

**City of West Orange  
Friday, July 9, 2021  
Special Session**

**West Orange Community Center  
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)  
West Orange, Texas  
Noon**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Randy Branch  
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Meritta Kennedy

Shirley Bonnin

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Brent Dearing

Dale Dardeau

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Mike Stelly  
Simmie Gibson

Theresa Van Meter

Jon Sherwin

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Keith Payne  
Marty Delano  
Debbie Schlicher  
Lacey Hale  
Dan Perrine  
Jane Branch

Mary Odom  
Susan Touchstone  
Jerry Priddy  
Beverly Frederick  
Lauren Struwe  
Kate Leverett

Jay Odom  
Ronnie Touchstone  
Jean Priddy  
Billy Frederick  
Matt Struwe

**Call to Order**

Mayor Branch called the meeting to order at noon. Council Member 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 May 4, 2021 and June 14, 2021 City Council meetings** - Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved by vote after a motion was made by Council Member Bonnin, followed by a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

**Public Comments**

Mrs. Odom addressed Council stating that she was strongly in opposition to any ordinance pertaining to golf carts and ATVs, as this was already covered by State law. She added that the City already has many more urgent ordinances in place that are not being enforced. She believes the proposed golf cart/ATV ordinance stems from one incident by one teenager reported by one individual and she feels that this is a "knee-jerk" reaction to a very minor problem. She added that her family and several of her friends use their golf carts in a safe and efficient manner within the city. She then asked that Council represent what the citizens want, and for them to ask the people what they want before passing this ordinance.

Mr. Frederick also addressed Council on this subject, stating that he agreed with Mrs. Odom, seeing no problem with golf carts as long as they are legal. He is concerned, however, with the speeding problem on Burnett. He has brought this to Council's attention in the past, but again asked that a stop sign be placed on Burnett at Lansing. Kids play at the park on that corner and some cross Burnett to look at the animals on the farm. He is afraid someone is going to be hit.

Mrs. Touchstone spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance pertaining to golf carts and ATVs. She was of the opinion that if there was a problem in the cemetery, and if this was the reason for the ordinance, the local police and the cemetery owner could resolve the problem – that an ordinance was not necessary. She asked "why punish an entire community for a problem in the cemetery?" She then added that registering and insuring golf carts and ATVs will not make them any safer. It is the owner that makes them safe. She does not believe that, with Hurricane Laura recovery and COVID recovery, now is not the time to demand more money to be spent. She then added that riding her electric golf cart around the city was much more economically and environmentally friendly than a car.

### Regular Session

**Discussion and Possible Action on authorizing, by resolution, the submission and operation of the grant application for American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program through the Office of the Governor, and to further authorize the Chief of Police as the grantee's authorized official** – A motion was made by Council Member Shugart to authorize, by resolution, the submission and operation of the grant application for American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program through the Office of the Governor, and to further authorize the Chief of Police as the grantee's authorized official. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. Chief Stelly was asked to elaborate on this item. He responded that these are federal stimulus funds and several categories can be covered with this grant such as infrastructure, premium pay for certain governmental employees, government services for economic impact and more. He also added that there is no match required. Mayor Branch then asked if there was any further discussion. With there being none, he called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on approving, by resolution, the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee for administrative services for the City's American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program of 2021 funding for application preparation (if applicable), project administration and project-related management services** – Council Member Bonnin made a motion that Council approve, by resolution, the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee for administrative services for the City's American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program of 2021 funding for application preparation (if applicable), project administration and project-related management services. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded her motion. Mayor Branch then read the resolution, which named the firm of Gary R. Traylor & Associates, Inc. to provide administration services for this grant. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on authorizing the City Secretary to open a checking account for the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program grant funds** – Mayor Branch explained that this item is no longer necessary, as the bank account formerly used for the COVID Relief Fund grant can now be used for this purpose. There is no need, therefore, to take any action on this item.

**Discussion and Possible Action on approving, by resolution, the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee for administrative services in conjunction with the City's funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for DR-4466 Hurricane Imelda to provide project administration and project-related management services** – This resolution to approve the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee for Gary R. Traylor & Associates, Inc. to provide administrative services for the City's funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for DR-4466 Hurricane Imelda was approved by vote after a motion was made by Council Member Shugart, followed by a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on approving, by resolution, the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee for engineering services in conjunction with funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for (HMGP) DR-4466 Hurricane Imelda to provide project implementation** – Council Member Bonnin made a motion that Council pass a resolution to accept the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee for Whiteley Oliver LLC to provide engineering services for (HMGP) DR-4466 Hurricane Imelda for project implementation. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded her motion. The mayor explained that this grant is for a generator for City Hall, with primary use after hurricanes come through and leave the area with no power for an extended time. With there being no further discussion on this item, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on authorizing the City Secretary to open a checking account for the City Hall Generator Project (HMGP) DR-4466 Hurricane Imelda grant funds** – Mrs. Van Meter was authorized, by unanimous vote, to open a checking account for the City Hall Generator Project (HMGP) DR-4466 Hurricane Imelda grant funds after a motion to do so was made by Council Member Shugart, followed by a second by Council Member Bonnin.

