

**CITY OF EAST ORANGE
THE EAST ORANGE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

5:30 P.M.

(Minutes from the Meeting of January 23, 2023)

**CHRISTOPHER AWE
City Council Chairman**

**First Ward
Christopher D. James
Amy Lewis**

**Second Ward
Christopher Awe
Brittany D. Claybrooks**

**Third Ward
Bergson Leneus
Vernon Pullins, Jr.**

**Fourth Ward
Casim L. Gomez
Tameika Garrett-Ward**

**Fifth Ward
Alicia Holman
Mustafa AL-M. Brent**



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The following minutes are of necessity, condensed and abridged and do not purport to contain the full contents of the matters discussed. The items referred are subject to legal opinion as to validity.

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEETING
January 23, 2023**

The East Orange City Council met on January 23, 2023, at 5:39 P.M. in City Council Chambers, 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, and New Jersey. Adequate notice of such a meeting was duly given in accordance with law, by publication in local newspapers and by posting on the bulletin board outside and within City Council Chambers.

On Roll Call the following Members of Council were present:

Casim L. Gomez; Brittany Claybrooks; Tameika Garrett-Ward; Alicia Holman; Vernon Pullins, Jr.; Amy Lewis; Christopher Awe

ABSENT

Mustafa Al-M Brent
Bergson Leneus
Christopher D. James

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

Solomon Steplight, City Administrator	City Administrator
Ronald Hunt, Corporation Counsel	Law Department
Dorothy Gallagher, CFO	Finance
Yvonne C. Blake, Acting Director	Health and Human Services
Tiffany Harris-Delaney, Director	Planning
Jamal Pearson, Director	Recreation
Eladio Negron, Director	Code Enforcement
Tina Sakajani	Tax Assessor
Monica Reed, Director	Human Resources
Rupert Bell, Director	Public Works
Phyllis Bindi, Chief	Police Department
Bruce Davis, Acting Chief	Fire Department
Maurice Boyd, Acting Public Safety Director	Police Department

ALSO PRESENT

Racquel Ferguson, Purchasing Agent	Procurement
Tony Jackson	Mayor's Office
Muzammil Mohamed-Stevens	Public Works

COMMITTEES

100-ARTS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
200-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING
300-FINANCE
400-HEALTH AND EDUCATION
500-HOUSING, LICENSING AND INSPECTION
600-LAW AND LEGISLATION
700-PLANNING AND GRANTS
800-PUBLIC SAFETY
900-PUBLIC WORKS
1000-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

100 - ARTS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

BERGSON LENUES - CHAIRMAN

James, Brent, Lewis

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 101. | Recreation Department | In Committee |
| 102. | East Orange Public Library | In Committee |
| 103. | Bernadette Francine Gibson - Memorial | Resolution to be presented |

200 - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING

CHRISTOPHER D. JAMES – CHAIRMAN

Leneus, Pullins, Jr., Brent

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 201. | Brick Church Mall | In Committee |
| 202. | Brick Church Urban Renewal | In Committee |
| 203. | Economic Development Corp. | In Committee |

300 - FINANCE

VERNON PULLINS, JR. – CHAIRMAN

Lewis, Holman, Gomez

- | | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 301. | Personnel | Confirmation of Appointment
Maurice Boyd – Public Safety Director
Resolution to be presented |
| 302. | Tax Refund | In Committee |
| 303. | Labor Negotiations | In Committee |
| 304. | Tax Revaluation | In Committee |
| 305. | Tax Sale Certificate | In Committee |
| 306. | In Rem Foreclosure | In Committee |
| 307. | Payroll #26 | Resolution to be presented |
| 308. | Payroll #1 | Resolution to be presented |
| 309 | Stop Payments | In Committee |
| 310 | Legal Transfer 2022 | In Committee |
| 311. | Tax Payment Plan | In Committee |
| 312. | Tax Appeal Refund | In Committee |
| 313. | Annual Tax Sale | In Committee |
| 314. | Tax Abatement | In Committee |
| 315. | In Lieu of Taxes | In Committee |
| 316. | Bills, Claims & Appropriations – 1.23.23 | Resolution to be presented |
| 317. | Tax Sale Assignment | In Committee |
| 318. | Tax Lien | In Committee |
| 319. | Tax Lien Redemption | In Committee |
| 320. | Budget Insertions | In Committee |
| 321. | Status of Women | In Committee |
| 322. | Auction | In Committee |
| 323. | Duplicate Tax Payments | Resolution to be presented |
| 324. | Temporary Budget – January 2023 – March 2023 | Resolution to be presented |
| 325. | Resolution Designating Defense Litigation, Workers
Compensation and Special Conflict Counsel Through
Claims Resolution Corporation, Inc. – The City's Third-Party
Insurance Administrator | Resolution to be presented |
| 326. | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contracts
for Hearing Officers | Resolution to be presented |
| 327. | Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contracts
for Special Labor Counsel | Resolution to be presented |
| 328. | Resolution Designating Police Practices Defense
Counsel Through Claims Resolution Corporation,
Inc. – The City's Third-Party Insurance Administrator | Resolution to be presented |

