

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, APRIL 19, 2011 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE MEETING AT 8:09PM.

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

2) ROLL CALL		PRESENT	ABSENT
Hon. Elroy A. Corbitt	(At-Large)	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hon. Tency A. Eason	(North Ward)	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hon. Linda Jones-Bell	(East Ward)	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hon. Edward B. Marable, Jr.	(South Ward)	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hon. Rayfield Morton	(At-Large)	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hon. Donna K. Williams	(At-Large)	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed	(West Ward)	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Council President			

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced there was a quorum.

ALSO PRESENT

Claude Wallace, Acting Municipal Clerk	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hon. Eldridge Hawkins, Jr., Mayor	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Marvin T. Braker, City Attorney	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Dwayne D. Warren, Legislative Research Officer	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
John F. Mason, Business Administrator	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Shinell Smith, Clerk’s Office	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

3) 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.

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Special /Executive (Closed) Session- March 21, 2011

Councilman Morton cannot vote, because he was not present.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Williams

6) COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

None

7) CITIZEN COMMENTS ON GENERAL ISSUES/AGENDA ITEMS

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 RECORDS, AND UNLESS FURTHER TIME IS GRANTED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER, SHALL LIMIT HIS OR HER ADDRESS TO TEN (10) MINUTES".

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.

William R. Lewis – 688 Mosswood Avenue

Mr. Lewis said that he was disappointed in this council from the last meeting and there were many who were not pleased with the council as well. He said that people seemed to have a distain for the council especially when the council acts in an unprofessional manner. He suggested that the council get clarification on what resolution 101-2011 was all about. Also at the last meeting there was a request from Council Member Eason to add \$100K to the police department's budget, which he felt was a conflict of interest because her son worked as a police officer. He felt as though the request should have been made through someone else. He said that in his 16 years as a council member, he only missed 2 meetings and he made sure to schedule his vacations to begin the day after the meetings. With that said, there are statutory requirements that were in place and council should make sure to meet those requirements and that is why a clerk is important to make sure that the council meets those deadlines. He cautioned the council to make sure that they met statutory requirements. On ordinances 17-2011 and 18-2011, the council needed to know what these were all about.

Bruce Meyer – 500 Berkeley Avenue

Mr. Meyer wanted clarity on how much money was being spent on resolution 97-2011 and he also wanted to know if the \$5,000.00 was on top of the \$13K.

Mr. Mason said that the \$13,536.00 was the total for the entire 3-year period of the lease. He said the \$5,000 was the estimated savings for the phone system. Also with the installation of this system, they would save an additional \$1900 because they would get rid of the microwave system. The estimated savings is approximately \$5,900.00.

Mr. Meyer said the Breaker Group contract has been a sore subject and he was happy the city would no longer be dealing with them. He said he has had some dealings with Ms. Knight but not with Mr. Baksh; however he was confident that they knew what they were doing and he hoped this was a positive

step forward. He said there have been proposals put before the council to look city wide to get integrated services. He hoped that other people got involved and that the city looked to citizens with knowledge and that the suggestion of an IT committee was accepted. There have been comments concerning the need for a city clerk and the importance of the current city clerk who was out on medical leave. All paper work for the city goes through the clerk's office and it was imperative that all correspondence gets out to council in a timely manner. The current clerk was the highest paid individual in the city and it was never answered on the amount of his exact salary during the budget hearings. There was a lot of money spent at the inauguration of the last city council where the clerk paid his wife \$500 to sing and another council person's wife to sing and he hoped it was not done again. The city clerk did not show up for work regularly and he and other citizens were keeping up with his time. Now the clerk has been involved in a car accident on is way to Trenton for a formal hearing on his performance and he has not been back to work since then.

Mr. Braker cautioned the council on commenting on a personnel matter especially when this individual has the right to have this heard in executive closed session. He said that the council president has mentioned the fact that the clerk is out on medical leave.

Mr. Meyer said he was not looking for the council to comment on this personnel matter; he wanted to make sure the public and those at home were aware of what was going on. He also wanted to make the council aware that the citizens were concerned especially after witnessing some bizarre behavior by the clerk at the meetings and on camera. He said the clerk has been out for a substantial amount of time.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed stated that professional medical people have substantiated that the clerk was out on medical leave.

Mr. Meyer said there have been sitings of the clerk. He said he hoped that this was looked into carefully.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed assured that the matter was being looked into and he could not elaborate further.

Mr. Meyer restated that he only wanted to bring this information to the attention of the public and to let the council know that the citizens were concerned.

Dolores Taylor – 262 S. Center Street

Ms. Taylor stated the violence in the city was horrible and that she lost her grandson Tyrell Coleman to senseless terrorism in January in broad daylight. She said also in broad daylight, three people were shot across the street from the school on a playground. They should be ashamed and outraged; the quality of life needed to be brought under control before no one wanted to invest in Orange. While she did not have any conclusive answers, she knew that what they were doing was not working. Maybe more foot patrol, the enforcement of curfews and holding parents accountable for their minor children who broke the rules would help. Neighborhood involvement was needed to help get the streets under control. Maybe the council members needed to go out in the community and urge the residents to get involved.

