

**City of West Orange
Monday, April 12, 2021
Regular Session**

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Dale Dardeau

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter
David Roberts
Mike Stelly
Chris Leavins
Jon Sherwin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debbie Schlicher
James Whittington
Richard Jones
Merritta Kennedy
Dan Perrine
Jay Odom
Tremaine Wilson

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 March 8, 2021 Council meeting, March 22, 2021 Council Workshop and April 6, 2021 Special Session – Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin made a motion that each set of minutes be approved as presented. Council Member Branch seconded her motion.

Council Member Shugart requested a special session to discuss how the city would be paying for the new fire truck. Council Member Dearing stated that he felt that they should wait until the bids came in before having this meeting. Council Member Shugart asked "why," adding that it would have to be paid for regardless and the available options to pay for it need to be discussed.

Mr. Leavins suggested that this matter be discussed during Public Comments rather than during the Consent Agenda.

With there being no further discussion on the Consent Agenda, the mayor called for a vote, which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Council Member Shugart stated that he would like the mayor to schedule a meeting to discuss financing a fire truck. Council Member Branch stated that he would like to have this meeting also. He thinks being prepared for whatever comes up for what the city is going to be responsible for is important. He added that he would not expect it to be exact amounts, but at least ballpark figures and where that money will come from.

Mayor McDonald stated that he feels that the council should know what they are going to need before having this meeting...after the bids come in. Council Member Branch responded if Council wants to get a fire truck ordered, then having a meeting like this may help them support going ahead and making their choice quicker.

Mr. Leavins interjected that he did not think the Council should be deliberating about holding a meeting at this time.

With there being no comments on other subjects from anyone present, the meeting moved into Regular Session.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution endorsing and supporting Fair and Open Housing – Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin made a motion that Council pass a resolution endorsing and supporting Fair and Open Housing. Council Member Dearing seconded her motion. Council Member Branch asked if this was done annually. Chief Stelly responded that it was. Mayor McDonald then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on adoption of a service plan for proposed annexation area – Mayor McDonald reported that, on the advice of the City Attorney, he was tabling this item for a future meeting.

Discussion of desired amendments to Ordinance No. 304, an ordinance regulating “Peddlers and Itinerant Vendors” within the City – Mayor McDonald referred Council members to the copy of the ordinance in their packets, adding that it had not been reviewed in quite a while, and he believed there are some needed revisions. Chief Stelly began the discussion by posing the question to them as to whether or not they want to allow food trucks within the City. He then reminded them that at a previous meeting, their feeling was that these trucks were competing against the “brick and mortar” businesses in town. He asked for direction from Council before proceeding with any proposed amendments to this ordinance. Right now this ordinance is very vague pertaining to food trucks and this needs to be addressed more specifically one way or another.

Council Member Dearing asked if there have been problems with these trucks. Chief Stelly responded that there have been. Council Member Shugart asked if the City has had to shut one down. Chief Stelly responded that it had. They were making their “structure” permanent without permits.

Council Member Shugart asked “Why put our tax-paying businesses at a disadvantage?” He then asked those present in the audience for their input. Mr. Wilson asked if this would pertain to the snow cone stand on Western Avenue. Chief Stelly responded that it would not, as that is a structure.

Council Member Dearing asked if they currently pay any type of permit fees. Mrs. Van Meter responded that they pay a \$25 per year permit fee.

Mr. Leavins explained that some cities also include in their peddler ordinances a “No Visit” list. Anyone obtaining a peddler permit is provided with a list of addresses of residents who have signed up and who are not to be solicited.

Mayor McDonald then stated that, from the discussion he has heard from Council, they are not in favor of allowing food trucks within the City.

The mayor then formed a committee to review and prepare proposed amendments to this ordinance to be presented to Council for vote at a future meeting. He named Chief Stelly and Mr. Sherwin to this committee and asked for a Council Member to volunteer to serve as well.

Public Hearing

The Council entered into a Public Hearing at 5:20 p.m. to solicit input from the community concerning awareness for the support of fair housing, as well as to address concerns of residents as they may relate to fair housing. Mayor McDonald asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns from anyone present regarding any issues pertaining to fair housing within the city. There were none.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the Regular Session reconvened at 5:21 p.m.

Announcements

Mayor McDonald then made note of the following dates:

- Early Voting: April 19 – 27, 2021
- Election Day: May 1, 2021
- Next Council meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021; 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.



Roy McDonald, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

