

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

**Monday, January 10, 2022**

**5:30 P.M.**

**(Minutes from the Meeting of December 27, 2021)**

**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  
December 27, 2021**

The East Orange City Council met on December 27, 2021 at 5:39 P.M. in City Council Chambers, 44 City Hall Plaza, East Orange, and New Jersey. Adequate notice of such 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; Jr.; Vernon Pullins, Jr.; Bergson Leneus; Alicia Holman; Amy Lewis; Christopher Awe; Christopher D. James

**ABSENT**

Mustafa Al-M Brent

Tameika Garrett-Ward (arrived @ 5:43 PM)

Brittany Claybrooks (arrived @ 5:58 PM)

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Honorable Ted R. Green

Solomon Steplight, City Administrator

Ryan Lider, Corporation Counsel

Phyllis Bindi, Chief

Bruce Davis, Acting Chief

Dorothy Gallagher, CFO

Monique Griffith, Director

Jamal Pearson, Director

Romal D. Bullock

Mabelteen Tucker, Director

Mayor

City Administrator

Law Department

Police Department

Fire Department

Finance

Health and Human Services

Recreation

Tax Assessor

Human Resources

**ALSO PRESENT**

Tony Jackson

Muzammil Mohamed-Stevens

Mayor's Office

Public Works

**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.

This Meeting of the East Orange City Council will be conducted via video conference, streaming on Facebook Live - [facebook.com/eocitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/eocitycouncil).

Residents may submit a written public comment or question via email to be read during the "Open Hearing of Citizens" portion of the meeting. Comments/questions are to be emailed in advance to [citycouncil@eastorange-nj.gov](mailto:citycouncil@eastorange-nj.gov) by 5:00 PM.

**No Comments**

**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

BRITTANY D. CLAYBROOKS - CHAIRWOMAN

**Lewis, Gomez, Garrett-Ward**

**Garrett-Ward, Pullins, Brent, Lewis - 2021**

- |             |                                    |                                   |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 101.        | Recreation Department              | In Committee                      |
| 102.        | East Orange Public Library         | In Committee                      |
| <b>103.</b> | Geraldine Amanda Foster – Memorial | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

200 - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING

CASIM GOMEZ – CHAIRMAN

**Leneus, Brent, James**

**Gomez, Awe, Claybrooks, Brent - 2021**

- |             |  |                                   |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 201.        | Brick Church Mall  | In Committee                      |
| 202.        | Brick Church Urban Renewal   | In Committee                      |
| 203.        | Economic Development Corp.   | In Committee                      |
| 204.        | Board of Adjustment  | In Committee                      |
| 205.        | Community Development Corp.  | In Committee                      |
| 206.        | Sanford Evergreen Connector  | In Committee                      |
| <b>207.</b> | Resolution Authorizing the Assignment and Transfer of the Financial Agreement and Pilot for 742 Park Avenue With the City of East Orange by 742 EO Park Urban Renewal, LLC to FR 742 Park Urban Renewal, LLC | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>208.</b> | Resolution to Approve the Extension of the Cure Period in a Financial Agreement Between the City of East Orange and CRP 100 Evergreen Place Urban Renewal, LLC   | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

300 - FINANCE

VERNON PULLINS, JR. – CHAIRMAN

**Holman, James, Lewis**

**Awe, Lewis, Pullins, Holman - 2021**

- |             |   |                                   |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 301.        | Personnel                                   | In Committee                      |
| 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                      |
| <b>307.</b> | Payroll No. 25                              | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>308.</b> | Payroll No. 26                              | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 309.        | Stop Payments                               | In Committee                      |
| <b>310.</b> | Legal Transfer 2021                         | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 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                      |
| <b>316.</b> | Bills, Claims & Appropriations – 12.27.2021 | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 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                      | In Committee                      |

300 – FINANCE - Continued  
VERNON PULLINS, JR. – CHAIRMAN  
**Holman, James, Lewis**  
**Awe, Lewis, Pullins, Holman - 2021**

