

Conference Meeting – October 24, 2023

The Conference meeting began at 6:31 p.m., Council President Williams 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 23, 2022 and published in the West Orange Chronicle on December 1, 2022.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilman Rutherford, Councilwoman Scarpa, Council President Williams

- PSE&G Business Energy Saver Program-Mayor McCartney and Kelvin Roberson-PSE&G Representative
- Extra Mile Day-2023 – A Celebration of Township Volunteers

Public Meeting – October 24, 2023

The West Orange Township Council meeting began at 7:13 p.m., Council President Williams 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 23, 2022 and published in the West Orange Chronicle on December 1, 2022.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilman Rutherford, Councilwoman Scarpa, Council President Williams

Rabbi Tobin gave the Invocation.

Public Comment:

Margin Mingin-W.O. Public Library via Zoom

In Person:

Presentation by Laura VanDyke - Senior Services Program Director regarding Senior Services

Joe Fagan – Public Information Officer

Brent Scott-Nestro Road

Roz Moskowitz Belski – Wedgewood Road

Sheila Lefkowitz – Pleasant Valley Way

Rachel Hersey – Mellon Avenue

Altheia Tweiten – Edgar Road

Rosary Morelli – Ralph Road

Todd Dubovy – Burnet Terrace

Joseph D'Auria – Sheppard Terrace

Megan Brill – Executive Director-Downtown West Orange Alliance

Zoom:

Anthony Puglisi – Public Information Officer – Essex County

Mel Valdez – Elm Street

John Blanton-Forest Hill Road

Lisa Steadwell – Chestnut Road

Micaela Bennett – Old Indian Road

Sally Malanga – Ridge Road

Joyce Rudin – Woodland Avenue
Richard Lawton – Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ
Darren Tobia – Columbia Street
Sean Gaynor – Landing, NJ

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** – Public Meeting September 19, 2023

***Report of Township Officers**

Update-W.O. Public Library-Peter F. Smeraldo, Jr.-Assistant Business Administrator

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

***Bills** – 10.10.23

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

- a. **372-23** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Raffle Licenses (Clerk)
- b. **374-23** Resolution Authorizing The Collector Of Taxes To Rebate Payment To The Listed Taxpayer Pursuant To Final Judgment By The Tax Court Of New Jersey (Longo)
- c. **375-23** Resolution Authorizing The Collector Of Taxes To Refund Payment To The Attorney Of The Listed Taxpayer Due To An Overpayment Of Taxes Due To A County Board Judgment (Longo)
- d. **376-23** Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement for the Purchase of a Fire Pumper from the Borough of Woodland Park (Reynolds)

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the consent agenda was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution(s) Removed from the Consent Agenda

Resolution 346-23

Resolution to Award a Contract Extension to Grabowski Construction, Inc. of 770 Northfield Avenue, West Orange for Snow Plowing, Salting, Removal and Snow Hauling for 2023-2024 (Carballo)

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 366-23

Resolution Authorizing the Certification of the 2022 Annual Audit by the Governing Body (Gross)

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the above referenced resolution was tabled.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 369-23

Resolution Authorizing the Competitive Contracting Process for a Professional and Experienced Economic Development Consultant Firm to Function as the Township’s Economic Development Consultant (Reynolds) (*backup documents to follow*)

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the above referenced resolution was defeated.

All members present voting “Nay.”

Resolution 371-23

Resolution Establishing A Land Use Pledge Committing To Good, Planned And Thoughtful Land Use Decisions With The Intent Of Making The Township Of West Orange A Sustainable Community

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 373-23

Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Fairview Insurance Associates, Inc., 25 Fairview Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044, for Insurance Broker Services – (P. Reynolds)

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the above referenced resolution was defeated.

Councilwoman Casalino voting “Aye.” Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilman Rutherford and Councilwoman Scarpa voting “Nay.” Council President Williams abstained.

Ordinances on First Reading

Ord. 2824-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **An Ordinance Amending And Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, Subsection 7-32.1 Handicapped Parking On Streets And Subsection 7-32.2, Restricted Parking Zones, Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of West Orange - 116 Watchung Ave., 46 Watson Ave., 26 Nutman Place**, was approved on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on November 20, 2023.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Ord. 2825-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **An Ordinance Of The Township Of West Orange, In The County Of Essex, State Of New Jersey Providing For A Special Emergency Appropriation In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,500,000 To Fund**

Contractually Required Severance Liabilities Resulting From The Retirement Of Employees In The Township, was tabled on first reading.

All members present voting "Aye."

Pending Matters-New Matters-Council Discussion

- A recommendation was made by Council President Williams to create a Capital Planning Committee.
- Leaf Blower Ordinance - On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa to introduce on first reading the leaf blower ordinance on the November 20, 2023 agenda.

Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilman Rutherford, Councilwoman Scarpa and Council President Williams voting "Aye." Councilwoman Casalino voting "Nay."

- Tree Ordinance
- Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)-On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by
- Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the three nominees for the Civilian Complaint Review Board were approved and the nomination process was closed.
- Capital Budget Review
- Posting of CFO Position
- Crossing Guards
- Neighborhood Watch Training

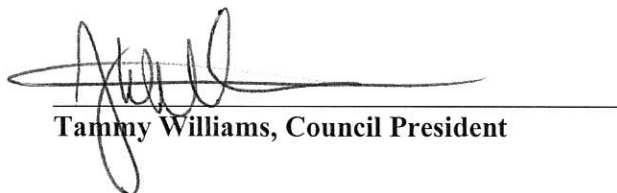
ABC Hearing-None

At 11:54 p.m., on motion made by Councilman Rutherford and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, the meeting was adjourned.

All members present 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


Tammy Williams, Council President

Adopted: November 20, 2023