

**City of West Orange  
Monday, May 10, 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  
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Dale Dardeau  
Brent Dearing

Shirley Bonnin  
Randy Branch

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Chris Leavins  
Theresa Van Meter

Mike Stelly  
David Roberts

Jon Sherwin  
Simmie Gibson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Meritta Kennedy  
Jane Branch  
Mike Wilson  
Richard Jones  
Tessie Clark  
Misty Bellow  
Dawn Burleigh  
Darlene Dearing

Danny Kennedy  
LaVerne McDonald  
Gail Langton  
Jay Odom  
Gary Swanson  
Dana Dearing  
Brady Bellow  
John Gothia

Beverley Satir  
Ida Schossow  
Dan Perrine  
Mike Van Meter  
Ricky Bellow  
Lanie Brown  
Kirk Roccaforte

**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 April 12, 2021 City Council Meeting
- proclaiming the week of May 9 – 15, 2021 as “National Economic Development Week” in the City of West Orange

Both items were unanimously approved by vote after a motion was made by Council Member Dardeau, followed by a second from Council Member Shugart.

Council members with expiring terms in May 2021 were then presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their service by City Secretary, Theresa Van Meter. Those individuals were:

Mayor Roy McDonald: May, 2019 – April, 2021  
Council Member Brent Dearing: May, 2019 – June, 2021  
Council Member Randy Branch: J May, 2019 – June, 2021

**Regular Session**

**Canvass of the May 1, 2021 General Election** – Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin and Council Members Shugart and Dardeau canvassed the results of the May 1<sup>st</sup> General Election. Mayor Pro-Tem Bonnin reported back to the Mayor that all results were correct as had been reported. He then read the results from the election.

**Issuance of Statements of Elected Officers** – Mayor Branch, Council Member Kennedy and Council Member Dearing then read and signed their Statements of Elected Officers.

**Issuance of Oaths of Office** - Mayor Branch, Council Member Kennedy and Council Member Dearing were then given the Oath of Office by Mrs. Ida Schossow, Associate Municipal Judge of the City of Bridge City.

**Presentation of Certificates of Election** – Mayor McDonald then presented Certificates of Election to Mayor Branch, Council Member Kennedy and Council Member Dearing.

**Discussion and Possible Action on election of Mayor Pro-Tempore** – Council Member Dardeau moved that Shirley Bonnin be re-elected to continue serving in this position for the upcoming year. Council Member Kennedy seconded his motion.

The mayor asked if there was any further discussion on the matter. Council Member Dearing then moved that Council Member Kennedy be named Mayor-Pro-Tem.

Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion to re-elect Shirley Bonnin to this position. Council Member Dardeau voted for; remaining council members against. Motion failed.

Council Member Dearing then made a motion that Council Member Kennedy be elected to serve as the new Mayor Pro-Tem. Council Member Shugart seconded his motion. The mayor asked for discussion. With there being none, he called for a vote, which passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on signatories for all bank accounts owned by the City of West Orange** – Mayor Branch explained that this action would authorize the removal of outgoing Mayor McDonald and Council Member Bonnin from the accounts and add him and Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy to them. Mrs. Van Meter explained that all checks written on City accounts require two signatures, regardless of the amount.

Council Member Shugart then made a motion that these signatory changes be made as discussed. Council Member Dearing seconded the motion. Mrs. Van Meter asked if this included adding Mr. Sherwin, as the new Public Works Director, to the accounts as well.

Council Member Shugart then amended his motion to include Mr. Sherwin as being added as a signatory on the accounts. Council Member Dearing agreed with a second to the amended motion. Mayor Branch then called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on residential tax exemptions for tax year 2021** - Council Member Shugart made a motion that exemptions remain the same as tax year 2020:

- Homestead Exemption: 20%
- 65 or older - \$17,000
- Disabled - \$17,000

Council Member Dearing seconded this motion. With there being no further discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on a rate increase request from Piney Woods Sanitation** – Council Member Shugart moved that the rate increase request from Piney Woods Sanitation be approved. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. Mr. Wilson explained that this would amount to approximately a 2% increase (or \$0.28) per home. They are not asking for any increase on dumpsters. This increase would go into effect October 1, 2021.

Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion to approve the rate increase request from Piney Woods Sanitation. It passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on contract extension for Piney Woods Sanitation** – Mr. Wilson explained that the company was asking for a five year-extension on their contract, which ends on February 28, 2022.. Council Member Shugart made a motion to extend the contract with Piney Woods as requested. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. With there being no further discussion, a vote was called, passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on a WOVFD membership application submitted by William “Billy” Earl Moore, Jr.** – Council Member Shugart moved that Mr. Moore's application be approved. He received a second from Council Member Dearing. A vote was cast, with the motion passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on amending the Organizational Chart to have the Building Inspector report to the Public Works Director** – Council Member Bonnin made a motion that the City's Organizational Chart be amended to have the Building Inspector report to the Public Works Director. Council Member Dardeau seconded her motion. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote. The motion was unanimously passed.

**Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the amended Quarterly Investment Report for July-September, 2020** – Council Member Dardeau made a motion to record the amended Quarterly Investment Report for July-September, 2020 as presented. Council Member Bonnin seconded his motion. A vote was cast; motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the Quarterly Investment Report for October – December, 2020** – Council Member Dardeau made a motion to record the Quarterly Investment Report for October – December, 2020 as presented. Council Member Bonnin seconded his motion. A vote was cast; motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action on awarding a bid for fire truck** – Mr. Leavins explained that after further research into the City's Charter and into Texas law, he believes the first time Council Member Shugart amended his original motion at the May 4, 2021 meeting, the motion actually passed, even with Council Member Dearing abstaining, with a 3-2 vote, so all bids on the fire truck were denied at that time. The outcome of no other motions were changed, however.

**In the event all bids are rejected or do not qualify, Discussion and Possible Action on path forward in relation to Fire Department equipment, including current fire trucks** – In light of Mr. Leavins' information, Mayor Branch stated that he would like to schedule a Special Session to vote on going out for bids again, using the same bid specifications. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy then moved that Council have a special-called meeting to discuss the fire truck. Council Member Dearing seconded her motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote. Council Members Shugart and Dearing, along with Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy voted for the motion. Mayor Branch, Council Members Bonnin and Dardeau did not vote. Per Attorney Leavins, as the three who did not vote did not abstain, the motion carried.

**Announcements**

Mayor Branch then announced that the next Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2021; 5:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.



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Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