More dialogue was needed to find out what the residents needed. She said she was open to sit and speak with anyone who seriously wanted to solve these problems.

Cynthia Coleman – 262 S. Center Street

Ms. Coleman said Tyrell Coleman was her son and he was murdered on January 25, 2011 and she was speaking from a place of great pain and sorrow because it was not just her child who was suffering. She then mentioned several murders and shootings that she knew of that have taken place this year and those incidents mentioned did not include the senseless shootings. Something needed to happen. She thanked the police department for the crime stopper flyer that was placed on her seat tonight. She wanted to know if the crime stopper flyers could be placed on channel 35 to make more people aware and reach more people around Orange. She said she was told by the mayor that the 911 response time had not changed as a result of recent layoffs but she wanted to know if there were statistics to prove it. As a result of fewer officers on the beat, three people were shot in broad daylight in a park. The mayor also told her that nothing had changed as a result of the layoffs but recently she heard shots and there was no response for 15 minutes. Furthermore, she heard shots again the next morning and there was no response and she called the police. She urged the council to get more officers back on the street because this was a serious matter. She again asked that the crime stopper flyers be put on channel 35 and possibly the *Orange Transcript*. She asked the council to attend a stop the violence rally that she was putting together; a date had not been set yet. She wanted to include young people of the community because they were the ones being hurt. If the council could not attend, she asked that they give her any assistance they could.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said that the mayor was not present but the business administrator could take her concerns regarding the 911 response time back to him. He said they would await the date and time of the rally.

Gloria Stewart – 62 Hampton Terrace

Ms. Stewart said she felt the pain of mother that just spoke. She too has suggested to the council that they work with the board of education to reach a solution because things were not getting better. First, she asked for the status of the financial officer. She said this was also an important position. The clerk was not here and he was in an accident and the body needed time to heal. She said they could have had a deputy clerk and they would not be having these problems. She said if the city was functioning, they should continue this way until they solved the problem; she did not think they should attack a person when they were not present and recuperating from an accident. She also asked about the status of the houses that burned down on Oakwood Avenue as she did at every meeting. She then spoke about redevelopment in the city. She agreed that with the way things were going on in Orange, no one would want to live here and they were still building. Building more houses meant more children; this would lead to the need for more schools or result in overcrowded schools. She said she has asked the school board to work with the city as far as the population of the schools to make sure that things were balanced. She then said the mayor appointed members to the board of education and there was one member who was a member of the charter school board for years. Charter schools took money away from public schools and she was a public school advocate. She asked how a person sitting on a charter school board could be for public schools and this member should be removed. She said they needed

more things for recreation; perhaps the city could request developers to contribute to recreation when they built in the city. Last, she spoke on a comment in an article in the *Orange Transcript* concerning the children of Oakwood Avenue School who won the basketball tournament. Their success was attributed to the fact that they lived, ate and breathed basketball. She took offense to that and took it personally because it seemed worded that way because they were from the east ward and it could have been worded another way. She mentioned a very nice program that took place at the high school; there could have been more in attendance.

Mr. Mason said they were still running the ad for a financial officer and still receiving resumes. They have interviewed a candidate who had the necessary credentials and he was pleased and they have asked for a background check. He restated that they were still accepting applications from qualified applicants.

Ms. Jackson, director of planning, first responded to the issue of redevelopment. She said they held a monthly master plan meeting where Mr. Griffa, chair of facilities committee for the board of education, attended. Likewise, the city's planner attended the monthly board of education facilities meetings. There was an open invitation to the board of education concerning planning with people moving in as well as people moving out. She said there was little said about the people who moved out such as the 140 families who left when Walter G. was demolished and they no longer attend Oakwood Avenue located in the east ward. She said there were a large number of vacant properties in the east ward and it was her intent to get people back into the community. She said she that she was open to speak with the superintendent of schools and the school's business administrator concerning this matter. She said the housing authority has offered the board a piece of land and there has been no response as of yet. She said this administration was open to speak with the board of education about the city's plans concerning redevelopment. The houses on Oakwood Avenue are under negotiation by Walter McNeal through a realtor with the homeowners. Because the houses were connected and the lots are narrow, all the properties needed to be purchased in order to be developed. There is one owner who is re-habilitating, however his house was not attached. She said the owners have received their insurance payments and now had to make a decision. If the city got involved, it would be costly to the taxpayers. Some homeowners may have unrealistic views of how much the properties were worth and most of the properties have been declared as uninhabitable. Mr. McNeal had the resources to purchase and redevelop the properties. In addition, he had a rent to own program that could get people into the properties. She extended an invitation to Ms. Stewart to call her office for updates.

