

**City of West Orange
Monday, August 16, 2021
Budget Workshop**

**West Orange Community Center
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)
West Orange, Texas
4:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Randy Branch
Brent Dearing

Meritta Kennedy

Michael Shugart, Sr.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dale Dardeau

Shirley Bonnin

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Chris Leavins
David Roberts

Theresa Van Meter
Mike Stelly

Jon Sherwin
Simmie Gibson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sheldon Lafleur

Call to Order

Mayor Branch called the workshop to order at 4:00 p.m. Council Member Shugart gave the invocation. The mayor then led in the Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

Workshop

Mayor Branch reviewed his proposed budget with Council, explaining that he anticipates total revenue at \$3,308,246 and expenses to be \$4,288,595. He plans to use a beginning fund balance transfer of \$867,045 and also plans to transfer \$113,304 from the City's Capital Improvement Fund to pay the City's portion of the new fire truck.

He then turned to the Revenue detail and asked if there were any questions. None were brought up. He then began the departmental expense budgets, beginning with General Administration. He pointed out a \$50,000 grant match for the new generator fir City Hall is included in this department. Moving on to the Building Inspector's department, the mayor made note of the \$100,000 budgeted for "Abatement." He explained that these funds for removing houses and other things.

Mayor Branch explained that the \$158,225 budgeted for "Capital Outlay" is mainly for the fire truck, which will be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Council Member Shugart asked how much money was in that fund. Mrs. Van Meter responded, "\$962,047.10."

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy questioned the "Bad Debt" line item in the Sanitation Department. Mrs. Van Meter explained that that is for sanitation balances that go unpaid when people leave town with unpaid bills that the City basically has to write-off. She noted, however, that per the City's contract with Piney Woods, the company will reimburse 50% of the City's bad debt expense each year up to \$2,500.

There were no questions regarding the Humane Department. Council Member Shugart asked Chief Stelly how many new vehicles were purchase for the police department each year. The chief responded, "Two." He added that they are on a five-year rotation.

There were no questions regarding the Municipal Court or Street Departments. While reviewing the Parks Department, Council Member Dearing mentioned the idea of renovating the Wesco fields to be used as softball fields. He believes there is money to be made there. Mr. Sherwin explained that currently, Orange Crush has the fields leased, but that lease expires in December of this year. Mr. Sherwin also reported that his department usually replaces the wood on one set of bleachers each year for use at Holiday in the Park, and then returns them to Wesco. However, this year, due to the price of materials, that may not be possible.

Mrs. Van Meter then brought out to Council a mistake that she had made in the budget regarding the insurance lines for the Municipal Court and Street Departments. She had posted the Street amount in Court. The bottom line would still be the same, but she would need to correct the amounts for each department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy questioned the use of the Building Equipment Repairs expense item in the Parks & Facilities Department. Mr. Sherwin explained that this line item is used for all structures, air conditioners, etc. He added that he is very careful with this expense line.

There were no questions regarding the Maintenance Shop.

The mayor did state that this budget includes a 3% wage increase for all employees.

A summary of the proposed budget is shown below:

2021-22 BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>
10 General Administration	\$ 479,159	\$ 50,000	\$ 529,159
11 Building Inspector	179,024	-	\$ 179,024
12 Fire Department	67,249	158,225	\$ 225,474
13 Sanitation	652,919	-	\$ 652,919
14 Humane	65,494	-	\$ 65,494
15 Police	1,660,628	113,000	\$ 1,773,628
16 Municipal Court	171,056	-	\$ 171,056
17 Street	461,325	50,000	\$ 511,325
18 Parks & Facilities	81,573	16,200	\$ 97,773
21 Maintenance Shop	82,743	-	\$ 82,743
	\$ 3,901,170	\$ 387,425	\$ 4,288,595
TOTAL REVENUE \$ 3,308,246			
+ EST. BEGINNING FUND BALANCE \$ 867,045			
+ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRANSFER 113,304			
= EST. FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 4,288,595			
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$ 3,901,170			
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY & IMP. 387,425			
\$ 4,288,595			
NET INCOME(LOSS) \$0			

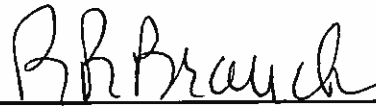
Announcements

Mayor Branch made note of the following upcoming meetings/events:

- Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021; 5:00 p.m. – Public Hearing on Proposed Budget
- Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021; 5:15 p.m. – Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate (*Mrs. Van Meter noted that this hearing must have a quorum of Council present.*)
- Monday, Sept. 13, 2021; 5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting
(Adoption of Budget & Tax Rate on Agenda)
- Friday and Saturday, October 15-16, 2021 – City of West Orange Fall Clean-Up
(Dumpsters will be behind the fire department.)
- Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021 – HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.


 Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

