

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

**Monday, January 11, 2021**

**5:30 P.M.**

**(Minutes from the Meeting of December 28, 2020)**

**CHRISTOPHER D. JAMES  
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 28, 2020**

The East Orange City Council met on December 28, 2020 at 5:37 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.; Tameika Garrett-Ward; Bergson Leneus; Alicia Holman; Amy Lewis; Christopher Awe; Brittany Claybrooks; Christopher D. James

**ABSENT**

Mustafa Al-M Brent

Vernon Pullins, Jr. (arrived @ 5:47 PM)

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Honorable Ted R. Green

Solomon Steplight, City Administrator

Ryan Lider, Corporation Counsel

Phyllis Bindi, Chief

Andre Williams, Chief

Dorothy Gallagher, Acting CFO

Christopher Coke, Director

Monique Griffith, Director

Carolyn R. Reed, Director

Jamal Pearson, Acting Director

Mayor

City Administrator

Law Department

Police Department

Fire Department

Finance

Public Works

Health and Human Services

East Orange Public Library

Recreation

**ALSO PRESENT**

Tony Jackson

Stanley Edwards

Mayor's Office

Recreation

**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.

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

TAMEIKA GARRETT-WARD-CHAIRWOMAN

**Pullins, Brent, Lewis**

**Garrett-Ward, Pullins, Brent, Lewis - 2020**

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

200 - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING

CASIM GOMEZ – CHAIRMAN

**Awe, Claybrooks, Brent**

**Gomez, Awe, Claybrooks, Brent - 2020**

- |      |                             |              |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |

300 - FINANCE

CHRISTOPHER AWE – CHAIRMAN

**Lewis, Pullins, Holman**

**Awe, Lewis, Pullins, Holman - 2020**

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>301.</b> | <b>Personnel</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Continued Acting Appointment<br/>Dorothy Gallagher, CFO<br/>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 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> | <b>Payroll No. 26</b>                                                                                                                                             | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| 308.        | Stop Payments                                                                                                                                                     | In Committee                                                                                  |
| <b>309.</b> | <b>Legal Transfer 2020 – (\$1,000,958.00)</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| 310.        | Tax Payment Plan                                                                                                                                                  | In Committee                                                                                  |
| <b>311.</b> | <b>Tax Appeal Refund – \$98,717.66)</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| 312.        | Annual Tax Sale                                                                                                                                                   | In Committee                                                                                  |
| 313.        | Tax Abatement                                                                                                                                                     | In Committee                                                                                  |
| 314.        | In Lieu of Taxes                                                                                                                                                  | In Committee                                                                                  |
| <b>315.</b> | <b>Bills, Claims &amp; Appropriations – 12.28.2020</b>                                                                                                            | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| 316.        | Tax Sale Assignment                                                                                                                                               | In Committee                                                                                  |
| 317.        | Tax Lien                                                                                                                                                          | In Committee                                                                                  |
| 318.        | Tax Lien Redemption                                                                                                                                               | In Committee                                                                                  |
| 319.        | Budget Insertions                                                                                                                                                 | In Committee                                                                                  |
| 320.        | Status of Women                                                                                                                                                   | In Committee                                                                                  |
| 321.        | Auction                                                                                                                                                           | In Committee                                                                                  |
| <b>322.</b> | <b>Duplicate Tax Payments – (\$8,772. 03)</b>                                                                                                                     | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| <b>322.</b> | <b>Duplicate Tax Payments – (\$3,385.22)</b>                                                                                                                      | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| <b>323.</b> | <b>Authorize Payment of Accumulated Absence<br/>Liabilities to Former Employee</b>                                                                                | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| <b>324.</b> | <b>Resolution Designating Police Practices Defense<br/>Counsel Through Claims Resolution Corporation,<br/>Inc. The City’s Third Party Insurance Administrator</b> | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |
| <b>325.</b> | <b>Resolution Awarding Professional Service Contracts<br/>for Tax Appeal Defense Counsel</b>                                                                      | <b>Resolution to be presented</b>                                                             |

300 – FINANCE - Continued  
 CHRISTOPHER AWE – CHAIRMAN  
**Lewis, Pullins, Holman**  
**Awe, Lewis, Pullins, Holman - 2020**