Ike Small – 203 Oakwood Place

Mr. Small said Ms. Coleman and Ms. Stewart summed up what he wanted to say. He said there were many vacant houses in his area that invited people and they could cause a fire. He said there were two vacant houses near him and he has witnessed people coming out of the houses; one in particular was 199 Oakwood Place. He said he calls the police and they asked for descriptions. He said he has a fence around his house because he feels threatened and he can not get a good look at them but he hears the people. He said the burnt houses have been vacant for a few years and something needed to be done as soon as possible.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked that Mr. Mason and Ms. Jackson to look into 199 Oakwood Place. He asked if there was a broken window if the city could board it up.

Katalin Gordon – 211 Park Place

Ms. Gordon said she too had questions about resolution 97-2011; she was not a technical person but she did not see how this was saving money because it seemed as though it was going to cost about \$60K per year. She said she did not understand how the voice over internet protocol (VOIP) system worked. She knew that you could skype for free computer to computer and for \$6 per month, she could call a phone line.

Mr. Mason said currently telephone bills are approximately \$10K per month and with this change, the city will save about \$4K per month in telephone charges and they would be able to eliminate the microwave charges of \$1900 per month which would be a savings of almost \$6K per month.

Ms. Gordon again mentioned the skype lines that cost roughly \$6 per line she said Mr. Baksh was not there to explain this to her.

Mr. Mason stated that he believed what Ms. Gordon was suggesting was a different type of infrastructure than what the city had in place. He said that it could be more costly to change the entire system. As Ms. Knight mentioned, if the system at city hall were to malfunction due to age, with the new system they would be able to piggy back off of the system at the fire department which is an IP based system.

Ms. Gordon said the internet system she was suggesting is not very technical and it was simple enough for her to use. Second, she asked for an explanation of resolution 101-2011.

Ms. Jackson said the city is trying to become a sustainable or 'green' community and there were certain steps that needed to be taken to be certified as such. She said they also wanted the master plan to include 'green' standards for buildings. The first step was for the council to adopt a resolution certifying that they will follow the 'green' practices and they are laid out in the resolution. She said Isaias Rivera of the mayor's office was helping the planner with this resolution and he could shed more light on this resolution.

Mr. Rivera said this resolution helps the city become more sustainable and help the city become a certified 'green' community.

Ms. Gordon asked would this be just converting solar energy.

Ms. Jackson explained the 'green' standards such as conversion of solar energy, water conservation, the use of 'green' materials for building, weatherization and landscaping. She said this was at the state level and Orange was one of the communities that wanted to participate in that. She said she would be more than happy to give Ms. Gordon a copy of the green standards to review. She said the city planner was working with the planning board to set standards. They did not want to make it cost prohibitive to builders. The application was due in late August or early September and they have been working on the 'green' standards for over a year. She said there was a 'green' committee that met every other month.

Mr. Rivera said that Orange was in the process of earning the bronze level of ‘green’ certification. He said there were certain pledges that the city had to make and the resolution was a part of it. Once Orange received this certification, it would be known across the nation as a ‘green’ community.

Harold Johnson – 318 Highland Avenue

Mr. Johnson asked if the 101 weapons received in the gun buy program were illegal weapons such as sawed-off shot guns or were they guns from a widow’s closet. He said the guns that they needed to get off the street were the guns that were killing people. He was happy that the city was passing out gun locks at the buy back program. He suggested that the police department post crime statistics on the website so that citizens could know what was going on therefore, the city would not have to pay the *Star Ledger* or the *Orange Transcript* to print this information. This would also alert residents of the type of crimes that were taking place in their area. He said he would love to find out if the guns from the buy back program were used in crimes not collecting dust in someone’s home.

Mr. Rappaport, police director, said that once the ad was placed in the paper, they had no control over what type of guns were brought in. All the guns that were turned in from the two buy back programs were serviceable. The 101 weapons that were turned in were from the two programs together not just from the last buy back program. As far as he was concerned, any and every weapon that was taken out of a home was a good thing because children could be injured as well as be used in a domestic violence incident. He said that the buy back program was sponsored through forfeiture funds and not taken from city coffers. They were already planning the 3rd buy back program in October or November. Churches have volunteered space to hold the buy back programs and they may hold more. He said they received a variety of fire arms such as shot guns, hand guns and rifles. He said he could get the information on the types of weapons recovered.

Council Member Williams asked if they could do a crime report on the website or channel 35 to keep the residents informed.

Mr. Rappaport replied that could put general information such as the crime stopper flyers on the website or channel 35; he was not sure exactly what type of information Mr. Johnson was looking for as far as reporting crimes. He said there was a community council and neighbor watch groups that report these things. He added that he put out flyers weekly asking people to join the crime watches.

Having no further comments, Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Close the Citizen Comments.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Williams

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

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

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Close Citizen Comments was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

8) COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Corbitt asked if the business administrator could give the amount of how much money had been spent to date; if a figure could not be given tonight, when could they expect it.

Mr. Mason said they were working on the information. Mr. Ditinyak of the finance department was out sick today and they could not get all the information in time for the meeting. He hoped to have the information by Thursday.

