

**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 3, 2011, AT 7:10 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)	_____	arrived @ 7:25pm
Hon. Donna K. Williams	(At-Large)	X	_____
Hon. Hassan Abdul-Rasheed	(West Ward)	X	_____
Council President			

The Acting Municipal Clerk announced there was a quorum.

**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	_____

**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**

**Catherine Willis, East Orange Senior Program – Hon. Donna K. Williams**

Council Member Williams introduced Catherine Willis head of the senior center in East Orange. She said Ms. Willis wanted to inform them of programs the City of East Orange had to offer that Orange residents were welcome to participate in.

Ms. Willis offered as special invitation to the senior citizens of Orange for a computer program. The program was for \$5 per week for an 1 ½ hour session. The morning classes were filled but there other slots available. Each class held 8 students and the class is being extending the opportunity to Orange seniors. They also have job opportunities for mature individuals 55 and older for Essex counties residents. Annual income can not exceed \$13,600 for a single senior; \$18,300 for a 2-family senior income. She said they also offer line dancing class every Tuesday from 11-12 for \$5 per class and lunch is usually offered at no additional cost.

Council Member Eason asked the address for the center.

Ms. Willis said the center was located at 90 Halsted Street at the Bowser Family Senior Center formally known as the Wilkerson Center.

Council Member Jones- Bell asked for clarity on the price of the classes.

Ms. Willis said the classes were \$5 per week and the computer class was offered 2x per week and each class was 1 ½ hours per class. The line dancing class was 1x per week and it was 1 hour; if they got more people to sign up, they could offer more classes.

Council Member Marable thanked Ms. Willis for the extension to Orange residents and asked for a number to call.

Ms. Willis stated the number was 973-266-8832.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed also thanked Ms. Willis. He said he was familiar with the building and aware of the work she had done in the community. He said that Mr. Darrell Holcomb was the director of community service which senior services fell under and he hoped that they could get in touch with each other and work together.

Council Member Eason asked if Orange's senior residents were interested in the programs, would the bus take them to the center in East Orange.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said Mr. Holcomb indicated that it would and he was sure that he would work out the particulars.

Council Member Williams thanked Ms. Willis for coming and making the presentation.

**Presentation of Resolution to YWCA – Hon. Donna K. Williams**  
**The women of the Council presented a plaque to Shirley Johnson of the YWCA Board President**

Council Member Williams said the women of the council would present this resolution that was passed on April 4<sup>th</sup> to the president of the YWCA. She asked them to join her at the podium to read the resolution into the record. She also asked Ms. Johnson to join them at the podium.

The resolution was read into the record. Council Member Williams stated that this resolution would be hung at 395 Main Street the location of the YWCA so that women could see it on a constant basis.

Ms. Johnson thanked the council for the plaque. She said the YWCA has been in Orange since 1914 and have been working with women towards empowerment and eliminate racism. She said she has been a member since she was 5 years old. She mentioned some of the accomplishments of the center. She said they would be celebrating the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the camp in July at Camp Lenoloc on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. She informed everyone that lenoloc was colonel spelled backwards. She said the YWCA was a community based organization and she named some of the programs that have been and are still offered. She said that information on how to become a member or supporter was placed on the table outside the council chambers. She thanked them for the presentation and the opportunity to share information on the celebration of women and their historic accomplishments.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said his daughter went to Camp Lenoloc and he thanked the YWCA for all of the services they have provided.

The council then took pictures.

#### 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.**

Acting Municipal Clerk Wallace announced that Council Member Morton arrived at 7:25pm.

Council Member Williams questioned ordinance 11-2011; she wanted clarity that at the time a person was chosen for this position, the person and the salary had to come before the council for approval.

Mr. Mason said the appointee had to come before the council. If the salary was within the range that was approved by the council and it would be based on the person's experience and qualifications. The council has the final say on the candidate. He said that a number of towns were seeking qualified people in this position. He said that if they found a qualified individual, it did not mean that the person would start at the highest range but it would give them a greater ability to attract a qualified individual.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked if the new price range would be included in the advertisements for the position.

Mr. Mason responded that it would. He said the current range had been omitted from all of the ads and he believed that this would attract more qualified candidates.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said the City was in need of a Chief Financial Officer because they were in a vulnerable position without one. He asked if they did not get a CFO in place it would be a detriment to the budget process.

Mr. Mason said he was correct.

Council Member Eason said that Orange was unlike the other towns that it was being compared to that were looking for CFOs because they had money and had upscale neighborhoods. She asked where were East Orange and Irvington.

Mr. Mason said those towns were going to be higher than what was shown here. He said Ewing Township just had an increase in taxes and a change in administration. He said Hamilton did not have a lot of money because he used to work there. He said West Orange was searching for a CFO and they needed to be competitive with these towns. He added that this was the salary range when the prior CFO was here and a previous council reduced the salary range.

Council Member Eason asked for an example of when the council has been asked to approve the salary range of a person hired by human resources.

Mr. Mason said the council approves the salary and wage budget for every department and division. He said the administration usually decides on a fair and equitable salary for the individual within the salary range.

Council Member Eason said she still wanted an example. She said she is still receiving calls about taxes and the council has an opportunity to affect the taxes. She said the city had no money and not too long ago, they were asking everyone to take a 20% cut. She said she did not feel comfortable increasing the salary when residents were calling about their taxes. She said she understood that they needed a qualified CFO but they also had to consider the economic climate that they were in and she could not support this ordinance.

