

THIS WAS A SPECIAL MEETING TO HOLD A BUDGET HEARING 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 THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 AT 7:07 P.M.

Present:

Councilman Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilman Christopher Jackson, At-Large
Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson., South Ward
Councilwoman Donna K. Williams, At-Large
Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten, At-Large (Arrived @ 8:23)
Council-president Kerry Coley, East Ward (Arrived @ 7:17)

Also Present:

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
Madeline Smith, City Deputy Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Gracia R. Montilus, Acting City Attorney
Megan O’Hanlon, Assistant Budget Consultant
Lisette Sanchez, Records Support Technician

Absent: Harold Johnson, Jr. West Ward

The City Clerk asked all to stand for a Moment of Silence.

The City Clerk announces that the requirement of N.J. S.A. 10:4-9 et. Seq., “Sunshine Law” has been met. A notice of this meeting was sent to the *Orange Transcript-Record and printed on Friday, May 24, 2019 and also to the Star Ledger printed on Tuesday, May 29, 2019* posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Calendar Year Budget 2019 – Budget Hearing (3)

• Court

Judge Hackett and Mr. Moss presented an opening statement.

Judge Hackett spoke of programs that the court had for residents and students.

Mr. Moss reported on the items they were able to purchase with grant money such as the language line that they use at the court windows. This way they do not have to hire interpreters. They also have new security in the courtrooms. Mr. Moss and Judge Hackett spoke about career days that they have done. They have students come to the court as interns. Mr. Moss spoke about community service programs for residents that cannot afford fines. They spoke about the training programs that the staff attend. A summary of outstanding warrant amounts will be given to the Clerk’s office.

Mr. Moss stated that there was no need for new staff at this time.

Judge Hackett gave his closing remarks to the Council.

CBAC member Mr. Forrest asked about employee training. Mr. Moss spoke about the judges and administrators and the state classes they attend. Mr. Moss spoke about the Court Aid and the cost of training that is paid by the POAA budget.

The Court hearing ended at 7:50 p.m.

- **Law**

City Attorney Montilus gave an opening statement to the Council. He reported that two new attorneys were hired so the city could handle more cases in house.

The new attorneys are full time. He spoke about the increase in spending from last year due to the expectation of more cases and settlements. The Business Administrator reported that \$3,600.00 was moved from travel expenses to employee training. Settlements amounts were discussed and the increase this year. Also discussed was that a settlement of \$50,000.00 can be awarded without Council's approval. The Business Administrator spoke about the amount of money for foreclosures stating there are about 47 properties.

City Attorney Montilus gave his closing statement..

CBAC Mr. Forrest asked about Dues and publications amounts. Mr. Montilus reported that most of the money goes towards the legal software service. The Business Administrator explained the Emergency labor acct difference between this year and last year. The Business Administrator stated that all software purchases will be done under the city IT person. The hearing finished at 8:11 p.m.

- **Administration/Mayor**

Business Administrator Hartwyk spoke about the consolidation of administrative service functions, such as Medical services have been consolidated into one contract. He spoke about split salaries for individuals and the reason for them. The Business Administrator and Councilwoman Eason spoke about security in City Hall and the Police Department. The Business Administrator reported on the new position in the finance department. The Business Administrator provided information regarding the media tech and network administrator. The Business Administrator reported on towns around the city and the number of employees they have in their IT departments. The Business Administrator stated the shortage in the city IT department will have to be addressed. He reported on the grants the city was given in the past year. The Business Administrator provided information on the duties of the Affirmative Action Officer. Dues, publications, the Mayor's Conference and the National League of Cities were consolidated into one GL line. He reported on the reason for the renting and leasing line of the budget. He discussed the Jiff plan, health plan and pensions with Councilwoman Williams.

Business Administrator Hartwyk gave a closing statement. A CBAC representative asked about the duties of the Chief Administration Officer. The Business Administrator said he prepares all statements to the press, updates and maintains the city website. The liaison to channel 35 and maintains the citizen's Blast system. Is there any plan to split the Affirmative Action Officer duties from the Confidential Aid duties. The Business Administrator said no. They discussed the increase in the office equipment line which was a consolidation for better control.

- **Water Utility**

The Business Administrator commented that the water utility is addressing a number of issues. He spoke about recent emergencies in the city. There are now two people that are assigned to water utility and they have been investigating fire hydrants, manholes and catch basins in the city. He discussed the self-liquidating account. He spoke about the Suez contract and that he would be meeting with them to discuss the results of

an audit regarding the water utility and some noncompliance issues. The Business Administrator discussed the roadwork that was taking place and how it will affect the water pipes. He discussed the buildings that do not have water meters and how that happened. He spoke about new plans to save money and upgrade the infrastructures of the water system. The representative from the CBAC spoke about the frustration of the taxpayers over the water utility. He discussed the outstanding water utility bonds and how they work. Spoke about the Beach Street plant. When asked about getting grants for water utilities he reported that because Council's authorization was not given to do the Asset Management Plan so the city does not qualify for federal grants.

- **Clerk/Council**

Clerk Lanier provided a presentation for each Council Member and provided information on the Clerk's accomplishments and goals. She read parts of the presentation to emphasize their importance. She spoke about the Council's website and the new online storage of ordinances, resolutions and minutes. The need of more storage. A CBAC representative asked about the training and special events lines for the Council members. Council Member Eason provided information about those accounts.

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

The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 10:14 P.M.

Approved:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President