Council President Corbitt asked that they also provide the information to the budget advisory committee. He then spoke about the housing authority and the fact that there were vacant seats. He felt as though the housing authority had been doing a great job and had plans to do better things. He would like to see the two members whose terms were up be reappointed and continue the good work that they have been doing. He then spoke on the overtime of the fire and police departments. He thanked Mr. Mason for providing the information of the amount of overtime that had been spent between the period of January 14 through March 25. He stated that they have spent almost \$200K in police overtime and \$150 in fire overtime; he did not see a savings with this type of overtime being spent with the layoffs. He too was concerned about the violence in the town and he hoped they found a way to put more police officers on the street and cut back on overtime. He said people were afraid to walk and drive in certain areas of the town. Orange has never been exempt from violence but now it is at a whole new level and violence was on an upswing. He asked if there was a grant approved to bring back 5 police officers; if this was true, why the delay in bringing back the officers.

Mr. Mason said there was no delay but there was a process that had to be done to reprogramming the grant funds and the mayor would be making an announcement on that soon. He said these funds had to be reprogrammed because these were the funds that were previously received and had to be reprogrammed to rehire.

Council Member Corbitt said three people spoke about violence tonight and there was a real urgent need for more police officers on the streets and he could not understand the delay. He said he would like to see 25 new officers on the street. He said with the violence on the streets they could not attract new businesses and no one wanted to purchase a home in Orange. He said several people on the council have lost loved ones to violence and something needed to be done expeditiously. He said there will be a summit on violence held on May 14th at St. Matthew AME church. He said there would be many highly elected officials that would be apart of the panel including the mayor, the city's prosecutor and the police director as well as mayors from neighboring urban cities. The goal was to come up with solutions not play games. They would like the citizens to come out and participate as well.

Council Member Eason said she attended an excellent play at Orange Middle School hosted by the high school students. She said there were a lot of talented students in Orange and they needed to support

them. She was a little disappointed in the turnout but the storm could have been a factor. She commended the students for their excellent job and to the people that supported them. Also on Saturday the 10th annual parent educational conference was held. There were seminars on bullying and she thanked the police department for their participation and presentation. She thanked Director Rappaport for stepping up at the last minute and helping; the presentation will be done at all the schools. She said there were things that were going on but the public was not showing up. Part of stopping the violence was educating children on how to respect and support each other. Next, she spoke about the job training down at 990 Broad Street and said there was a wealth of information there. She said that they had to take the time and be patient and look. She named some of the services that were offered such as GED programs, expungement of records and even helping ex convicts find work. She then spoke about the complaints she had been receiving concerning the street sweepers. She said that she was receiving complaints that the sweepers were not effective in picking up trash. She asked that some type of system be put in place to notify council members when something happened especially if it was something that the residents would be calling on, ie the shooting in the park. She said that she was not asking for information that would hinder the investigation but just general information. Last, she spoke about her son being a police officer and she felt as though everyone knew that and did not see why people still brought it up. She said her son became an officer in 1998 and she became a council person in 2002. She when she took her oath she did not say she would fight for everything that did not involve her son. She said when she makes suggestions, it is for the betterment of the community that she serves and where she has lived since 1973. She said she wanted the streets of Orange to be safe for her family as well as the citizens.

Council Member Morton he said much of what he wanted to say concerning crime has been said. He said they needed to focus on the correct amount of police officers to protect the city. He said that he was born in the city and they have had more killings in the last two years than he can remember in his entire time of living in the city. He did not want it to get to a point where shootings were a regular thing. He felt they needed to focus on the killings and the taxes to help better the town. He said he was reaching out to people such as the US Marshall to help with suggestions on making things better. He said the streets were influencing the kids instead of the influences coming from the right places. He said they needed to help kids change their focus and everyone needed to step up and help. He said he has brought people in to speak to the kids on fashion instead of having their pants hanging down below their butts. He said Mr. Ditinyak was in school to become a certified chief financial officer, that maybe the city should have someone part time to assist and train him until he finished school. He said a problem finding someone qualified could be money. He suggested finding someone part time for the clerk's office as well; perhaps a retired city clerk until they found a permanent solution. He said they needed the right people in those offices to give the people in those offices direction.

Council Member Williams clarified a statement made by Mr. Williams that the council was out of order and not in compliance with statutory requirements; she said that a call was made to the current clerk, the legislative research officer as well the city attorney who informed them that the ordinance stated it had to be done the first week of July not the 1st of July. She said the Department of Community Affairs had the annual immunization walk that was scheduled for the upcoming Saturday was postponed due to repaving on Central Avenue and an alternative date had been set. She said there were many events going on the past Saturday and that could have contributed to the low turnout Council Member Eason mentioned because the teen summit had a great turnout. She also added that many people were

becoming reliant on channel 35 to see events however, some events could not be placed on the air due to copyright laws. She said that McDonalds had an annual hiring day today and there was a quota set to hire 50K people. She then mentioned success stories of those who started at the bottom and are now managers or own their own McDonald's franchise. She also attested to the success of 990 Broad Street and the good work that Mr. Montague has done. She added that Mr. Montague was an Orange resident who worked with the children on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the high school. She said the Big 'O' booster would have a fund raising event coming up and urged people to reach out to Council Member Eason who was on the board. She said the Big 'O' gave out scholarships every year and needed support. She said the CBAC has made their recommendations and they were posted on the internet for the public's review. She asked the police director if they could use channel 35 to get out information. She also asked in light of the current events, was there a corrective action plan in place.