- |      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                   |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 326. | Resolution Designating Defense Litigation, Workers Compensation and Special Conflict Counsel Through Claims Resolution Corporation, Inc. the City's Third Party Insurance Administrator | <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 Tax Foreclosure Counsel to Goldberg, Mackler, Sayegh, Mintz, Pfeffer, Bonchi and Gill                                            | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 329. | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contracts for Insurance Coverage Defense Counsel                                                                                              | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 330. | Resolution Awarding Professional Services Contract for Redevelopment Special Legal Counsel for the City of East Orange                                                                  | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 331. | Resolution Authorizing the Continued Acting Appointment Dorothy Gallagher, CFO                                                                                                          | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 332. | Resolution Approving a Settlement Agreement Between the City of East Orange and Buzzing Bees Child Care Development, LLC                                                                | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

400 – HEALTH and EDUCATION  
 BERGSON LENEUS – CHAIRMAN  
**Garrett-Ward, Holman, Claybrooks**  
**Leneus, Garrett-Ward, Holman, Claybrooks – 2020**

- |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                   |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 Authorizing the City's Rejection of Bids Submitted in Connection with the Request for Cost Estimating Services and Authorizing the Second Advertisement of the Request for Proposals of Cost Estimating Services In Connection With the Lead Grant Program | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 407. | Governors' Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse grant – Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 408. | Resolution Authorizing a One Year Lease Extension for the City of East Orange's WIC Division                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

500 – HOUSING, LICENSING AND INSPECTION  
 ALICIA HOLMAN – CHAIRWOMAN  
**Claybrooks, Gomez, Leneus**  
**Holman, Claybrooks, Gomez, Leneus - 2020**

- |      |                                                                                                         |                                   |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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                      |
| 508. | Resolution for the Purchase of Vehicles Code Enforcement                                                | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| 509. | Resolution Extending the Expanded Definition of Rent Set-forth in Ordinance #21 of 2020 until June 2021 | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

700 – PLANNING and GRANTS  
BRITTANY D. CLAYBROOKS – CHAIRWOMAN  
**Gomez, Leneus, Garrett-Ward**  
**Claybrooks, Gomez, Leneus, Garrett-Ward - 2020**

- |      |                             |              |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 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  
**Brent, Garrett-Ward, Pullins**  
**Lewis, Brent, Garrett-Ward, Pullins - 2020**

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                   |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 801.        | Police Department                                                                                                                                                                                 | In Committee                      |
| 802.        | Fire Department                                                                                                                                                                                   | In Committee                      |
| <b>803.</b> | Resolution Authorizing the City of East Orange, New Jersey to Purchase Two Chevrolet Silverado Special Service Vehicles and Emergency Vehicle Accessory Package for the East Orange Fire Division | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>804.</b> | Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2005 EVI Rescue Truck from the Ranburn Rescue Squad, Inc to the City of East Orange, New Jersey – Office of Emergency Management                         | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

900 - PUBLIC WORKS  
MUSTAFA AL-BRENT – CHAIRMAN  
**Holman, Awe, Gomez**  
**Brent, Holman, Awe, Gomez - 2020**

- |             |                                                                                                  |                                   |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 901.        | Capital Improvement Projects                                                                     | under Construction                |
| 902.        | Streetscape                                                                                      | In Committee                      |
| <b>903.</b> | Resolution Awarding a Contract of Construction /Installation of Digital Signs                    | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |
| <b>904.</b> | Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Various Vehicles and Equipment for Public Works Equipment | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

600 - LAW AND LEGISLATION  
VERNON PULLINS, JR. – CHAIRMAN  
**Leneus, Lewis, Awe**  
**Pullins, Leneus, Lewis, Awe - 2020**

- |             |                                                                                                                |                                   |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 601.        | Ordinances on First Reading                                                                                    | In Committee                      |
| 602.        | Ordinances on Second and 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                      |
| <b>609.</b> | Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Litigation in the Matter of Suburban Disposal, Inc. v City of East Orange | <b>Resolution to be presented</b> |

1000– COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Cynthia S. Brown, City Clerk