Council Member Marable said that if the council approves a candidate, they are also approving the salary. He said that previously the council has rejected a candidate submitted by the mayor because the salary was too high.

Council Member Corbitt said there was someone in the finance department that they were grooming for this position. He wanted to know who was paying for the training and if they hired a CFO, what would become of this person.

Mr. Mason said the salary and wage budget for the finance department was decreased by \$400K through resignations and retirements. He said the current person was overworked and overwhelmed. He said they were required by state statute to have a CFO and the current person was working towards it but did not have it and it would take awhile to obtain the license. He said they city is paying for the courses and the council voted on the payments on the bill list.

Council Member Corbitt asked if this person would stick around once they earned the CFO license.

Mr. Masons said he believed he would. He stated that in the tax collector's office there were two part-time people who had the certification. He said that the salaries and wages were down in the finance

department. He said they could not provide financial reporting as the council would like at this time because the staff was over worked.

Council Member Corbitt stated that the difference was these people were part-time. He said he did not want to see the city pay for someone's education and they decided to move on to greener pastures.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said he did not want to see the city continue without a CFO. He said the young man was mannerable and helpful but he did not have an extensive background in municipal finance.

Mr. Mason said his background was in municipal auditing and accounting. He said this was his first position in municipal finance but he was learning.

Council Member Eason said that if the council was the approving power if a person was chosen, why should they change the salary range. She agreed that they needed a CFO but they had to consider the economic climate.

Council Member Morton said that he understood that they needed to attract qualified candidates for the position. However, he felt as though they should hire a retired CFO while the young man was taking the classes. He did not feel they needed a person in a full-time position and he felt that they could get by with a part-time person. He said that there was nothing in writing obligating the young man to stay here once he received his training.

Council Member Williams asked if they could have Mr. Ditinyak to sign a contract that he had to remain with the city for a certain amount of time since they were paying for his education.

Mr. Braker stated that Mr. Ditinyak was an employee not a private vendor and they could not make him sign a contract.

Council Member Williams said she thought that they hired the current employee under the guise that he would move into the CFO position. She said she did not see how they could have two people with the same salary in the department. She said that there would be nothing stopping him from leaving to find a higher paying position in another town once he finished school that Orange's tax payers paid for.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said he was not under the impression that Mr. Ditinyak would move into the CFO position when he was hired.

Council Member Marable asked about resolution 110-2011 concerning the bill list. On page 9, there were charges to emergency management. He wanted to know if these items were inventory items that have always been maintained. He specifically wanted to know what mouse traps had to do with emergency management.

Mr. Mason said he did not recall the particulars on this purchase order. He said he would have to research what lead to emergency management to order these items.

Chief Manganelli said it was entered incorrectly and it should be come out of the budget of the fire department. He said they have informed the finance department that it should be corrected.

Council Member Marable said that he was ok with that expenditure as long it was corrected. He then asked about ordinance 19-2011; he wanted clarity on the language of the ordinance.

Council Member Corbitt said it should say 'not to exceed' \$300.00.

Council Member Marable said that was a problem that words were missing. He was also confused about the municipal and political party portion. He said there was no such thing as a municipal party.

Council Member Corbitt said there may be some verbiage missing but the legislative research officer was not present to substantiate this and this needed to be corrected.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed asked if this was going to be retroactive or would it be progressive. He asked that this be withdrawn until this could be corrected.

Council Member Corbitt said that he would be removing this until it could be corrected and the right language was inserted.

Council Member Williams went back to resolution 110-2011 on page 3 under the city clerk, the last item for Gramaco; she wanted to know what this was for.

Mr. Braker said the clerk's office informed him that this was for the maintenance fee for the microphones.

Council Member Corbitt questioned resolution 112-2011 for the chestnut pumping station. He wanted a complete total of what has been spent on the pumping station. He said he recalled that they were not expecting to spend any more money on this project.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed said he recalled the same thing subject to circumstances beyond their control.

Mr. Mason said this was because the contract has been extended and this was for the professional engineering services. He said there were funds available; over \$1.4 million was left after this expenditure. He said that a running total could be provided tomorrow.

Ms. Kemp director of Public Works said the contract was extended at the last meeting. She said there was a general rule that the profession design was 10% of the construction amount and 15% for construction inspection and this guideline was given from the state. She added that the state would reject or question amounts that were over these guidelines. She said this was a \$10 million project and this was coming in substantially less than what was expected.

Council Member Corbitt clarified that this was not coming from tax payers' dollars.

Ms. Kemp said he was correct; it was coming from environmental infrastructure trust.

Council Member Eason asked when the station would be completed and go on line.

Ms. Kemp stated it would be completed in August of this year.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed also questioned resolution 110-2011; he wanted to know about Mr. Barriff's contract. He asked was this a payment towards the yearly contract that totaled \$10K.

Mr. Mason said that this was the monthly payment on his yearly contract.

Council Member Marable made a correction that the contract total was not \$10K; he said if this was the monthly amount you only had to multiply this by 12 to get the amount of the contract.

Council President Abdul-Rasheed wanted clarity on the contract amount.

Mr. Mason said the total is roughly \$44K for the annual amount.

**5) MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Council President Abdul-Rasheed entertained a Motion to Adjourn.**

**Motion:** Eason

**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 8:09pm.**

---

**Dwight Mitchell  
Municipal Clerk**

---

**Hassan Abdul Rasheed  
Council President**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

**Passed on June 8, 2011**

**Conference & Regular Meeting on May 3, 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.**