Mr. Rappaport said he would get on it tomorrow. He said there was a plan in place. He said they were reaching out to the youth in the community. He said he raised two children and he knew where they were going and what they were wearing so he found it hard to believe that parents did not notice when their children came home with tattoos, flashing gang signs and know about some of the things they posted on the internet. He said someone knew what happened when the young man lost his life and the police department needed community participation. He said that tips could be given anonymously because no parent should lose their child this way. He said they were working with the schools and they made a presentation on Saturday concerning bullying. He said they held movie nights at the police department where they bring different children and their parents. This taught socialization and taught the parents about gang violence. He named several programs that were going on. He said the violence had to come to a stop but the police could not do it alone. He said the *Star Ledger* just put out the information on the reward for tips and the police department immediately put the information out. He added that several business owners have contributed and have helped. He said he can not tell the council everything that was going on in regards to investigations in public but they had very competent detectives on the job.

Council Member Williams previously asked for a status of where they were with the master plan and a forum to inform the public.

Ms. Jackson said it was a part of her action items but it had not been scheduled.

Council Member Williams said she has been contacted about a water leak at Walgreens and she has asked about it because it was a nuisance. She wanted to know in terms of code enforcement could anything be done.

Ms. Kemp, public works director, said she forwarded the information over to United Water but she has not heard back from them. If it is a water leak, United Water would take care of it.

Council Member Williams asked if the city parking lot near brook alley would be paved also she wanted an answer of what was happening with Fairview Avenue and Berkeley Avenue.

Ms. Kemp said no money was appropriated for paving unless there was a capital budget or grants. So if they wanted to make improvements to the parking lot, they would have to make a grant application and

it was last paved with UEZ funds about 15 to 18 years ago. She said they would not be able to use UEZ funds anymore nor could they use DOT funds because those funds could only be used for streets that were being driven on for a regular travel way. The only option would be to bond money for this project and they were already behind on resurfacing the streets not to mention the parking lots. There was a need to do parking but they would need to bond for these projects. As far as Fairview Avenue was concerned, it was funded by a DOT grant and it was awarded last fall along with other streets. She said a couple of fire hydrants would be replaced and the work would start soon. Berkeley Avenue was funded only this year so the project will not be done until next year. She said that there should be a life cycle for roads but due to shortage of grant funds, they were no where near that.

Council Member Williams asked if they could get something in writing telling when a road was paved and when it would need to be paved again.

Ms. Kemp said there were over 100 blocks to report on and they do 3 per year. She stated that some streets were split into phases and each phase was roughly \$5 million. She said a street can be on the list to get done but it could take up to 10 years for it to happen. She said could accurately report on what is being done and what would be getting done because they had the funding. However, she could not accurately report on what would get done after that because they never knew how much funding they would receive.

Council Member Williams asked Council Member Morton if he could consider beautifying the shrubbery in the back parking lot during his beautification project.

Council Member Morton said he was agreeable to looking into that.

Council Member Williams asked the status of Washington Street station as well as how the re-staffing was going.

Chief Manganelli said the Washington Street station would not open until the new hires from the SAFER grant were put in place. He said the 12 guys were back on staff and they were in the process of hiring the additional 12 through the SAFER grant.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked if any of the new hires were from Orange.

Chief Manganelli said there was a list for Orange that they were looking at but they were considering a few possibilities.

Council Member Williams asked what would be the determining factor of choosing a fire fighter from Orange versus one from East Orange if they had the same score.

Chief Manganelli said that they were exploring the Rice bill and looking to hire laid off fire fighters because they have already been trained.

Council Member Williams asked for the plan of hiring a new judge since Judge Stephens handed in his resignation.

Mr. Mason said the mayor received the letter and he was sure that the mayor would have another call to service and anyone who had applied before were welcome to apply again.

Council Member Williams stated opening day was coming up for baseball this Saturday at 10am and she asked people to come out and support. She informed them of a new program that started under recreation with a step team; the team was called catastrophic. She stated that they have been doing very well and she said they placed 3rd in a competition that she attended. She said they have a facebook page and there are videos on youtube to see what they were doing. She asked that people support them when they could and she spoke of an upcoming event. She said she wanted to have a community meeting to update the residents on what was going with the Walter G site. She said the community meeting would be May 7th from 10-12 at Reverend Freeman's church and she mentioned several people who would be present. She said that she grew up with Council Member Eason's son Isaac who was a community person and he grew up in Orange. She said that the council needed to mention some of the positive things that were going on around the town and she asked that the council try and be more positive.

