

**City of West Orange  
Monday, October 7, 2019  
Regular Session**

**West Orange Community Center  
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)  
West Orange, Texas  
5:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Roy McDonald  
Dale Dardeau

Randy Branch  
Brent Dearing

Shirley Bonnin

**COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:**

Michael Shugart, Sr.

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Rex Peveto  
Dean Fuller

Theresa Van Meter

Mike Stelly

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dan Perrine  
Jessica Hill

Dawn Burleigh

Deanna Laughlin

**Call to Order**

Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin gave the invocation. The mayor then led in the Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

**Consent Agenda**

**Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the minutes of the September 6, 2019 Public Hearing on the 2019 Proposed Tax Rate and the September 9, 2019 Council Meeting** - Council Member Dardeau made a motion that all minutes presented be approved as presented. His motion was followed by a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin. A vote on the motion was cast, passing unanimously.

**Public Comments**

Ms. Deanna Laughlin addressed Council, stating that she was asking for assistance in getting the property mowed at 919 Elkport. She stated that this property has not been mowed since 2017. Vagrants have been staying inside. She asked Council to have it bush-hogged. She added that the cluster mail-box for her mail is directly across the street from this house and she and her mother are afraid to get their mail with the vagrants being inside the house. She asked for the Council's prompt assistance to this matter.

Mrs. Jessica Hill, Executive Director of the Orange County Economic Development Corporation, reported that they are about four years into a very large project – Chevron-Phillips. Close to 2,000 acres of land has now been acquired. They are currently in a "holding pattern" as they have done about all they can do to promote the project. She added that, contrary to what has been stated in the public, there have been no incentive agreements made at this time. Should they choose to develop here, legislation has been passed to allow them to do a land swap with the Texas DPS office in order to construct at new DPS office.

Directly related to the Chevron project is the Waste Water Treatment facility that was recently approved for a \$5 million EDA grant. EDA grants have to be associated with some type of job creation.

She reported that a "second shot" is being taken at BP Restore Funds for a regional waste water treatment plant in the amount of about \$50 million.

There are currently approximately \$1.5 billion in projects that are considering Orange County. Most of those are in the Chemical Row area and several want to locate within the plant sites.

Mrs. Hill stated that the EDC's new website was launched earlier that same day (orangecountyedc.com). She invited everyone to check it out. It includes a community calendar

that notes City's Council meetings, the County's Commissioners' Court meetings, etc. The EDC has plans to develop six new marketing videos within the next year as well.

She also recently received word that a new commercial retail establishment will be moving into West Orange, however she was not at liberty to divulge its name.

They will also be participating this year in the "Choose Texas" campaign. Whenever a company is looking to locate in Texas, they will receive those leads directly and will be able to respond to them with properties that may fill their requirements.

The "Ike Dike" project continues, with the Corps currently in town talking with owners of property along the water ways to secure rights of entry.

She stated that this the "preferred site" for the Chevron-Phillips project should the project happen. There is a need to look ahead at what this will mean for the area five to ten years from now. She foresees great things ahead for the community.

Mrs. Hill then thanked Council for the opportunity to address them and to update them on the activities of the EDC.

### Regular Session

**Discussion and Possible Action on appointing two individuals to serve on the City's FFAST Committee** – Mayor McDonald stated that he has spoken with Chief Stelly and some citizens of the community and the recommendation for individuals to serve on this committee are Mrs. Frances Lopez to represent the citizens and Mr. Dean Fuller to represent the landlords. He asked if there were any other recommendations for these two positions. As there were none, the mayor called for a vote on the motion. Council Member Dardeau moved that the motion be passed as presented, with Council Member Branch seconding his motion. A vote was cast. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on entering into an agreement with AshBritt for disaster recovery services and authorizing Michael Stelly to sign all necessary documents** – A motion was made by Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the City enter into an agreement with AshBritt for disaster recovery services and authorizing Michael Stelly to sign all necessary documents. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin seconded his motion. Chief Stelly stated that, although there are no services required at this time, this contract must be renewed every two years so that everything is already in place should a disaster occur. A vote on the motion was then cast, passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on entering into an agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc. for disaster debris monitoring services and authorizing Michael Stelly to sign all necessary documents** – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the City enter into an agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc. for disaster debris monitoring services and authorizing Michael Stelly to sign all necessary documents. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin seconded his motion. A vote was cast. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on an Interlocal Cooperation Contract for Failure to Appear Program (Omni)** – Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin made a motion that this item be brought up for discussion. Council Member Dardeau seconded this motion.

Mrs. Van Meter stated that the City had been participating in this program for quite a few years and, in the beginning, it was beneficial to the City. She does not believe that it will continue to be financially feasible to continue to do so in the future. She explained the purpose of the program in that when a warrant is issued in the court, that defendant's name and driver's license number could be submitted to OmniBase, who is the vendor for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Omni, in turn, would send this individual a letter informing him (or her) that he (or she) has a warrant in the West Orange Municipal Court and that, should their driver's license need to be renewed, it would be refused until this business is cleared. This would oftentimes persuade them to take care of their business.

It is now time to renew the contract with the DPS, but this new contract has added a paragraph making it mandatory to pay on all citations submitted which are disposed – even if the Court collects no money from them – unless the case is dismissed, or the citation was originally submitted to them in error. As the Court has many cases that have the fines reduced, or the defendant sits it out in jail, little or no money is collected but the fees would still be payable to the DPS and Omni. This could prove to be a financial burden on the Court.

Mrs. Van Meter also added that, over the years, the number of cases brought in from OmniBase letters has drastically declined. Her recommendation was to terminate participation in the

program and to submit written notice of such as required in the present contract.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin made a motion that the City terminate its Interlocal Co-operation Contract for participation in the "Failure to Appear Program" offered by the Texas Department of Public Safety and submit 30-day written notice of cancellation as required per said contract. Council Member Dardeau seconded her motion. Mrs. Van Meter reported to the Council that the individuals who have already been submitted to Omni will have to be honored. They cannot be withdrawn at the termination of the contract. With there being no further discussion, Mayor McDonald asked for a vote by show of hands. The vote to terminate this contract was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the Quarterly Investment Report for the months of April - June, 2019** – A motion was made by Council Member Dardeau to accept this Quarterly Investment Report for the months of April - June, 2019 into record as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin seconded his motion. With there being no discussion on the report, the mayor called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on revisions to the City's Employee Policy** – Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin made a motion that all recommended revisions to the City's Employee Policy be accepted as presented. Council Member Dardeau seconded her motion. The mayor asked if anyone had any questions or comments pertaining to these recommended revisions. There were none. He then asked for a vote on the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

Mayor McDonald then noted the following:

- Holiday in the Park – Saturday, November 2, 2019
- Monday, November 11, 2019 – All City offices closed in observance of Veterans' Day
- Next Council meeting: Monday, November 18, 2019; 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29, 2019 – All City offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor McDonald adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

  
 Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
 Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