300 – FINANCE - Continued
VERNON PULLINS, JR. – CHAIRMAN
Lewis, Holman, Gomez

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|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 329. | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contract for Redevelopment Special Legal Counsel for the City of East Orange | Resolution to be presented |
| 330. | Resolution Designating Professional Services Contracts for Insurance Coverage Defense Counsel | Resolution to be presented |
| 331. | Resolution Designating Professional Services Contract for Tax Foreclosure Counsel | Resolution to be presented |
| 332. | Resolution Designating Special Conflict Counsel to the City Council Through Claims Resolution Corporation, Inc., The City's Third-Party Insurance Administrator | Resolution to be presented |
| 333. | Resolution Awarding of Professional Service Contract for Municipal Budget Consultant (Wielkotz & Company) | Resolution to be presented |
| 334. | Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contract for Municipal Auditor, (PK O'Connor Davies) | Resolution to be presented |
| 335. | Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contract for Grant Consultant (Millennium Strategies, Aubrey Group) | Resolution to be presented |
| 336. | Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contract for Municipal Financial Adviser, NW Financial Group | Resolution to be presented |

400 – HEALTH and EDUCATION
MUSTAFA AL-M. BRENT – CHAIRMAN
Claybrooks, Gomez, James

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 401. | Child Guidance Clinic | In Committee |
| 402. | Health Department | In Committee |
| 403. | Mental Health Board | In Committee |
| 404. | East Orange General Hospital | In Committee |
| 405. | East Orange Board of Education | In Committee |
| 406. | Confirmation of Reappointment of Christine Harris to the Board of Health | Resolution to be presented |
| 407. | Confirmation of Reappointment of Angela Jones-Williams to the Board of Health | Resolution to be presented |
| 408. | Confirmation of Reappointment of Tobbia Corbitt to the Board of Health | Resolution to be presented |

500 – HOUSING, LICENSING AND INSPECTION
BRITTANY D. CLAYBROOKS – CHAIRWOMAN
Holman, Leneus, Pullins, Jr.

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 501. | Rent Leveling | In Committee |
| 502. | Affordable Housing Program | In Committee |
| 503. | Housing Authority | In Committee |
| 504. | Housing, Planning & Coordinating | In Committee |
| 505. | Private Parking Rentals | In Committee |
| 506. | Senior Citizens Housing | In Committee |
| 507. | Housing Summit | In Committee |

700 – PLANNING and GRANTS
TAMEIKA GARRETT-WARD – CHAIRWOMAN
Gomez, Claybrooks, Holman

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 701. | Community Development | In Committee |
| 702. | Safe and Clean | In Committee |
| 703. | Small Tools Library | In Committee |
| 704. | Green Acres Grant | In Committee |
| 705. | Women's Summit | In Committee |

800 - PUBLIC SAFETY
AMY LEWIS – CHAIRWOMAN
Brent, James, Garrett-Ward

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|--------------|
| 801. | Police Department | In Committee |
| 802. | Fire Department | In Committee |

900 - PUBLIC WORKS
CASIM GOMEZ – CHAIRMAN
Pullins, Jr., Garrett-Ward, Claybrooks

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 901. | Capital Improvement Projects | under Construction |
| 902. | Streetscape | In Committee |
| 903. | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contract for Engineering & Architectural Consulting Services, and Surveying Services | Resolution to be presented |
| 904. | Resolution Awarding A Contract of Professional Services for Design Services for the Milling and Paving of Various Streets – FY 2023 | Resolution to be presented |
| 905. | Resolution Accepting the Proposal of Shade Installation in Columbian Park | Resolution to be presented |
| 906. | Resolution Authorizing the Designation of Restricted Parking Spaces | Resolution to be presented |
| 907. | Resolution Authorizing the City to Advertise for The Second River Channel Proposed Retaining Wall Replacement | Resolution to be presented |
| 908. | Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Sonny Electric, Inc., For General Electrical Services at Municipal Buildings and Facilities | Resolution to be presented |