**Discussion and Possible Action on approval of Contract Amendment #1 between the City of West Orange and Traylor & Associates, Inc. regarding GLO CDBG-DR 20-066-029-C223** – Mayor Branch reported that this has been handled by the grant administrator, so it is to be pulled. No action need be taken.

**Discussion and Possible Action on awarding bid for “Additional Accessories Package” for new pumper truck to Fire Trucks of Texas** – Council Member Shugart made a motion that Fire Trucks of Texas for Deep South Fire Trucks be awarded a bid for the “Additional Accessories Package” for the new pumper truck at a cost of \$18,500.00. Mayor Branch seconded his motion. The mayor then asked for discussion on the item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy stated that, at a previous workshop on the firetruck, she had specifically asked if any additional equipment would be needed for the purchase of either a commercial or custom truck...and she was told “no.” Also, inside the bid package detail of the “Alternate Bid Items,” this package is shown to cost \$17,200. What is being proposed at this meeting is \$18,500. That is a problem. She felt that the needed tools should be included in next year’s budget.

Asst. Fire Chief Gibson explained that since the tools were not going to be covered under the grant, he separated the tools out. He added that, if he had to guess, he would guess that they (Fire Trucks of Texas) had added the cost of the bid bond on top of the \$17,200 cost of the tools to come up with the \$18,500.

Mayor Branch asked if some of those tools could be eliminated. Chief Stelly responded that it would only be possible if a “change order” was done on the bid. He also asked Council to keep in mind that this \$18,500 would be City funds, as the grant amount had already been exceeded in the cost of the truck. Asst. Fire Chief Gibson stated that he could get some of these tools from this year’s budget and some from next year’s budget. A contract does not have to be awarded to anyone, but the equipment still needed to be purchased.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy stated that she thinks it should be on next year’s budget. The truck will not be delivered until next year (at the earliest) anyway.

Council Member Shugart then withdrew his motion. Mayor Branch withdrew his second to the motion.

The mayor stated that this ends the discussion on this item.

**Discussion and possible action on awarding a bid for catering services** - Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the City award the catering bid to Old Orange Café, who was the lowest bidder. Council Member Shugart seconded her motion. With there being no discussion on the item, the mayor called for a vote, which passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on nominating Michael Stelly to continue his tenure on the Board of Directors for the TML Health Benefits Pool** – Council Member Shugart made a motion that the City of West Orange nominate Michael Stelly to continue his tenure on the Board of Directors for the TML Health Benefits Pool. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. There was no discussion on the item, therefore Mayor Branch called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on a resolution authorizing the City’s participation with the State of Texas and the Cities of Pinehurst and Orange in the SH87 MacArthur Drive Project No. 0028-15-056, and to authorize the Public Works Director to act as the authorized official to execute said contract** – Council Member Shugart made a motion to pass this resolution authorizing the City’s participation with the State of Texas and the Cities of Pinehurst and Orange in the SH87 MacArthur Drive Project No. 0028-15-056, and to authorize the Public Works Director to act as the authorized official to execute said contract. His motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

Council Member Shugart asked if anyone knew exactly what the State wanted to do. Mr. Sherwin explained that this project includes lighting and sidewalks on both sides of MacArthur Drive. It entails “zero construction costs” to any of the participating cities. The City of West Orange will be responsible only for paying for the electricity for the street lights on the West Orange side of the street. Council Member Shugart asked if there would still be three lanes of traffic in each direction. Mr. Sherwin responded that there would be, with a continuous left turn lane in the center.

After asking for further discussion and receiving none, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which was passed by all present.

**Discussion and Possible Action on approval of request by Debbie Schlicher, the City’s Animal Shelter volunteer, to hold an annual animal adoption event “Bark in the Park”, with vendors, in Seale-Alford Plaza** – Council Member Shugart made a motion to allow Ms. Schlicher to hold this event. His motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

Council Member Shugart then re-worded his motion to make "Bark in the Park" an annual city-sponsored event under the direction of the Public Works Director, Animal Control Officer or designee provided that each participating vendor execute an agreement pertaining to the rules and regulations for City-sponsored events filed in the City Secretary's office at West Orange City Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded this motion.

Ms. Schlicher then addressed Council, informing them that the shelter was currently full at that time. She explained that she really does not want to call this an "adoption" event because then people who are not looking to adopt might not participate. She would like people to come out and meet the animals, walk the animals and help socialize the animals which would make them more adoptable.

She then introduced Ms. Lacey Hale, the WOSHS photography teacher. They have been brainstorming on how to get the community and students involved in the event. Ms. Hale explained that many students need service hours for their various clubs and organizations. This event would be a great opportunity for them to earn some. She also encouraged implementing programs in which someone would go into the schools and educate students (of all ages) on animal care.

Ms. Schlicher reported that there is a very bad feral cat problem in West Orange. She is working on that, as well.

Mayor Branch expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the City, for the work that she does here. He then asked if there was any further discussion. Chief Stelly asked if the park would be closed to those wanting to visit the park, but not the event. The mayor responded that it would be open to everyone. Council Member Shugart asked Ms. Schlicher if she had chosen a date for the event. She responded that she was looking at July 24<sup>th</sup>. She added that the reason she wants to have it so soon is because the shelter is full.


Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

Mayor Branch then announced that the next Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

  
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Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