Council Member Marable stated that he was a Knicks fan and the team has been doing bad for a long time and it seemed as if people were more optimistic about the Knicks getting better than living in the City of Orange. Speaking of the violence that has been talked about tonight; the people are criminals because they commit criminal acts. He considers them as terrorists because they take away from the community and they make people afraid. He said they could not let these people take them out of their regular routine and out of their comfort zone. This is not to say that they should minimize or ignore what was going on. He mentioned that he still took his son to Metcalf Park for practice three times per week because he would not let these people deprive his son of his childhood. He said the adults needed to focus on how they could help the youth and was sure that the city was going to prevail. He said these criminals needed help and attention as well.

Council Member Corbitt stated that he left off some important facts concerning his summit and he did not want to tie up the Mother's Day weekend. He said that the summit would be on May 14, 2011 at 10am at St. Matthew AME church.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked Ms. Kemp to thank public works and Mr. Bell for the clean up of a property in the west ward especially when their numbers have dwindled. He said he too received a call concerning the shooting in the park and he received no information from the police department but he was in favor of Council Member Eason's suggestion that whatever information could be given to the council was appreciated. He said that he had two resolutions and an ordinance that were supposed to be on the agenda and he expressed his disappointment. There were some minor adjustments that he, the city attorney and the legislative research officer were all in agreement with and they have not appeared on the last April agenda nor on this agenda and he laid blame entirely at the feet of the legislative research officer.

9) ORDINANCES – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

7-2011 An ordinance to amend Chapter 88 of the Code of the City of Orange Township entitled "Fees".

Acting Municipal Clerk announced that this ordinance had been published and posted pursuant to law; that copies of the ordinance had been made available to the public when requested.

Acting Municipal Clerk then read the ordinance by title which constitutes a second reading pursuant to law.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed announced that there would be a public hearing on this ordinance and any person wishing to speak on this ordinance should come forward, give his/her name to the stenographer and address all remarks to the Presiding Officer.

Seeing none, Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Close the Public Hearing.

Motion: Corbitt Second: Morton

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Close the Public Hearing was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

There was some confusion by the council on the vote and they did the vote over.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt Second: Morton

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

10) ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

15-2011 An ordinance adopting amendments to the Central Orange Redevelopment Plan.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Morton

On the motion, Council Member Corbitt stated that all the pages were not present and he would not vote on this until he received the correct information.

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt failed by the vote of Two Yeas, Five Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

16-2011 An ordinance establishing a Site Plan Review Committee for the Orange Planning Board and Orange Board of Adjustment in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Williams

On the motion, Council Member Williams asked for the purpose of this committee.

Ms. Jackson said the purpose of the committee was to really help the applicant better prepare for the planning or zoning board meeting; it would save money and time. The committee would sit with the applicant and review the application to make sure that all the corrections are noted and are ready for the meeting. Its to get the applicant better prepared for the board.

Council Member Eason wanted clarity on if this was trying to circumvent the boards.

Ms. Jackson stated that it was not. It was to make sure that all the things that needed to be on the application and plans were there.

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was passed by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed announced that the Public Hearing and final adoption of this ordinance would be May 17, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Orange City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey, that the City Clerk shall publish the notice of the first reading and the time and place the ordinance would be considered for final passage.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked for a motion to extend the meeting.

Motion: Morton

Second: Williams

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

Yeas: Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton, Williams, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: Corbitt, Eason

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to extend the meeting was carried by the vote of Five Yeas, Two Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

17-2011 An ordinance adopting the Lincoln Avenue Redevelopment Plan.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Williams

On the Motion, Council Member Marable said he questioned information in the redevelopment plan and he believed there was conflicting information on the second page and it had not been corrected. He said he had a discussion with Ms. Jackson previously on this matter.

Mr. Mason said that was still a typo and the correct resolution was 302-2011.

Council Member Marable said that was not correct either. He said there was a resolution to prepare a redevelopment plan and another to declare it in an area in need of redevelopment so there should be two separate resolutions listed here. He felt these things were minor but needed to be corrected.

Ms. Jackson said he was correct and it should be reflected and she agreed about the two governing resolutions.

Mr. Braker stated that he had no issue with that and the changes were immaterial.

Council Member Marable said that he pointed out the error weeks ago and it still has not been changed.

Council Member Eason asked if this was the old police building that the school wanted back. She asked if this would preclude it from going back to the school.

Ms. Jackson she said it could still go back to the school and it was stated in the ordinance that it could be an educational site and it was also open to developers.

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

Yeas: Corbitt, Eason, Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton, Williams, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was passed by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed announced that the Public Hearing and final adoption of this ordinance would be May 17, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Orange City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey, that the City Clerk shall publish the notice of the first reading and the time and place the ordinance would be considered for final passage.

18-2011 An ordinance establishing an administrative approval process for minor site plan approval.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Morton

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

Yeas: Jones-Bell, Marable, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: Corbitt, Eason, Morton, Williams

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt failed by the vote of Three Yeas, Four Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

The council decided to take a five minute break there was no vote.

Council Member Corbitt stated there was an ordinance he would like to bring from the floor concerning pay-to-play.

Council Member Marable stated that he had two resolutions to bring from the floor and they have been distributed to the council members.

106-2011 A resolution authorizing application to the local finance board for reversion to a calendar fiscal year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-3.1

107-2011 A resolution authorizing the awarding of a professional services contract for budget and financial consulting services to Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLP with respect to the reversion to a calendar fiscal year.

Council Member Jones-Bell also had a resolution to bring from the floor.

108-2011 A resolution amending resolution 335-2009 authorizing the execution of an amended third party and land disposition agreement between the City of Orange Township and RPM, LLC, 77 Park Street, Montclair, New Jersey that provides for both home ownership and rental housing.

19-2011 An ordinance establishing that an individual or business entity which makes political contributions to municipal candidates and municipal political parties shall be ineligible to receive public contracts from the City of Orange Township.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to suspend the rules of the agenda to place ordinance 19-2011 on the Agenda and to Adopt on First Reading.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Williams

On the motion, Council Member Marable asked what is different from the last time.

Council Member Corbitt said in the 5th paragraph the dollar amount that could not be exceeded which was \$300.00 has been added.

Mr. Warren clarified that there were two changes; one was in the dollar amount that was added and the date of one year from the date of contribution. If a contribution is made for more than \$300.00 the contributor could not get a contract with the city.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked for Mr. Braker's opinion on this ordinance.

Mr. Braker said he consulted with Mr. Warren and the ordinance was appropriately drafted to reflect the changes that Council Member Corbitt wanted. He stated that Mr. Warren sends a copy of the resolutions over to him to review.

Council Member Williams asked if once this was passed on second reading, would the language of this ordinance replace the pay-to-play language in a resolution for a contract.

Mr. Braker said municipalities can establish these types of ordinances and call it the local unit pay-to-play law. He said yes it would replace the law.

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Five Yeas, Two Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed announced that the Public Hearing and final adoption of this ordinance would be May 17, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Orange City Hall, 29 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey, that the City Clerk shall publish the notice of the first reading and the time and place the ordinance would be considered for final passage.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a motion to suspend the rules of the agenda to place the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

106-2011 A resolution authorizing application to the local finance board for reversion to a calendar fiscal year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-3.1

107-2011 A resolution authorizing the awarding of a professional services contract for budget and financial consulting services to Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLC with respect to the reversion of a calendar fiscal year.

108-2011 A resolution amending resolution 335-2009 authorizing the execution of an amended third party and land disposition agreement between the City of Orange Township and RPM Development, LLC, 77 Park Street, Montclair, New Jersey that provides for the construction of both home ownership and rental housing.

Council Member Marable said he provided copies of resolution 107-2011 to the city attorney's office and he did not realize that the city was drafting a resolution almost the same and his resolution was deficient in mentioning the source of funds and he took some whereas(es) from the city's resolution. The city removed its resolution and his took its place.

Motion: Williams

Second: Morton

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

11) 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 95-2011, 97-2011, 98-2011, 104-2011 and 108-2011 were removed from the consent agenda.

Resolution 100-2011 was withdrawn.

RESOLUTIONS - *96-2011, *99-2011, *101-2011 - *103-2011, *105-2011 - *107-2011

- *96-2011** A resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to refund redemption paid by Drew J. Bauman, Esq. in the amount of \$8,800.48 for property known as 703 Tremont Court, Block 208, Lot 08.G due to duplicate payment for Tax Sale Certification 10-259.
- *99-2011** A resolution ratifying and confirming the continued employment of John H. Watson, Jr., Esq., 63 Washington Street, East Orange, New Jersey 07017 to handle conflict workers' compensation matters in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.
- *101-2011** City of Orange Township Sustainable Land Use Pledge.
- *102-2011** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township Planning Board to conduct public hearing for the purpose of reviewing and considering amendments to the Reock Street Redevelopment Plan.
- *103-2011** A resolution authorizing the City of Orange Township to remove 547 Beach Street and 534 Liberty Street from its existing City of Orange Township abandoned properties list.
- *105-2011** A resolution awarding a contract for janitorial services and supplying all paper products for the Polhill Law and Justice Complex to Maverick Building Services, 60 Park Place, Newark, New Jersey 07102 for one (1) year commencing June 15, 2011 through June 14, 2012 in the amount not to exceed \$37,638.00.
- *106-2011** A resolution authorizing application to the local finance board for reversion to a calendar fiscal year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-3.1

***107-2011** A resolution authorizing the awarding of a professional services contract for budget and financial consulting services to Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLC with respect to the reversion of a calendar fiscal year.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Morton

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

Yeas: Corbitt, Eason, Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton, Williams, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

95-2011 A resolution approving the bill list dated April 6, 2011 and approving checks issued by the Finance Department in accordance with Ordinance 2-95. (PAGES 1-16, GRAND TOTAL: \$1,561, 665.72)

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Williams

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

Yeas: Eason, Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton, Williams,

Nays: Corbitt, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Five Yeas, Two Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

97-2011 A resolution authorizing a lease purchase agreement between the City of Orange Township and Verizon Credit Inc., 240 E. 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 for three years for phone and networking equipment and maintenance services in an amount not to exceed \$13,536.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Morton

On the Motion, Council Member Williams said that VOIP services were virtually free for residents and she wanted to know if it was the same for businesses.