600 - LAW AND LEGISLATION
ALICIA HOLMAN – CHAIRWOMAN
Garrett-Ward, Lewis, Leneus

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 601. | Ordinances on First Reading | <u>Ordinance No. 1 of 2023</u>
An Ordinance Authorizing the City of East Orange Purchase for a Public Purpose the Improvements and Property Located at 18-20 Ashland Avenue, identified on the Tax Maps as Block 541, Lot 14, East Orange, New Jersey |
| | | <u>Bond Ordinance No. 2 of 2023</u>
Bond Ordinance Providing for Phases II(b), III(b), IV, V and VI of the Local Unit's Allocable Share of the Flood Mitigation Facilities Project of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties By and In the City of East Orange, In the County of Essex, State of New Jersey (The "Local Unit") On Behalf of the East Orange Water Commission, Appropriating \$2,615,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,615,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance the Cost Thereof |
| 602. | Ordinances on Second and Final Reading | In Committee |
| 603. | Bingo/Raffles | In Committee |
| 604. | A.B.C. | In Committee |
| 605. | City Council Rules | In Committee |
| 606. | Settlements | In Committee |
| 607. | Comcast/Suburban Cable Contract | In Committee |
| 608. | Taxi Cabs vs. Livery Licenses | In Committee |
| 609. | Amendment of Resolution I- 8-2023 City Council Meeting Dates | Resolution to be presented |
| 610. | Confirmation of reappointment of Emmanuel Ola Awe Board of Water Commissioners | Resolution to be presented |

1000- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1000. East Orange Parking Authority

In Committee

OPEN HEARING OF CITIZENS

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of the Rules of City Council, each person wishing to address the Council, shall step up to the microphone, shall give his/her name in an audible tone for the record and unless further time is granted by the Presiding Officer, shall limit remarks to three minutes.

All members of the public are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner. Any derogatory, abusive or threatening statements will not be permitted. The Chair will immediately rule such conduct out of order and terminate any further comments.

NONE

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cynthia S. Brown, City Clerk

THE EAST ORANGE CITY COUNCIL **AMENDED 2023 SCHEDULED MEETING DATES**

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Public Notice is hereby given that the East Orange City Council has established the following 2023 Meeting Dates.

Formal action may take place at these Meetings and Executive Sessions may be held at Committee Meetings or at Regular Meetings. The Meetings will be held in City Council Chambers located at 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, New Jersey.

Monday, January 9, 2023 Annual Reorganization Meeting

Committee Discussion & Agenda Meetings **5:30 PM**

Monday, January 23rd

~~Monday, February 13th~~
 Tuesday, February 14th
 Monday, February 27th

 Monday, March 13th
 Monday, March 20th

 Monday, April 10th
 Monday, April 24th

 + Monday, May 8th
 Tuesday, May 30th

 Monday, June 12th
 Monday, June 26th

 Monday, July 10th
 Monday, July 24th

 Monday, August 14th
 Monday, August 28th

 Monday, September 11th
 Monday, September 25th

 Tuesday, October 16th
 Monday, October 30th

 Monday, November 13th
 Monday, November 27th

 Monday, December 11th
 Monday, December 18th

Regular Official Meetings **6:00PM**

Monday, January 23rd

~~Monday, February 13th~~
 Tuesday, February 14th
 Monday, February 27th

 Monday, March 13th
 Monday, March 20th

 Monday, April 10th
 Monday, April 24th

 Monday, May 8th
 Tuesday, May 30th

 Monday, June 12th
 Monday, June 26th

 Monday, July 10th
 Monday, July 24th

 Monday, August 14th
 Monday, August 28th

 Monday, September 11th
 Monday, September 25th

 Tuesday, October 16th
 Monday, October 30th

 Monday, November 13th
 Monday, November 27th

 Monday, December 11th
 Monday, December 18th

City Council Reorganization Meeting
Monday, January 1, 2024
@ Noon

Amended 1.23.2023