

Conference Meeting – November 20, 2023

The Conference meeting began at 6:37 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

- Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day – November 16, 2023-Todd Cohen
- Presentation: Downtown Redevelopment Area
- Paul Grygiel, AICP, PP/ Principal, Phillips Preiss Grygiel Leheny Hughes LLC / Planning & Real Estate Consultants, Everett Johnson/Shareholder, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Joseph Taylor/President & CEO, Matrix Development Group and Frank J. Giantomasi/Member, Chiesa, Shahinian & Giantomasi, PC

Public Meeting – November 20, 2023

The West Orange Township Council meeting began at 8:05 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

Public Comment:

In Person:

Joe Fagan – Public Information Officer
Carla-W.O. Resident
Doug Adams-Westover Terrace
Stephanie Lajado-W.O. Resident
Eric-W.O. Resident
Noha-W.O. Resident
Richard Groves –
William Sullivan, Esq. – Scarinci Hollenbeck
Richard Leonardis-Pleasant Valley Way
Jim Sherrard-West Orange Wellness
Ted Flowers, Esq.-West Orange Wellness
Pastor Miguel Suarez-Our Lady of the Valley
Ken McPherson, Esq. – W.O. Wellness
James Jackson-Ashley Road
Nordia Gibbs – Tremont Avenue
Deputy Mayor Larry Reine-W.O.
Amy Gallatin-Smith Manor Road
Darnell Gibbs – Tremont Avenue
Barry Geltzeiler-Old Indian Road

Zoom:

David-Gerdes Avenue
Sean Gaynor – Landing, NJ
John Blanton-Forest Hill Road
Luis Prespo-Forest Avenue
Zasah Khedemi – Dawes Avenue
Todd Dubovy-Burnet Terrace
Joyce Rudin – Woodland Avenue
Resident-Elf Road
Jennifer G. – Conforti Avenue
Rachel Keane-Schmitt Road
Tova – W.O. Resident
Renee Glick-Nicholas Avenue
David Levin-Greenwood Avenue
Doreen Richmond-Stanford Avenue
Mosha-W.O. Resident

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 October 24, 2023

***Report of Township Officers-None**

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

***Bills** – 11.20.23

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

- a. **377-23** Resolution Authorizing Helicopter Landing at Montclair Golf Club for Santa Arrival 2023 (Legal-Gengaro)
- b. **378-23** Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Contract to Greenman Pederson, Inc., 301 Gibraltar Drive, Suite 2A, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 for the 2023 Community Block Development Block Grants Road Improvement Rehabilitation of Valley Road from Kingsley Street to Northfield Avenue (Carballo)
- c. **379-23** Resolution Appointing Zayibeth Carballo and James William as the Township of West Orange Community Development representatives to the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development for the year 2023 (Carballo)
- d. **380-23** Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Ammunition and Related Accessories for the West Orange Police Department through a State Contract Vendor (Reynolds)
- e. **381-23** Resolution Authorizing the Collector Of Taxes To Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to an Overpayment of Taxes Due to a Duplicate Payment (Longo)
- f. **383-23** Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Contract with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., 301 Gibraltar Drive, Suite 2A, Morris Plains, NJ 07950, to Provide Professional Engineering Services for Traffic Count at the Intersection of Valley Road and Mitchell Street in an Amount NTE \$2,180.00. (Carbello)
- g. **385-23** REMOVED

- h. **387-23** Resolution Approving CCRB Members Commencing January 1, 2024 (Legal-Trenk)
- i. **388-23** Resolution to Authorize the Purchase and Installation Police Equipment, specifically Dispatch Furniture through the Union County Cooperative Pricing System Contracts # UCCP 8-2022 IT Infrastructure, Fiber Optic Network Advanced Applications and Services (Reynolds)
- j. **391-23** Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract for the Ginny Duenkel Pool Electrical Improvements to O'Malley Electric, LLC, 10 West Thomas Street, Wharton, NJ 07885 in an amount NTE \$123,456.00 (Carballo)
- k. **392-23** Resolution Authorizing the Township to Apply For and Obtain a Grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant for Approximately \$70,500 to Carry Out a Project to Obtain Personal Protective Equipment for Turnout Gear for the West Orange Fire Department (Kapura)
- l. **393-23** Resolution Authorizing The Collector Of Taxes To Refund Payment To The Listed Taxpayer Due To An Overpayment Of Taxes Due To A Duplicate Payment (Longo)

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 382-23

Resolution Of The Township Of West Orange, In The County Of Essex, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing A \$25,000 Emergency Appropriation Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40a:4-48 To Fund Necessary Improvements In The Township As A Result Of A Storm Sewer Pipe Collapsing On South Valley Road (Under 3% Limitation) (Gross)

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Council President Williams, the dollar amount in the resolution was amended to \$31,342.02.

