

Conference Meeting – January 6, 2025

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 notice for this meeting was emailed to the Star Ledger and the West Orange Chronicle on December 11, 2024.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilman Krakoviak, Councilwoman Rudin, Councilwoman Scarpa, Mayor McCartney

Pledge of Allegiance

- **Oaths of Office**

- Councilman Joe Krakoviak

Oath Administered by Retired Municipal Judge Harry Starrett

- Councilwoman Joyce Rudin

Oath Administered by Mayor Nancy Adams, Maplewood

- Councilwoman Michelle Casalino

Oath Administered by Senator John McKeon

At this time, Ashante Pope, representing Congresswoman LaMonica McGyver presented proclamations to each of the newly elected Council members and Mayor McCartney presented a Certificate on behalf of the Board of Canvassers, County of Essex, State of New Jersey and signed by Chris Durkin, Essex County Clerk, to each of the newly elected Council members.

- Nomination of Council President – 2025

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilman Krakoviak was nominated as the Council President for 2025.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Oath Administered by Retired Municipal Judge Harry Starrett

Council Liaison Appointment(s)

MC Downtown West Orange Alliance

On motion made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Casalino was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting “Aye.”

MC Public Relations Commission

On motion made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Casalino was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

SS Planning Board

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Scarpa was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

SS ERSCHA (Degnan House)

On motion made by Councilwoman Rudin and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Scarpa was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

SS WOSCHA (John P. Renna House)

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilman Krakoviak, Councilwoman Scarpa was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

AG West Orange Municipal Alliance Committee

On motion made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

AG West Orange Arts Council

On motion made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

JR Open Space & Recreation Committee

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Rudin was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

SS Oscar Schindler Performing Arts Center

On motion made by Councilwoman Casalino and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Scarpa was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

MC West Orange Board of Education

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilman Krakoviak, Councilwoman Casalino was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

JK West Orange Historic Preservation Commission

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilman Krakoviak was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

JR Pedestrian Safety Committee

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilwoman Rudin was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

JK Economic Development

On motion made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilman Krakoviak was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

JR Environmental Commission

On motion made by Councilman Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilwoman Rudin was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

SS Older Adults Advisory Board

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Scarpa was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

JK & JR Municipal Insurance Fund (two-year appt.)

On motion made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilman Krakoviak and Councilwoman Rudin were selected as liaison appointees.

All members voting "Aye" for both nominees.

JK Joint Meeting Commission (two-year appt.)

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilman Krakoviak was selected as liaison appointment.

All members voting "Aye."

- **2025 Council Meeting Dates**

On motion made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino, the 2025 Council Meeting dates were approved.

All members voting “Aye.”

Public Meeting January 6, 2025

The Public meeting began at 7:40 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 notice for this meeting was emailed to the Star Ledger and the West Orange Chronicle on December 11, 2024.

Roll Call – Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Rudin, Councilwoman Scarpa, Council President Krakoviak, Mayor McCartney

At 7:42 p.m., on motion made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, the Council entered into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel, specifically for the purpose of conducting an interview with Stephen E. Trimboli, Esq., The Chilla Business Counsel, LLC - Labor Attorney. The Executive Session ended at approximately 8:22 p.m. and the public meeting continued.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Public Comment

Joe Fagan – PIO
Megan Brill-Executive Director – DWOA
Anthony Puglisi-PIO Essex County
Bill Rutherford – Hundt Place
Darren Nurse – Dartmouth Road
Dr. Robert Hoatson-Gaston Street
Micaela Bennett – Old Indian Road
Lawrence Cohen-Lincoln Avenue

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

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – None

Report of Township Officers-None

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

Bill List - None

Resolution(s) Approved on Consent Agenda

- a. **1-25** Resolution Authorizing Agreement with University Hospital for Fire Fighter Training – 2025 (P. Reynolds)
- b. **2-25** Resolution To Authorize The Repair Of Fire Sprinklers At Various Township Owned Buildings

Through The Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC) Cooperative Contract # MCCPC #52 (P. Reynolds)

