

Conference Meeting – March 1, 2022

The West Orange Township Council met virtually due to the Covid 19 pandemic beginning at 6:36 p.m., Karen Carnevale, Municipal Clerk read the following statement:

This is to inform the general public that this meeting is being held in compliance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975. The annual notice was emailed to the Star Ledger and filed in the Township Clerk's office on November 24, 2021, and published in the West Orange Chronicle on December 2, 2021.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Matute-Brown, Councilwoman Williams, Council President McCartney

Councilman Rutherford arrived at 6:41 p.m.

Lenny Lepore, Township Engineer introduced Zayibeth Carballo, the Township's new Assistant Township Engineer to the Council. Jennifer Tunnicliffe, West Orange Women's Club President gave a brief update as to the function and purpose of the club. Police Chief James Abbott gave an update and a historic overview of the Township's crime statistics which has decreased significantly over since his tenure as Police Chief that began 25 years ago.

Mayor Parisi gave an update and summation with regard to the second phase of the downtown redevelopment area.

Public Meeting – March 1, 2022

The West Orange Township Council met virtually beginning at 7:47 p.m., Karen Carnevale, Municipal Clerk read the following statement:

This is to inform the general public that this meeting is being held in compliance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975. The annual notice was emailed to the Star Ledger and filed in the Township Clerk's office on November 24, 2021, and published in the West Orange Chronicle on December 2, 2021.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Matute-Brown, Councilman Rutherford, Councilwoman Williams, Council President McCartney

Public Comment

Joe Fagan – Public Information Officer – Township of West Orange

Mark Chase – Eagle Ridge Way

Joe Krakoviak – Grandview Avenue

Melgily Valdez – Elm Street

Rosary Morelli – Ralph Road

Gary Van Wyk – Burnet Terrace

Todd Debovy – Burnet Terrace

James Jackson – Ashley Road

There was no one else who wished to be heard and the public comment portion of the agenda was closed.

***Review of Consent Agenda**

***Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting-** February 15, 2022 Public Meeting Minutes and February 1, 2022 Executive Session Minutes

***Report of Township Officers – None**

***Reading of Petitions and Communications and Bids-None**

***Bills – None**

***Resolution(s) adopted on Consent Agenda**

- a. **39-22** Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session to Discuss a Matter of Litigation/Contract Negotiations Specifically Prism litigation and Contractual Negotiations (Legal-Trenk)
There was no need to hold an executive session this evening.
- b. **40-22** Resolution Authorizing the Township to Accept a \$525,000 Grant from the United States Department of Justice to Fund a Program with the West Orange Police Department and the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, Inc. wherein Trained Mental Health Professionals Accompany Police Officers from the West Orange Police Department on Certain Calls Involving Mental Health and Mental Health Related Issues (Legal-Moon)
- c. **41-22** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to An Overpayment of Taxes Due to a Duplicate Payment (Tax Collector)
- d. **42-22** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Raffle Licenses (Clerk)
- e. **44-22** Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Interim Redevelopment Agreement and Designating the MBS Group as Conditional-Redeveloper for Film Services Overlay District (FSOD) of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan (Legal-Trenk)

On motion made by Councilwoman Casalino and seconded by Councilwoman Williams, the consent agenda was approved.

All members voting “Aye.”

***Resolution(s) Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Resolution 25-22

25-22 Resolution Establishing Certain Fees and Rates on Behalf of the Recreation Department for the 2022 Season (Kehoe)

On motion made by Councilwoman Casalino and seconded by Councilwoman Matute-Brown, the above referenced resolution was approved.

Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Matute-Brown, Councilwoman Williams, Council President McCartney voting “Aye.” Councilman Rutherford voting “Nay.”

Resolution 38-22

38-22 Resolution Establishing the Application Fees for Licenses for Operation of Cannabis Entities within the Township of West Orange (Legal-Moon)

On motion made by Council President McCartney and seconded by Councilwoman Matute-Brown, the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members voting “Aye.”

Resolution 43-22

43-22 Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Messercola Excavating Company, Inc., 549 E. 3rd Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, for the Mellon Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project in the amount of \$150,037.00 (Lepore)

On motion made by Councilman Rutherford and seconded by Councilwoman Matute-Brown, the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members voting “Aye.”

Ordinances on First Reading

Ordinance 2678-22

After a Council discussion and on motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, the above referenced ordinance was amended prior to approval on first reading.

All members voting “Aye.”

On motion made by Councilwoman Matute-Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Williams, **An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 25, Section 28 of the General Ordinance of the Township of West Orange, Entitled “Steep Slope and Natural Features Ordinance”** was approved as amended on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on April 26, 2022.

All members voting “Aye.”

Pending Matters/New Matters/Council Discussion

- Recognition of West Orange Women in honor of Women’s History Month including the four Councilwomen currently serving on the Town Council and Madame Clerk
- Planning of Juneteenth Celebration

The Council gave their liaison announcements.

At 11:07 p.m., on motion made by Councilman Rutherford, with a special guest appearance by the Councilman’s dog ‘Pepper’, and seconded by Councilwoman Williams, the meeting was adjourned.

All members voting "Aye."

The Minutes of this meeting are on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.



Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk



Susan McCartney, Council President

Adopted: March 15, 2022