

**City of West Orange
Monday, November 18, 2019
Special Session**

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Roy McDonald	Randy Branch	Shirley Bonnin
Dale Dardeau	Brent Dearing	Michael Shugart, Sr.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Rex Peveto	Theresa Van Meter	Mike Stelly
Dean Fuller		

OTHERS PRESENT:

Deanna Laughlin	David Roberts	Simmie Gibson
Ramona Block	Dan Perrine	Kirk Roccaforte
Tyler Roberts		

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 October 7, 2019 Council Meeting - Council Member Dardeau made a motion that these minutes 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

Mayor McDonald announced that the City had received, for the 22nd consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Award (GFOA) for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He commended Mrs. Van Meter and Mrs. Block for their hard work in this area.

Ms. Deanna Laughlin then addressed Council, stating that she was disappointed to see that 919 Elkport was not on the agenda. She stated that she would formally request to be on the next agenda so that action could be taken. She said that there have been problems there since 2009. Vagrants are in and out of the house. The grass is 6' tall. She has asked for help from the City numerous times, but has not received it. She again stated that she felt that she would have to ask to be on an agenda to get any help.

Asst. WOVFD Chief Simmie Gibson announced that the fire gear ordered for the firefighters had arrived and he had brought some in for the Council to see. He also reported that there have been some repairs made to the truck and the breathing air system. He stated that he just wanted to keep Council updated on the department.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution to cast the City's 25 votes for one or more candidates to serve on the Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 term – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that a Resolution be passed by Council allocating the City's 25 votes as follows: James Brown – 10; Laura Floyd – 10; and T.W. Permenter – 5. Council Member Shugart seconded his motion. The mayor called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance and approval of the 2019 Delinquent Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the 2019 Delinquent Tax Roll (\$125,038.46) as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher, be accepted as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin seconded his motion. The mayor called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance and approval of the 2019 Current Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher - Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the 2019 Current Tax Roll (\$631,804.55) as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher, be accepted as presented. Council Member Branch seconded his motion. The mayor called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on an application submitted by Tyler Roberts for membership in the WOVFD – Council Member Shugart moved that Tyler Roberts' application for membership in the West Orange Volunteer Fire Department be approved. Council Member Dardeau seconded his motion. Council Member Dardeau stated that he would be glad to have him. The mayor then called for a vote, which unanimously passed.

Discussion and Possible Action on amendments to the “Council Meeting Procedures” adopted by Council on November 14, 2005 – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that these amendments be made to the “Council Meeting Procedures.” A second was made by Council Member Branch. With there being no discussion, Mayor McDonald called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on amendments to the “Citizen Participation Procedures” adopted by Council on November 14, 2005 - Council Member Branch made a motion that these amendments be made to the “Citizen Participation Procedures.” A second was made by Council Member Dardeau. With there being no discussion, Mayor McDonald called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on rescinding Council’s September 9, 2019 approval of an Interlocal agreement between the City, the OCWCID #2 and the Orange County Port and Navigation District which outlined the responsibilities of each entity for the City’s EDA Disaster Recovery grant – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that this agreement be rescinded. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin seconded his motion. Chief Stelly explained that the primary reason for rescinding the document was that the Port was no longer involved. The mayor then called for a vote. The motion to rescind the agreement passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of an Interlocal agreement between the City and the OCWCID #2 outlining the responsibilities of each entity for the City’s EDA Disaster Recovery grant – Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin made a motion that this Interlocal agreement between the City and the OCWCID #2 outlining the responsibilities of each entity for the City’s EDA Disaster Recovery grant be approved as presented. Council Member Dardeau seconded her motion. With there being no discussion brought forth, Mayor McDonald called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on authorizing the City Secretary to open the checking account for necessary financial transactions associated with the City’s EDA Disaster Recovery grant (*Waste Water Treatment Plant*), and to designate authorized signatories for said account – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that Mrs. Van Meter be authorized to open the checking account for necessary financial transactions associated with the City’s EDA Disaster Recovery grant (*Waste Water Treatment Plant*), and that she, the mayor, Chief Stelly and Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin be designated authorized signatories for said account. As in all other City checking accounts, two signatures will be required on all checks written. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin seconded his motion. Mayor McDonald called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously. He then temporarily adjourned the meeting in order to hold a public hearing.

Public Hearing

The mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 5:19 p.m. He stated that the purpose of the Hearing was to allow public discussion of the substandard and hazardous condition of the structure(s) located at 119 Katherine Street in West Orange, Texas. He then asked Mr. Fuller to bring the Council up-to-date on the structure in question. Mr. Fuller reported that the house is an unsafe structure. He sent the owner a letter, but she does not have the means to demolish or repair it. It does have two tax liens against it. He provided photos for council to review the structure.

Mr. Peveto reported that all notices were sent out to the owners and the lien-holders of the property in October. The City, County and School District and have all received judgments on those tax liens and on the property and it will probably go up for tax sale sometime in March or April of 2020. But with the notices that have been sent out, if the owners do not bring it up to code – or tear it down - it will ultimately give the City the authority to demolish it.

Council Member Dardeau questioned how soon it could be demolished. Mr. Peveto replied that generally it is 30 days, but that it is up to the Council. Council Member Dardeau wanted it done "immediately, if not sooner."

Ms. Laughlin then asked if the changes to the "Citizen Participation Procedures" applied to this part of the meeting. The mayor responded that they did. She again questioned when something would be done with 919 Elkport. She stated that there are ordinances about weeds and ordinances about abandoned homes that are not being enforced. She asked at what point the City would begin to do so.

The mayor responded that that was what Council was doing at that this meeting regarding 119 Katherine. Ms. Laughlin then asked, "At what point, when citizens are complaining repetitively, do you put out the notices to get something done?" The mayor then asked Mr. Fuller how long the City had been dealing with the 119 Katherine Street issue. Mr. Fuller replied, "Several years." Ms. Laughlin then encouraged Council to "step it up" on the time frame. She added that there are multiple City ordinances that impact these dangerous, substandard and hazardous homes that are not being enforced. Mayor McDonald replied that she was "absolutely correct" and that the City could go out and mow the grass at the properties, but would then have to place liens on each one each time it is mowed. Ms. Laughlin stated that she "would love her taxes to mow that grass."

Mayor McDonald then thanked Ms. Laughlin for her comments and asked those present if there were any more comments regarding 119 Katherine. With there being none, he adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:26 p.m.

Return to Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on possible remedies, by Resolution, to the substandard and hazardous conditions of the structure(s) located at 119 Katherine Street – Mayor McDonald reconvened the Special Session at 5:26 p.m. Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the structure be demolished as soon as possible. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion. Mr. Peveto explained that, by law, the owners must be afforded a "cure period" before the City can proceed with demolition. That time period can be the shortest allowed by law, but they must be given that opportunity. Council Member Dardeau then amended his motion to approve a resolution giving the owners of the substandard and hazardous structure located at 119 Katherine the least number of days allowed by law to repair, remove or demolish said structure. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion. The mayor called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor McDonald then noted the following:

- Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29, 2019 – All City offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving (*Trash will be picked up in WO on Saturday that week.*)
- Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration – Monday, December 2, 2019; 6:00 p.m.
- Next Council meeting: Monday, December 16, 2019; 5:00 p.m.

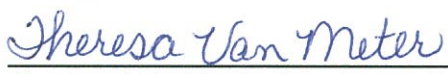
Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor McDonald adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.



Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