- c. **3-25** Resolution Authorizing Contracts With Certain Approved State Contract Vendors For Contracting Units Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40a:11-12a For 2025 (P. Reynolds)
- d. **4-25** Resolution Authorizing Contracts With Certain Approved Co-Operative Vendors For Contracting Units Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40a:11-5(2) For 2025 (P. Reynolds)
- e. **6-25** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Raffle Licenses (Clerk)
- f. **8-25** Resolution Authorizing Donation of SCBAs to Morris Training Academy (Legal-Gengaro)
- g. **10-25** Resolution Authorizing Second Amendment to Lease Agreement – W.O. Arts Council (Legal-Trenk)
- h. **11-25** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Rebate Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Pursuant to Final Judgment by the Tax Court of New Jersey (K. Longo)
- i. **12-25** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to a Duplicate Payment of Tax and/or Sewer Charge (K. Longo)
- j. **13-25** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to a Veteran Exemption (K. Longo)
- k. **14-25** Resolution to Set the Interest Rate and Penalties to be Charged for Delinquent Tax Payments (K. Longo)
- l. **15-25** Resolution Designating Official Newspapers for the Township Of West Orange – 2025 (Clerk)
- m. **20-25** Resolution Establishing Filming Permit Fees - 2024 (Legal-Moon) (formerly 361-24)
- n. **21-25** Resolution for the Township Of West Orange, County Of Essex, State Of New Jersey, Adopting Temporary Budget Appropriations Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40a:4-19 for the 2025 Year (Ditinyak)
- o. **22-25** Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Township of West Orange, Essex County, State of New Jersey, for the Year 2025 (Ditinyak)
- p. **24-25** Resolution to Retain Counsel for a Possible Municipal Officer “Removal for Cause” (Council)
- q. **25-25** Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session to Discuss a Matter of Personnel Specifically a matter of Personnel for the purpose of conducting an interview with Stephen E. Trimboli, Esq., The Chilla Business Counsel, LLC - Labor Attorney

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

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution(s) Removed from the Consent Agenda

Resolution 5-25

Resolution Authorizing Service Agreement for Goose Control Technology – 2025 (Fonzino)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ghebremicael and seconded by Councilwoman Rudin to TABLE the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 7-25

Resolution Appointing Geniece Gary-Adams, Zoning Official as Municipal Housing Liaison (Legal-Gengaro)

A motion was made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa to TABLE the above referenced resolution was approved.

Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Scarpa and Council President Krakoviak voting “Aye.” Councilwoman Rudin voting “Nay.”

At 10:36 p.m., Councilwoman Ghebremicael left the meeting due to a religious holiday.

Resolution 9-25

Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding between the Township of West Orange and Family Connections/Adapt Youth Leadership Coalition (Legal-Gengaro)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Council President Krakoviak to TABLE the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 16-25

Resolution Awarding an Extension of Contract in 2025 for an Additional One Year Period to Rich Tree Service, Inc., 325 Bergen Street, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 and Downes Tree Service Co., Inc., 65 Royal Avenue, Hawthorne, N.J. 07970 for Emergency and Non-Emergency Tree Services 2025 (P. Reynolds)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Scarpa and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino to TABLE the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 17-25

Resolution Awarding an Extension of Contract in 2025 for an Additional One Year Period for Tree Removal Services to Rich Tree Service, Inc., 325 Bergen Street, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080, as the Lowest Responsible Bidder for Trees Under 16” Diameter, Beucler Tree Experts, 48 Harold Street, Tenafly, N.J. 07670, as the Lowest Responsible Bidder for Trees Between 16” and 36” in Diameter and

Downes Tree Service Co., Inc., 65 Royal Avenue, Hawthorne, N.J. 07970, as the Lowest Responsible Bidder for Trees Above 37” in Diameter (P. Reynolds)

A motion was made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa to TABLE the above referenced resolution was approved.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 18-25

Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract to Frank Galbraith & Son Excavation and Demolition LLC, 831 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076, for Tree Planting 2025 (P. Reynolds)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Casalino and seconded by Council President Krakoviak to approve.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 19-25

State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program Enabling Resolution for Supplemental Funding Request (Carballo) (formerly 343-24)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Casalino and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa to approve.

Councilwoman Casalino, Councilwoman Scarpa and Council President Krakoviak voting “Aye.”
Councilwoman Rudin voting “Nay.”

