

**City of West Orange
Monday, July 13, 2020
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 Brent Dearing
Michael Shugart, Sr.

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Alex Parker Theresa Van Meter Rex Peveto
Mike Stelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Perrine Deana Laughlin Kirk Roccaforte
Simmie Gibson

Call to Order

Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., stating that a quorum of Council was present. Council Member Shugart gave the invocation. The mayor then led in the Pledges of Allegiance to both the American and Texas flags.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the minutes of both the June 8, 2020 City Council Meeting and the June 22, 2020 City Council Workshop – Council Member Dardeau made a motion to accept the minutes of both meetings into record as presented. A second to his motion was made by Council Member Shugart. With there being no discussion, Mayor McDonald called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Ms. Laughlin stated that she hoped to see Council adopt Ordinance No. 406-A, the first item on the agenda, as she felt that if passed and enforced, this ordinance would solved many of the problems she was present to discuss with Council at this meeting regarding 919 Elkport that she has been dealing with since 2009.

Mayor McDonald announced that he has received reports from CenterPoint Energy outlining their latest rate increases. Different rate increases will apply to different categories of customers. Anyone interested is welcome to read it. He added that the increase will not be much, but it will be an increase.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on adopting Ordinance No. 406-A, an ordinance repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 406 in its entirety, pertaining to substandard buildings – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that Ordinance No. 406-A, an ordinance repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 406 in its entirety, pertaining to substandard buildings be adopted as presented. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion. Council Member Dardeau stated that he believed this ordinance to be long overdue. Council Member Dearing questioned how the property owner would be held accountable when they appear before the judge. Mayor McDonald explained that the decisions of the judge are his call and at his discretion and cannot be controlled by Council. With there being no further comments, he then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the Quarterly Investment Report for the months of October - December, 2019 – Council Member Dardeau moved that the Quarterly Investment Report for the months of October - December, 2019 be accepted into record as presented. Council Member Shugart seconded his motion. A vote was cast, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the Quarterly Investment Report for the months of January – March, 2020 - Council Member Dardeau moved that the Quarterly Investment Report for the months of January – March, 2020 be accepted into record as presented. Council Member Shugart seconded his motion. A vote was cast, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of a one-year extension to the Disaster Recovery Services contract with AshBritt Environmental – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the current contract for Disaster Recovery Services contract with AshBritt Environmental be extended for a one-year term. Council Member Shugart seconded his motion. Mayor McDonald then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on an Application for Membership into the WOVFD submitted by Brendon Roberts – Council Member Shugart moved that the application submitted by Brendon Roberts for membership into the WOVFD be approved. Council Member Dardeau seconded his motion. A vote was cast. The application for membership was unanimously approved.

Discussion and Possible Action on an Application for Membership into the WOVFD submitted by Anthony Moses - Council Member Shugart moved that the application submitted by Anthony Moses for membership into the WOVFD be approved. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion. A vote was cast. The application for membership was unanimously approved.

Discussion and Possible Action on an Application for Membership into the WOVFD submitted by Samuel J. Johnson, Jr. - Council Member Shugart moved that the application submitted by Samuel J. Johnson, Jr. for membership into the WOVFD be approved. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion. A vote was cast. The application for membership was unanimously approved.

Discussion and Possible Action on the 2020 Holiday in the Park – Council Member Shugart made a motion that they enter into discussion regarding the 2020 Holiday in the Park festival. Council Member Dardeau seconded his motion.

Mayor McDonald stated that, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, and with the fact that not only vendors, but visitors and guests come in from all over for the festival, he believes there would be great difficulty in getting everyone to wear their masks and to observe social distancing. Because of these things, it was his recommendation that Holiday in the Park be cancelled for 2020. He did add, however, that he was open to discussion.

Council Member Dearing asked if this decision could be put off until a later date. Mrs. Van Meter responded that reservations for booth-holders normally begin in July. She added that many of these vendors book festivals weekend to weekend to weekend in the fall of the year, which is why, many years ago, Holiday in the Park began reserving booth spaces during July. The mayor added that he felt that if the festival was going to be cancelled, he wanted to give the vendors an early “heads-up” before they spend a lot of time and money on their crafts.

Council Member Dardeau made a motion, followed by a second by Council Member Shugart, to cancel the 2020 Holiday in the Park festival. Mayor McDonald called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approving the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award Traylor & Associates, Inc. the contract for Grant Management Services for the TDEM Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award Traylor & Associates, Inc. the contract for Grant Management Services for the TDEM Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant be accepted and approved as presented. Council Member Shugart seconded the motion. A vote was cast, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on approving the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award Keri Michutka, CPA a three-year contract to perform auditing services for the City, with a possibility of two one-year extensions - A motion to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee to award Keri Michutka, CPA a three-year contract to perform auditing services for the City, with a possibility of two one-year extensions was made by Council Member Dardeau, followed by a second from Council Member Shugart. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance of recommendation by Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. to award contract to LD Construction for Austin Street project (TDA/CDBG Grant #7219460) – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the recommendation by Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. to award the contract to LD Construction for the Austin Street project (TDA/CDBG Grant #7219460) be accepted. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion. With there being no discussion on the item, the mayor called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation by, and discussion with, Deana Laughlin regarding multiple issues pertaining to the property located at 919 Elkport Street – Ms. Laughlin expressed her disappointment and anger in the City and the City Council for allowing the condition of 919 Elkport to continue for so many years. She stated that she has been asking the City for help with this property since 2009. It has been used as a drug house and vagrants occupy it randomly for shelter. She reported that her mother is afraid to go to get her mail because the mailbox is in front of that house and she has seen people watching her from inside.

The condition of the property is deplorable. The City did occasionally get Quinton Smith to mow it before he disappeared. Now it never gets cut or cleaned up. The grass is over her head. She reported that she paid money from her own pocket to have the property bush-hogged once in the past.

She asked when could/would the City take control of a piece of property left by a drug addict. She added that if that property were next door to anyone on the Council, it would not look the way it does now.

Mayor McDonald stated that the passage of Ordinance No. 406-A at the beginning of this meeting will give the City more authority to move forward with this property. Council Member Dardeau asked why the City couldn't get it mowed during the meantime. Mr. Peveto responded that it could, but proper legal notice would have to be given. Another avenue would be to condemn the structure and tear it down. Ms. Laughlin asked about the possibility of boarding up the windows. The mayor responded that the City will do what it can as soon as it can to make it as safe as it can.

Announcements

Mayor McDonald then announced the following upcoming Council meetings:

- Next Council meeting: Monday, August 10, 2020; 5:00 p.m.
- TML Annual Conference in Grapevine in October – Mayor will not be attending due to COVID-19; does not recommend anyone else attend either.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.



 Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