All members present voting "Aye."

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

All members present voting "Aye."

Resolution 384-23

Resolution Concerning Pending Cannabis Letters of Support (Legal-Trenk)

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

All members present voting "Nay."

Resolution 386-23

Resolution Approving a Local Cannabis Retail License for West Orange Wellness, LLC, 26 So. Valley Road, West Orange, NJ (Legal-Trenk)

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

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

Resolution 389-23

Resolution Authorizing the Competitive Contracting Process for a Vendor to Design and Build of Various Solar Facilities on Township Property (Reynolds)

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilman Rutherford, the above referenced resolution was tabled to the December 5, 2023 meeting.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 390-23

Resolution of the Township of West Orange, in the County Of Essex, State of New Jersey Providing for the Issuance of Special Emergency Notes in an Amount Not To Exceed \$1,500,000 to Fund Contractually Required Severance Liabilities Resulting from the Retirement of Employees in the Township (Gross)

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

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

Resolution 394-23

Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation to Grabowski Construction, 770 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052 for Emergency Storm Sewer Construction to the Township’s Storm Sewer Pipe on South Valley Road in an Amount not to exceed \$31,243.02 (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 395-23

Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Brown and Brown, Roseland, NJ for Insurance Brokerage Services for a Term of Two (2) Years, with an Option to Extend for One Additional Year (Gross)

On motion made by Councilman Rutherford and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, the above referenced resolution was defeated.

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

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael to place a resolution on the December 5, 2023 reconsidering Fairview Associates, Inc. as Insurance Broker for the Township of West Orange was approved.

Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael and Council President Williams voting “Aye.” Councilman Rutherford and Councilwoman Scarpa voting “Nay.” The resolution will be listed on the December 5, 2023 for consideration by the Township Council.

Ordinance(s) on Second and Final 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 taken up on second and final reading.

All members present voting “Aye.”

The Council President stated that this is the scheduled time for the public hearing and asked the Clerk to read the ordinance by title only.

The Council President asked if there was anyone who wished to be heard.

There was no one that wished to be heard and the public hearing on this Ordinance was closed.

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

All members present voting “Aye.”

Ord. 2825-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, **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 taken up on second and final reading.

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

The Council President stated that this is the scheduled time for the public hearing and asked the Clerk to read the ordinance by title only.

The Council President asked if there was anyone who wished to be heard.

There was no one that wished to be heard and the public hearing on this Ordinance was closed.

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, the above referenced ordinance was adopted.

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

Ordinances on First Reading

Ord. 2826-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, Subsection 7-32.2 Restricted Parking Zones and 7-32.3 Handicapped Parking In Municipal Parking Lots and Board Of Education Property Of The Revised General Ordinances of the Township Of West Orange – 77 Mitchell Street and 21 Lafayette Street**, was approved on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on December 5, 2023.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Ord. 2827-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21, Section ____ Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of West Orange-Gas Leaf Blowers**, was tabled on first reading.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Ord. 2828-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, Subsection 7-25, Loading Zones, Subsection 7-14.7, Alternate Side Parking, and 7-14.1, Night Parking Restricted of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township Of West Orange – Chestnut Street**, was approved on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on December 5, 2023.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Ord. 2829-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **Bond Ordinance Providing For Various 2023 Capital Acquisitions And Improvements, By And In The Township Of West Orange, In The County Of Essex, State Of New Jersey; Appropriating \$6,300,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$6,000,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The Township To Finance Part Of The Cost Thereof**, was approved on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on December 5, 2023.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Ord. 2830-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, **Bond Ordinance Providing For Various 2023 Capital Improvements, By And In The Township Of West Orange, In The County Of Essex, State Of New Jersey; Appropriating \$6,104,494 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$5,813,800 Bonds Or Notes Of The Township To Finance Part Of The Cost Thereof And Cancelling Amounts From Various Ordinances Not Being Used For Their Original Purpose**, was approved on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on December 5, 2023.

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

Ord. 2831-23

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **Bond Ordinance Providing For Various Street Improvements, By And In The Township Of West Orange, In The County Of Essex, State Of New Jersey; Reappropriating \$638,005.28 In Excess Bond And Note Proceeds From Various Bond Ordinances, Not Needed For Their Original Purpose, To Finance The Costs Thereof**, was approved on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on December 5, 2023.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Pending Matters-New Matters-Council Discussion

- Tree Ordinance
- 2024 Township Council Meeting Dates

On motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino the 2024 calendar was accepted.

All members voting “Aye.”

On motion made by Council President Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, Councilmember Rutherford accepted the position of liaison to the CCRB.

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

ABC Hearing-None

At 2:02 a.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: December 5, 2023