

Conference Meeting – January 23, 2024

The Conference meeting began at 6:38 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 Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Williams, Council President Rutherford, Mayor McCartney

Councilwoman Scarpa joined the meeting via Zoom.

- Oath of Office of the 2024 Council President Bill Rutherford-Administered by Reverend H. William Rutherford. Mrs. Rutherford held the Bible for her son. Council President Rutherford was also joined by his wife and 3 daughters.
- Council President Rutherford presented a gift to outgoing Council President Tammy Williams
- Promotional Ceremony – W.O. Police Department – Oath administered by Mayor McCartney.
 - Daniel Verduga to rank of Sergeant
 - Wilfred Jiroux to rank of Lieutenant

Public Meeting – January 23, 2024

The Public meeting began at 7:04 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 Casalino, Councilwoman Ghebremicael, Councilwoman Scarpa, Councilwoman Williams, Council President Rutherford, Mayor McCartney

Council Liaison announcements were made.

Public Comment

In Person:

Mayor McCartney
Cynthia Hadley Bailey-Hickory Road
Rodolfo Rodriguez – Deputy Mayor-W.O.-Ashwood Terrace
Jen Hardell – Blue Violet
Darren Nurse
Noelia Perez on behalf of Joe Fagan-PIO

Zoom:

Anthony Puglisi-PIO Essex County
Joyce Rudin-Woodland Avenue
John Blanton-Forest Hill Road
Sally Malanga-Ridge Road
Todd Dubovy-Burnet Terrace

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

Resolution(s)

- a. **40-24** Introduction of the 2024 Downtown West Orange Alliance Budget (Brill)
- b. **41-24** 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 (Longo)
- c. **42-24** Resolution Authorizing the Collector of Taxes to Refund Payment to the Listed Taxpayer Due to a Veteran Exemption (Longo)
- d. **43-24** Resolution Authorizing Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the S. Valley Rd (Walker Rd to Township limits), Union St (S. Valley Rd to Township limits), Nassau St (S. Valley Rd to Township limits), Wheatland Ave (S. Valley Rd to terminus) Improvement Project (Carballo)
- e. **44-24** Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation to Grabowski Construction, Inc., 770 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052, for Emergency Sanitary Sewer Construction to the Township's Sanitary Sewer Main Located Across Brook between Beverly Road and Glen Road, that is tributary to the East Branch of the Rahway River in an amount Exceed \$170,277.00 (Carballo)
- f. **46-24** Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract Extension for Tree Removal Services – 2024 (Carballo)
- g. **47-24** Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract Extension for Emergency and Non-Emergency Tree Services – 2024 (Carballo)
- h. **48-24** Resolution Approving Contract with Matrix New World for Concrete Testing at the Biddleman Properties (Legal-Trenk)
- i. **50-24** Resolution Appointing a Municipal Engineer (Gross)
- j. **51-24** Resolution Providing Advice and Consent to the Appointments of the Director of the Department of Engineering and the Director of the Department of Public Works (Gross)
- k. **52-24** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Raffle Licenses (Clerk)

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

All members voting "Aye."

Resolution 45-24

Resolution Authorizing Interlocal Agreement with Borough of North Caldwell for Animal Shelter Services -2024

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

All members voting "Aye."

Resolution 49-24

State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program Enabling Resolution for Supplemental Funding Request

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

All members voting "Aye."

Resolution 53-24

Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with PKF O'Connor Davies, 20 Cranford Drive, Suite 301, Cranford, NJ 07016, for appointment as the Township Auditor for the Period January 1, 2024 through April 10, 2024 at the Rate Reflected in the Agreement

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

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

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

All members voting "Aye."

Ordinance(s) on Second and Final Reading

Ord. 2834-24

On motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, **An Ordinance Amending And Supplementing Chapter 7, Traffic, Subsection 7-19, Through Streets And 7-21 Multiway Stop Intersections Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of West Orange – Valley Road and Mitchell Street(s)**, 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.

Zayibeth Carballo, W.O. Township Engineer

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

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

All members present voting "Aye."

Pending Matters/New Matters/Council Discussion

- Gas Leaf Blower Ordinance
- Cannabis – Workshop
- Appointments on Commissions
- RFP Downtown Redevelopment Area

Councilwoman Scarpa left the meeting at this time.

ABC Hearing

At 10:10 p.m., on motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael the Council adjourned their meeting and entered into an ABC Hearing.

All members present voting "Aye."

ABC 733-24

Resolution Authorizing a Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License 0722-33-048-013 from Wilshire Caterers, LLC, 350 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052, to Wilshire Caterers NJ, LLC, 350 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052 (Clerk)

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

All members present voting "Aye."

ABC 734-24

Resolution Authorizing a Person to Person and Place to Place Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License 0722-33-020-003 from Miranda, LLC to Benji's Bagels, LLC t/a Benji's Mexican Grill, 14 Main Street, West Orange, NJ (Clerk)

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

All members present voting "Aye."

At 10:24 p.m., on motion made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ghebremicael, 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



Bill Rutherford, Council President

Adopted: February 13, 2024