

**City of West Orange
Monday, August 26, 2019
Budget Workshop**

**West Orange Community Center
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)
West Orange, Texas
4:00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Roy McDonald
Dale Dardeau

Randy Branch
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Shirley Bonnin

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:

Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Dean Fuller

Mike Stelly

Theresa Van Meter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dave Rogers

Call to Order

The mayor called the meeting to order, announcing that a quorum was present. He then asked Council Member Branch to give an invocation.

Workshop Session

The mayor read then stated that his proposed budget includes an estimated revenue of \$3,201,030, estimated expenses of \$3,673,904 and estimated beginning fund balance of \$472,874.

He then read the following statement:

"I am proposing a budget to you that will require a \$0.47 property tax rate, which is the same rate adopted for the 2018 tax year.

When comparing this proposed budget versus our current budget, you will notice:

- an increase in projected revenue of \$155,840, or 5.118%;
- a decrease in projected expenses of \$42,797, or 1.151%;
- capital purchases (total cost estimated at \$256,750) to include vehicles, radar units and radios for the Police Department, new playground equipment, Christmas decorations, and hose and other needed equipment for the Fire Dept.;
- a 3% employee wage increase for all employees.

After much study, I have decided to propose to you that we not purchase a new "officials" vehicle, but rather pay mileage to those traveling out of town on city business using their own vehicles. After reviewing the amount of money spent over the past few years versus the amount of miles put on the current vehicle, it is just not practical to continue to insure and maintain it."

Mayor McDonald then took the proposed budget page-by-page, discussing any questions brought forth.

Council Member Branch questioned the \$33,000 increase in property tax revenue. Chief Stelly explained that due to an increase in property values...not an increase in the tax rate, more revenue is anticipated for the year.

Council Member Branch also questioned the change in franchise fees. Chief Stelly explained that the Telecommunications Franchise Revenue has been decreased due, in part, to the fact that many people no longer have "land lines" in their homes. This has decreased the franchise

tax revenue that the City receives. The Sanitation Franchise Revenue has been increase due, in part, to the fact that physical audits are now being done on the sanitation contractors doing business in town and that line is coming up.

The mayor added that these estimates are based on not only the current year's figures, but past year's experiences as well.

During the discussion of the General Administration Department expenses, Mayor McDonald explained that he has taken out the \$40,000 he originally had planned to purchase a new "Officials' Vehicle" and increased "Officials' Travel" from \$12,000 to \$15,000. Chief Stelly stated that this additional \$3,000 is expected to cover mileage expenses.

The mayor pointed out that the amount budgeted for the Volunteer Fire Department is much greater than it has been in many years. He believes that everyone will see a big difference in department in the future.

Chief Stelly explained the \$1,000 increase in "Uniforms" in the Police Department. In the new contract, an allowance of up to \$100 per officer is now included for boots. He also explained that the increase in "Radios" will be an upgrade on the console at the Sheriff's office to be compliant with the digital switch-over.

Council Member Dardeau asked if officers' uniforms were furnished by the City. Chief Stelly responded that the City does furnish uniforms (shirts, pants, and boots), leather gear and bullet-proof vests. The City also pays up to \$75 per month per officer for dry cleaning of their uniforms.


The discussion then turned to the increase in the amount budgeted for Christmas decorations. They are very expensive. Mayor McDonald asked for Council's ideas and suggestions in a timely fashion, as it will soon be time to order these decorations in time to get them in before Christmas.

Adjournment

With there being no additional questions and no further discussion, the mayor adjourned the workshop at 4:41 p.m.


Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:


Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

