

Conference Meeting – February 27, 2024

The Conference meeting began at 6:39 p.m., the 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 21, 2023, and published in the West Orange Chronicle on November 30, 2023.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilwoman Williams, Council President Rutherford, Mayor McCartney

Councilwoman Casalino was absent due to illness.

- Vision Zero Action Plan Task Force, from NV5 and NJDOT - Launch of the Township's Action Plan
- Presentation by Health Department Director Michael Fonzino Regarding the Opening of the State of the Art 2 Acre Dog Park on Executive Drive

Public Meeting – February 27, 2024

The Public meeting began at 7:22 p.m., the 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 21, 2023, and published in the West Orange Chronicle on November 30, 2023.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilwoman Williams, Council President Rutherford, Mayor McCartney

Councilwoman Casalino was absent due to illness.

At this time, on motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Williams, the Council agreed to amend the Public Comment portion of the meeting, having the first public comment session heard for agenda items only, and a second Public Comment session heard for non-agenda items prior to Pending Matters/New Matters, Council Discussion.

All members present voting "Aye."

Public Comment

Joe Fagan – PIO
Nicole Bell – Underwood Drive
Paul Tractenberg – Sullivan Drive
Joyce Rudin – Woodland Avenue
Claire Silvestri – Grandview Avenue
Phil Litwinoff – Linden Avenue
Douglas Adams – Westover Terrace
Rosary Morelli – Ralph Road
Walt Kipp-Township Forester
Mike Brick – Colony Drive West – Environmental Commission Chair

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

Resolution(s)

- a. **72-24** Resolution Appointing the Township of West Orange Purchasing Agent, Panayiota Reynolds as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (Gross)
- b. **74-24** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Raffle Licenses (Clerk)
- c. **76-24** Resolution Rejecting All Responses to the Request for Proposal for Cannabis Consultant (Legal-Trenk)
- d. **77-24** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Rebate Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Pursuant to Final Judgment by the Essex County Board of Taxation Cancelling Added/Omitted Assessments (K. Longo)
- e. **78-24** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 54:6-52.1 (K. Longo)
- f. **79-24** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to a Veteran Exemption (K. Longo)
- g. **80-24** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to an Overpayment of Taxes Due to a Duplicate Payment (K. Longo)
- h. **81-24** Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Enterprise via Sourcewell National Cooperative – 2024 (P. Reynolds)
- i. **83-24** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to an Overpayment of Taxes Due to a Duplicate Payment (K. Longo)

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

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution(s) Removed from the Consent Agenda

Resolution 71-24

PUBLIC HEARING and Adoption of Downtown West Orange Alliance Special Improvement District 2024 Budget (Brill)

Megan Brill, DWOA Executive Director gave a power point presentation of the 2024 DWOA Budget.

The Council President stated that this is the scheduled time for the public hearing and asked if there was anyone who wished to be heard.

Nicole Bell – Underwood Drive

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

On motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the 2024 DWOA Budget was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 73-24

Resolution Authorizing Execution of Professional Services Agreement with Joseph M. Wenzel Esq. as Municipal Prosecutor at a Rate of \$1,000. Per W7547eek (Legal-Trenk)

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

All members present voting "Aye."

Resolution 75-24

Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a New 50'w X 60'l Salt Shed Cover through the Educational Services Commission Of NJ Cooperative for the Department of Public Works (L. Reynolds)

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

All members present voting "Aye."

Resolution 82-24

Resolution Authorizing Execution of Professional Services Agreement with Phoenix Advisors, LLC for Municipal Financial Consulting (Legal-Trenk)

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

All members present voting "Aye."

Ordinance(s) on Second and Final Reading

Ord. 2837-24

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Williams, **An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, Subsection 7-32.2 Restricted Parking Zones of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange-Handicapped Space(S) 77 Harrison Avenue, 153 Randolph Place and 1 Tompkins Street**, 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 Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, the above referenced ordinance was adopted.

All members present voting "Aye."

Ordinance(s) on First Reading

Ord. 2839-24

An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Chapter 25, Sections 27 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange and Establishing Chapter ____ for Environmental Protection(Tree Protection, Removal and Replacement), failed as there was no motion by the Council to introduce on first reading.

Ord. 2840-24

A motion was made by Councilwoman Williams, but no second was given to introduce on first reading, **An Ordinance Supplementing Chapter 12 Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of West Orange And Establishing Chapter 10, Section 16 For Regulation Of Township Dog Parks (Dog Park Rules And Regulations)**, therefore the motion failed.

A motion was made by Council President Rutherford and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to re-introduce on first reading, **An Ordinance Supplementing Chapter 12 Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of West Orange And Establishing Chapter 10, Section 16 For Regulation Of Township Dog Parks (Dog Park Rules And Regulations)**. The motion was approved and ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on March 12, 2024.

All members present voting "Aye."

Ord. 2841-24

A motion was made by Councilwoman Williams, but no second was given to introduce on first reading, **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 25, Sections 4.B, 11.14, And Part A: Permitted Uses Table Of District Regulations Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of West Orange (Fast Casual Restaurants)**, therefore the motion failed.

Ord. 2842-24

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Sections 8 and 15 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange (Rules Of Council – Order Of Business), failed as there was no motion by the Council to introduce on first reading.

Ord. 2843-24

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Section 2.5 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange to Add a Fee for a Potentially Dangerous Dog License (Licensing Of Dogs-Fees), failed as there was no motion by the Council to introduce on first reading.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael to re-introduce on first reading, **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Section 2.5 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange to Add a Fee for a Potentially Dangerous Dog License (Licensing Of Dogs-Fees)**. The motion was approved and ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on March 12, 2024.

All members present voting "Aye."

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

Larry Rein – Cummings Circle
Jen Hardell – Ashland Avenue
Nordia Gibbs – Tremont Avenue, Orange, NJ
Rachel Klein – Howell Drive

Pending Matters/New Matters/Council Discussion

- Discussion on Public Comment
- Training – Free Speech/Hate Speech
- Council Tour of Cannabis Facility
- Workshop for Cannabis
- Forensic Audit

At this time, on motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, the Council meeting was adjourned and the ABC Hearing was opened.

All members present voting “Aye.”

ABC Hearing

735-24

Resolution Approving a Place-to-Place Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0722-33-013-002, on behalf of Castle Rock Bar & Grill, LLC t/a Castle Rock Bar & Grill (Clerk)

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

All members present voting “Aye.”

At 11:31 p.m., on motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, 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
Bill Rutherford, Council President

Adopted: March 12, 2024