At this time, on motion made by Councilwoman Casalino and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to appoint Councilwoman Casalino and Councilwoman Rudin as liaison(s) to the Rock Spring Golf Club.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Resolution 23-25

Downtown West Orange Alliance Special Improvement District 2025 Budget (Brill)

A motion was made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Casalino to approve.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Ordinance(s) on First Reading

Ord. 2888-24

On motion made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Rudin, **An Ordinance Amending Certain Terms in Chapter 5 Section 35 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange** was approved on first reading, ordered advertised according to law, to come up for second and final reading on **December 20, 2024.**

All members present voting “Aye.”

Pending Matters/New Matters/Council Discussion

a. ABC Hearing Date(s) – 364 Valley Road

b. Resolution - Islamophobia and Anti-Arab Racism

Council President Krakoviak read the following statement into the record:

Speaking as Council President for the new 2025 Council, I believe Councilmembers understand and fully support the law and customs of our country, society and community that prohibit and abhor all forms discrimination, period. No caveats, no conditions – in all cases and for everyone.

I believe we all agree that we must treat each other as equals, with love, respect and justice – just as we want to be treated and just as our Constitution and laws provide. As human beings, we are all different and will differ. As we seek solutions to these disagreements, we should always keep our principles of equality, respect, tolerance, and justice foremost in our words and actions – both for ourselves and for those with whom we disagree.

I believe the people of West Orange should be certain and confident that their Councilmembers do not and will not tolerate discrimination of any kind, that we should oppose discrimination wherever it raises its ugly head -- and that we always will.

And speaking for myself, I believe these types of resolutions are unnecessary once we have firmly established and proclaimed our opposition to discrimination of every kind. Therefore, I believe it is best for our community to focus on our own issues, challenges and future that we as the governing body can address through solutions that have a significant impact on making West Orange an even better place to live, visit and do business. That is our goal and focus going forward, and I ask that you join us in this effort.

c. Resolution Authorizing A Property Appraisal Of Mt. Pleasant Forest At Ridge Road For Potential Purchase By Green Acres/Open Space Trust Fund

On motion made by Councilwoman Rudin and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to include a resolution on the next Council agenda requesting that a 3rd appraisal be done for this property.

All members present voting “Aye.”

d. Changes to § 3-3.1 Rules of the Council with changes of meeting hours, scheduling, and Conference Agenda intended to encourage public participation and input, as well as clarity

On motion made by Councilwoman Rudin and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to amend and include the above referenced Ordinance on the next Council agenda on first reading.

All members present voting “Aye.”

Changes to § 2-47.2 Environmental Commission membership and leadership positions to reflect the input and diversity of council members

On motion made by Councilwoman Rudin and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to amend and include the above referenced Ordinance on the next Council agenda on first reading.

All members present voting “Aye.”

e. Changes to § 2-57.2 Open Space and Recreation Commission membership to reflect the input and diversity of council members

On motion made by Councilwoman Rudin and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to amend and include the above referenced Ordinance on the next Council agenda on first reading.

All members present voting "Aye."

f. Revise Resolution #279-09 Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee to create an Ordinance revising membership to reflect the input and diversity of council members

On motion made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to introduce an Ordinance establishing the CBAC at the next Council agenda on first reading.

Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilwoman Rudin and Council President Krakoviak voting "Aye."
Councilwoman Casalino voting "Nay."

g. Rescind Ordinance § 2-5.3 to eliminate the duplication of the job responsibilities of the position of Director of Staff Operations with those of the Business Administrator

On motion made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to amend and include the above referenced Ordinance on the next Council agenda on first reading.

All members present voting "Aye."

h. Changes to Ordinance § 2-9.4 regarding Special Counsel to clarify the legislative "advise and consent" role and fiduciary oversight of the Council

On motion made by Council President Krakoviak and seconded by Councilwoman Scarpa, a motion was made to amend and include the above referenced Ordinance on the next Council agenda on first reading.

i. Rent Leveling Board – Council Appointments

j. Nishuane Group – Monthly reports

All members present voting "Aye."

ABC Hearing-None

At 1:22 a.m., on motion made by Council President Krakoviak 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. Carneyale, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk


Joe Krakoviak
Council President

Adopted: January 28, 2025