Mr. Mason said he was not prepared to answer that question. He said several companies' proposals were reviewed for services and this was the best proposal and it represented a savings. He said they would continue to look for more savings for reliable services. They will have land lines for backup.

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

98-2011 A resolution appointing Sybil M. Elias, Esq. as Chief Judge of the Orange Municipal Court.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt Second: Eason

On the Motion, Council Member Williams said that she was offering her support and was looking to see what Judge Elias would bring to the city.

Council Member Corbitt said he had the opportunity to witness Judge Elias on the bench and she seemed to be firm and fair. He also appreciated the fact that she had God in her life.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said he has had the opportunity to observe Judge Elias on the bench in East Orange.

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

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

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Five Yeas, One Nay, One Abstention and No Absences.

104-2011 A resolution authorizing an addendum to Resolution #118-2010 to Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc., 301 Gibraltar Drive, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950 for additional engineering services for the 2009 CDBG Roadway Improvements to Ogden Street (between Reynolds St. – Central Ave.) and Chapman Street (between S. Center St. – Hickory St.) in the amount not to exceed \$4,750.00.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Williams

On the Motion, Council Member Morton wanted an explanation why more money was needed.

Ms. Kemp said at the last council meeting the council approved the resolution for the contractor for this job. When the work was started, they found old cobblestone under part of the road. Cobblestone and asphalt settle at degrees so the cobblestone had to be removed. She stated that they went back to CDBG and explained the need for additional funds not only for the construction but for the consulting work as well.

Council Member Williams asked if different engineering companies had different preferences because she knew of different towns that kept the cobblestone under the asphalt.

Ms. Kemp explained that you could leave it but over time when the asphalt settled, there could be cracking in the road. She said they could have left it but since they had the money from the grant, they decided to remove it.

Council Member Jones-Bell asked where could the residents park while this project was going on. She wanted to know if some accommodations could be made for the residents because nothing had been posted.

Ms. Kemp said notices were sent out by her office and the contractor. She said they asked that the residence accept a temporary inconvenience. She said the project would take 2-3 weeks and there was no plan in place. She said this was increasing the value of the residents' homes.

Council Member Jones-Bell said some of the residents were seniors and this was indeed a large inconvenience.

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

Yeas: Corbitt, Eason, Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton, Williams, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

108-2011 A resolution amending resolution 335-2009 authorizing the execution of an amended third party and land disposition agreement between the City of Orange Township and RPM Development, LLC, 77 Park Street, Montclair, New Jersey that provides for the construction of both home ownership and rental housing.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adopt.

Motion: Corbitt

Second: Eason

On the motion, Council Member Williams said there was a grant to redevelop these properties that were currently owned by the city. She asked if all the properties were dilapidated.

Ms. Jackson said that these were vacant lots that were owned by the city. She said they originally had an agreement with RPM to build 15 housing units on these lots. They were amending the resolution to include rental properties as well as home ownership. Once they were purchased they could be rented out.

Council Member Morton asked if 172 Parrow Street was a vacant lot.

Ms. Jackson responded that it was. She said all the properties on Berwyn Street would be 3- family rental properties. Taylor Street and Parrow Street would be either single or 2-family homes.

Council Member Williams asked if some of the lots would be given waivers since they were undersized lots. She also wanted to know when this project would start.

Ms. Jackson said that the city planner made amendments to the Central Redevelopment Plan that would allow for these issues. She replied that she hoped they could close on these properties by the end of the month and get shovels in the ground by the summer.

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

Yeas: Corbitt, Eason, Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton, Williams, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

Council President Abdul-Rasheed ruled the Motion to Adopt was carried by the vote of Seven Yeas, No Nays, No Abstentions and No Absences.

13) MOTION TO ADJOURN

Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Jones-Bell

Second: Morton

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

Yeas: Corbitt, Eason, Jones-Bell, Marable, Morton, Williams, Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: None

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

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:30pm.

**Dwight Mitchell
Municipal Clerk**

**Hassan Abdul-Rasheed
Council President**

MINUTES APPROVAL

Passed on June 8, 2011

Conference & Regular Meeting on April 19, 2011

Motion to Adopt: Corbitt

Second: Eason

The roll call by Municipal Clerk was as followed:

Yeas: Corbitt, Eason, Jones-Bell, Morton, Williams and Council President Abdul-Rasheed

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: Marable

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