

**City of West Orange  
Monday, October 19, 2020  
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  
Brent Dearing

Dale Dardeau  
Michael Shugart, Sr.

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Alex Parker  
Mike Stelly

Theresa Van Meter

Rex Peveto

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dan Perrine  
Kirk Roccaforte

Brad Frye  
John Gothia

Austin Mellen  
Dawn Burleigh

**Call to Order**

Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., stating that a quorum of Council was present. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin 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 the:

- September 21, 2020 Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for 2020-21
- September 21, 2020 Public Hearing on the 2020 Proposed Tax Rate;
- September 21, 2020 Council Meeting

Council Member Dardeau made a motion to accept the minutes of all three meetings into record as presented. A second to his motion was made by Council Member Branch. With there being no discussion, Mayor McDonald called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Regular Session**

**Discussion and Possible Action on a request by Mr. Austin Mellen for a variance to Ordinance No. 358, #6 and #7 of the *Regulations* section – Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin made a motion to grant Mr. Mellen’s request. Council Member Dardeau seconded the motion, thereby allowing for discussion.**

Mayor McDonald stated that Mr. Mellen is asking for a variance to two sections of City Ordinance No. 358: one that requires an on-site office with staff on duty for at least eight hours a day on week days, and availability on weekends; and second, one requiring the park to have both a men’s and women’s communal restroom with showers.

The property in question was on the corner of Williams and Foreman, where a mini-storage facility used to be located.

Mr. Mellen explained that his organization already has a management office located within a couple of miles on Dal Sasso Drive. There would be nothing for an on-site manager to do other than check in RVs. He added that most RVs have restrooms, and their site rental contracts could prohibit any RVs that do not have them.

Council Member Dardeau was of the opinion that if Council granted this variance, it would be obligated to give variances to all others who ask for them. Mr. Peveto was asked for his interpretation. He stated that Council would be setting a precedent, but they could take each request on a case-by-case basis.

Council Member Branch asked Mr. Mellen how many rental spaces were being proposed in this park. Mr. Mellen responded, “Fifty.” Chief Stelly asked him how much land was there. Mr. Mellen responded, “Three acres.”

Council Member Branch felt that it would be a good idea to have someone on-site during the

daytime hours to keep an eye on things. Mr. Mellen stated that plans were to have cameras installed throughout the park.

Council Member Dearing questioned the necessity for on-site restrooms, when the RVs were basically “homes on wheels.” Council Member Branch responded that he has been looking at RVs for quite a while and has yet to find one that has a shower large enough. He suggested that Mr. Mellen add to the cost of the space rental fees to cover the cost of these rest rooms.

Council Member Dardeau then called the question. Council Members Shugart and Dearing felt that more discussion was necessary, but as the question had been called, Mayor McDonald asked for a vote on the motion by show of hands:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin	Against
Council Member Dardeau	Against
Council Member Branch	Against
Mayor McDonald	Against
Council Member Shugart	For
Council Member Dearing	For

With there being four votes against and two votes for the motion, Mr. Mellen’s request was denied by majority vote.

**Discussion and Possible Action on submission of a nominee, by resolution, to fill the vacancy on the board of directors of the Orange County Appraisal District** – Council Member Shugart made a motion that Phillip Welch be nominated, by resolution, to fill the vacancy on Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors. His motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin. The motion was unanimously passed after a vote was called by Mayor McDonald.

**Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution authorizing the submittal of a CDBG-MIT application for flood and drainage improvements, authorizing the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem to act as the authorized representatives in all matters pertaining to the application, and committing \$38,287 in matching funds** – A motion was made by Council Member Dardeau that a resolution be passed, authorizing the submittal of a CDBG-MIT application for flood and drainage improvements, authorizing the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem to act as the authorized representatives in all matters pertaining to the application, and committing \$38,287 in matching funds. A second to this motion was made by Council Member Dearing. Chief Stelly explained that this \$3.7 million grant will be used for flood mitigation and drainage improvements (such as culvert replacements and redirecting water flow correctly). This resolution was unanimously authorized by vote approving the motion.

**Discussion and Possible Action on approval of an update to the financial policies of the City’s financial policies to ensure they are compliant with federal regulations in accordance with CDBG-MIT program requirements** – Council Member Dardeau made a motion that the City’s financial policies be updated to ensure they are compliant with federal regulations in accordance with CDBG-MIT program requirements. His motion was seconded by Council Member Shugart. Mayor McDonald called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

Mayor McDonald then announced that the next Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.



*Roy McDonald*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Theresa Van Meter*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary