

**City of West Orange
Special-Called Council Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2020**

**West Orange Community Center
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)
West Orange, Texas
5:30 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:

Mike Stelly

Theresa Van Meter

Alex Parker

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Perrine

Call to Order

Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin gave the invocation, followed by the Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags, led by the mayor.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the minutes of both the August 10, 2020 Council Meeting and the August 31, 2020 Emergency Session – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that both sets of minutes be accepted into record as presented. Council Member Branch seconded his motion. A vote was called, with the motion passing unanimously.

Public Comments

Mayor McDonald announced that the City's Deputy City Secretary, Ramona Block, would be retiring at the end of September. A small (*due to COVID-19*) retirement reception will be held on September 25, 2020, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Public Hearing

The mayor then convened a public hearing regarding the closeout of TxCDBG contract #7218509. He explained that this grant was used for the replacement of residential sewer lines. He also stated that the purpose of this hearing was to allow citizens with issues an opportunity to discuss them. As no one was present to speak, it appeared that the grant worked out well. It has come to an end and will soon be closed out. The mayor then adjourned the hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on waiving permit fees for Hurricane Laura damage – Mr. Parker reported that he has compiled a list of 610 homes/buildings with damage from Hurricane Laura – with six of those having substantial damage. No permit is required to “gut” a building, but when rebuilding, a permit is required. Since the storm, he has not charged fees for storm-related construction permits. He added that there will be a couple of businesses and houses that will have to be demolished.

Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the no-fee permits (*for Hurricane Laura-related repairs only*) remain in effect until further notice, to be revisited again by Council in 90-days. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin seconded his motion. A vote was cast, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on adopting the City's budget (by record vote) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year requiring a tax rate of \$0.470 per \$100 assessed value – Mayor McDonald presented a \$4,049,268 budget for the Council to consider for fiscal year 2021. It is summarized as follows:

2020-21 BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
10 General Administration	\$ 462,028	\$ -	\$ 462,028
11 Fire Marshal	77,652	-	\$ 77,652
12 Fire Department	58,980	112,061	\$ 171,041
13 Sanitation	640,181	157,000	\$ 797,181
14 Humane	63,312	-	\$ 63,312
15 Police	1,556,433	105,000	\$ 1,661,433
16 Municipal Court	153,722	-	\$ 153,722
17 Street	456,236	50,000	\$ 506,236
18 Parks & Facilities	78,884	-	\$ 78,884
21 Maintenance Shop	77,779	-	\$ 77,779
	<u>\$ 3,625,207</u>	<u>\$ 424,061</u>	<u>\$ 4,049,268</u>
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,256,441	
	+ EST. BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	680,827	
	+ R & R TRANSFER	112,000	
	= EST. FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 4,049,268	
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 3,625,207	
	TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY & IMP.	424,061	
		\$ 4,049,268	
	NET INCOME(LOSS)	\$ 0	

A motion was made by Council Member Dardeau to accept this budget as presented by Mayor McDonald. Council Member Branch seconded his motion. With there being no discussion on the matter, Mayor McDonald called for a vote by show of hands:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin	Aye
Council Member Dardeau	Aye
Council Member Shugart	Aye
Council Member Branch	Aye
Mayor McDonald	Aye
Council Member Dearing	Absent

The budget for FY 20201 was unanimously adopted.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 453 (by record vote), levying ad valorem property taxes at the rate of \$0.470 per \$100 assessed value for the maintenance and operation expenses of the City of West Orange, Texas for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021 – Council Member Branch moved that, “by the adoption of Ordinance No. 453, the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.47 per \$100 value, which is effectively a 6.91% increase in the tax rate.” Council Member Dardeau seconded his motion. There was no discussion on the motion, therefore Mayor McDonald called for a vote by show of hands:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin	Aye
Council Member Dardeau	Aye
Council Member Shugart	Aye
Council Member Branch	Aye
Mayor McDonald	Aye
Council Member Dearing	Absent

The tax rate of 0.47 per \$100 value was thereby unanimously adopted by Council for tax year 2020.

Discussion and Possible Action on a motion ratifying the budgeted property tax increase reflected in the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget – Council Member Shugart made a motion that

"the property tax rate be increased by the adoption and ratification of a tax rate of 0.47, which is effectively a 6.91% increase in the tax rate. The tax rate is the same as the 2020 tax rate but is 6.91% above the 2020 no-new-tax rate. This will be the third year the tax rate has remained the same." A second to this motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote; motion to pass was unanimous.

Announcements

Mayor McDonald announced that the next Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.



Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

