number of things are still in the works. However, he will still continue to push the envelope of negotiations, until which time he reaches the best lease agreement for Orange.

Council President Eason recognized Councilwoman Jones-Bell

Mr. Braker stated in response to Councilwoman Jones-Bell for clarity that the money paid up front will be spread over the first seven years, the first ten years the City of Orange will be paid seventy-five thousand dollars a year, over ten years and eighty-five thousand dollars a year for ten years following the first ten.

**Council President Eason recognized Councilman Morton**

**Councilman Morton asked how the Boat House get built with no money. Mr. Tomasi stated that the Boat House is built on County property and paid for with four million dollars of County money. Although the earlier agreement was to build on Orange's property it was deemed beneficial to build on the County's property since an agreement could not be reached.**

**Councilman Morton was curious as to how things had change since they're last conversation.**

**Mr. Braker stated that early on there was talks of profit sharing but they have a right to build on their own land as opposed to our property. Mr. Braker stated that we took into consideration from a strategic stand point based on the amount of land that the City was willing to lease to them. He stated that it wasn't land that included their boat house because if it had there would be totally different discussion. However, the proposal that is before us is on paper where the other was not.**

**Councilman Morton stated that he was not informed of theses changes. He initially felt this deal was not in good faith, until later realizing that seventy-five thousand dollars a year isn't a bad deal withstanding the Boat House isn't on our land.**

**Mayor Hawkins stated that Councilman Morton was not available at all meetings and is the responsibility of the Administration to update the Council as to the latest developments, not the County Executive.**

**There was further discussion where Mr. Tomasi stated that the County is taking on maintenance and demolition responsibilities of dilapidated structures and turning them into revenue generators which will benefit the City of Orange.**

**Council President Eason stated that this resolution will not be voted on this night, as per Councilman Morton's inquiry. Council President stated in response to Councilman Morton that documentation will be provided in due time.**

**Mr. Braker stated that he respects Councilman Morton but he felt that this is not the first time that the Council is hearing this information. Mr. Braker stated that he wanted to be clear that Councilman Morton was not in attendance at the last meeting and the County Executive had a death in his family so he was not available for a prior presentation. He wanted to make sure in no way that he or the Mayor was made to look disingenuous.**

**Councilman Marable stated that it is no concern of the County as to what happens with the five hundred thousand dollars paid up front to the City of Orange. However, it is to him and the citizens should be made aware as to what will happen with that money.**

**Mr. Tomasi stated in response that there is on going litigation so if there is any request he suggests Councilman Marable submit his inquiries to the Mayor and he will in turn submit them to the City Attorney.**

Mr. DiVincenzo stated in response to Councilman Marable that they have a deer management program and they are proactively keeping track of the deer. He stated that the deer are on the move and they will continue to attack the issue to try to decrease the population due to increased accident and disease. He stated that there will be a six day hunt to downsize the herds.

Mr. Braker stated in response to Council President Eason that the five hundred thousand dollars will be paid thirty days after the lease agreement.

Councilman Marble stated that we will receive seventy-five thousand for three more years and eighty-five thousand for ten more years.

Council President Eason asked if the money paid up front will all go to litigation.

Mr. Booker stated in response that he could not speak on where the money will be allocated because we're still in litigation.

Council President Eason thanked County Executive for his continued support.

- Presentation by Representative from Edmunds & Associates, Inc. regarding financial accounting software.

Director Jackson stated that the City is looking at two vendors which is Edmunds and Munidex to provide user friendly and accuracy with respect to our finances.

Bob Edmunds of Edmunds gave an overview and breakdown as to what products and services his company has to offer. Please see the attached detailed brochure.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilman Corbitt that it would take them approximately sixty days to get the program up and running.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilman Morton that the system would be updated once a year. He then stated in response that Councilman Morton that there are enough staff to assist the needs of their clients.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilman Marable that this will make this program will make the finance department more sufficient with the staff they currently have.

Deputy Administrator Jackson stated that it will not only make the finance department more efficient but all the departments. She stated that the whole requisition process will be improved.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilman Marable that his reason for calling the current system in place rag tag is because of the amount of paper and white out, which signifies the need.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilwoman Williams that the goal is to go paperless. He stated that East Orange and the City of Camden had major paper before acquiring his services. He then stated that the goal is to make our town hall accessible twenty-four hours via the internet.

Councilwoman Williams asked if Council would be able to go into the system and retrieve information as well.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response that there are many levels of security and someone in Orange will be the project lead.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilwoman Williams that all of his support staff are trained through Rutgers University.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilman Abdul-Rasheed’s inquiry that the reason we have so much paper is because of what the prior vendors were offering which was not enough and the why we have so much paper. He stated, when systems don’t integrate we have to print out reports.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Councilman Corbitt that the server that the City would be using is in house but they host the sites.

Mr. Edmunds stated in response to Council President Eason that reports should be as easy as a click of a button. Council President Eason stated that a decision has not been made but we will be in touch.

**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.

**5) MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Council President Eason entertained a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION: Corbitt**

**SECOND: Abdul-Rasheed**

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:30 PM**

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**Dwight Mitchell, RMC  
Municipal Clerk**

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**Tency A. Eason  
Council President**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

**Passed on November 1, 2011**

**Conference and Regular Meetings on October 18, 2011**

**Council President Eason entertained a Motion to Adopt.**

**Motion to Adopt: Corbitt**

**Second: Jones-Bell**

**The roll call by Municipal Clerk was as followed:**

**Yeas: Abdul- Rasheed, Corbitt, Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton and Council Vice President Williams**

**Nays: None**

**Abstentions: None**

**Absences: Council President Eason**

**Council Vice President Williams ruled the Motion was carried by Six Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and One Absence.**