- |      |  |                                   |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 324. | Authorize Payment of Accumulated Absence Liabilities to Former Employee - \$698.08   | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 325. | Resolution Authorizing the City to Enter Into a Contract with Thompson Reuters for Legal Research Software                                   | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 326. | Cancellation of Stale Dated Checks   | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 327. | Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contracts for Special Labor Counsel   | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 328. | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contract for Redevelopment Special Legal Counsel for the City of East Orange                       | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 329. | Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contracts for Tax Appeal Defense Counsel  | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 330. | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contract for Tax Foreclosure Counsel to Goldberg, Mackler, Sayegh, Mintz, Pfeffer, Bonchi and Gill | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

400 – HEALTH and EDUCATION  
TAMEIKA GARRETT-WARD – CHAIRWOMAN  
**Brent, Claybrooks, Leneus**  
**Leneus, Garrett-Ward, Holman, Claybrooks – 2021**

- |      |  |                                   |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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. | Resolution Ratifying the Directive of the Mayor In Response to a Public Health Crisis Requiring Masks to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

500 – HOUSING, LICENSING AND INSPECTION  
CHRISTOPHER D. JAMES – CHAIRMAN  
**Garrett-Ward, Leneus, Claybrooks**  
**Holman, Claybrooks, Gomez, Leneus - 2021**

- |      |                                  |              |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 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  
BERGSON LENEUS – CHAIRMAN  
**James, Pullins, Holman**  
**Claybrooks, Gomez, Leneus, Garrett-Ward - 2021**

- |      |                             |              |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 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 | In Committee |

800 - PUBLIC SAFETY  
AMY LEWIS – CHAIRWOMAN  
**Pullins, Garrett-Ward, Brent**  
**Lewis, Brent, Garrett-Ward, Pullins - 2021**

- |             |   |                                   |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 801.        | Police Department   | In Committee                      |
| 802.        | Fire Department   | In Committee                      |
| <b>803.</b> | Resolution Amending, I-324 of 2021 to Authorize the Execution of a 5 Year Contract With Axon Enterprise, Inc. | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

900 - PUBLIC WORKS  
MUSTAFA AL-M. BRENT – CHAIRMAN  
**Claybrooks, Holman, Gomez**  
**Brent, Holman, Awe, Gomez - 2021**

- |             |   |                                   |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 901.        | Capital Improvement Projects  | under Construction                |
| 902.        | Streetscape   | In Committee                      |
| <b>903.</b> | Resolution Awarding Bid for Floor Replacement at 90 Halsted Street  | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>904.</b> | Resolution to Extend Contract for Plumbing Service One Year (1)   | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>905.</b> | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contract for Engineering & Architectural Consulting Services and Surveying Services | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>906.</b> | Resolution for the Renovation of Three (3) Firehouses for the City of East Orange, NJ   | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>907.</b> | Resolution Introducing Storm Weather Control #51-200  | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

600 - LAW AND LEGISLATION  
ALICIA HOLMAN – CHAIRWOMAN  
**Gomez, Lewis, Pullins**  
**Pullins, Leneus, Lewis, Awe - 2021**

- |             |                                 |   |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 601.        | Ordinances on First Reading     | In Committee  |
| <b>602.</b> | Ordinance on Second and Reading | <b><u>Ordinance No. 60 of 2021</u></b><br>An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of the Property Located at 18-20 Ashland Avenue and Identified on the Tax Maps as Block 541, Lot 14 for Public Purpose |
| 603.        | Bingo/Raffles                   | In Committee  |
| <b>604.</b> | A.B.C.                          | Confirmation of Re-Appointment of Benjamin Delisles to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board<br><b>Resolution to be presented</b>  |
| 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  |

1000– COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- |       |                               |              |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1000. | East Orange Parking Authority | In Committee |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------|

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Cynthia S. Brown, City Clerk