

**City of West Orange
Monday, September 13, 2021
Regular Session**

**West Orange Community Center
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)
West Orange, Texas
5:00 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
Simmie Gibson

Jon Sherwin
Mike Stelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Van Meter
Jay Odom

Michael Moses
Dan Perrine

Toyaka Moses
Lorraine English

Call to Order

Mayor Branch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Council Member Shugart 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 August 9, 2021 City Council Meeting and the August 16, 2021 Budget Workshop - Minutes of both meetings were unanimously approved by vote after a motion was made by Council Member Shugart, followed by a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

Public Comments

Mrs. English addressed Council, stating her disappointment that the hole near the end of her driveway has not been filled with asphalt. It has been there since the ice storm. The City has been out a couple of times and filled it with rock or sand, but it now has grass growing in it. She wanted to know when, or even if, this would be repaired. Mayor Branch responded to Mrs. English, stating that the City would look into the problem for her.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on casting the City's vote on the TML Health Benefits Pool Board of Trustee Election Ballot – Council Member Shugart made a motion that the City's vote on the ballot for the TML Health Benefits Pool Board of Trustees Election be cast for Michael Stelly. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a resolution to allow the Police Department to apply for funding of Body Worn Cameras and appointing the Chief of Police as the authorized official – Council Member Dearing made a motion that Council pass this resolution to allow the Police Department to apply for funding of Body Worn Cameras and to further appoint the Chief of Police as the authorized official. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. Chief Stelly was asked if officers were already wearing body cameras and he responded that they were, and that this grant was for replacement cameras. A unanimous approval of the motion was cast after a vote was called by Mayor Branch.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 461, regarding the Distribution Cost Recovery Factor Rate increase request of Entergy, Texas, Inc. filed on or about August 31, 2021 and setting just and reasonable rates for Entergy Texas, Inc. for service within the municipal limits – Council Member Shugart made a motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 461, which denied Entergy's request to amend the Distribution Cost Recovery Factor in

total. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. A unanimous vote was cast, motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on relocating stop signs at the intersection of Donnell and Tanglewood to Donnell and Stakes – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the stop signs previously approved to be located at the intersection of Donnell and Tanglewood Streets be located instead at the intersection of Donnell and Stakes Streets. Her motion received a second from Council Member Shugart. Mayor Branch explained that the placement of these stop signs was approved at the last Council meeting, but that the placement on Donnell Street was mistakenly voted on for the intersection at Tanglewood, when it should have been Stakes Street. There was no further discussion on the item, therefore the mayor called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on the appointment of Michael Corbett as “Building Official” for the City of West Orange - Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that Michael Corbett be appointed as “Building Official” for the City of West Orange. Council Member Shugart seconded her motion. With there being no discussion, a vote was called, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on naming Charles Davis as “Rabies Control Authority” for the City of West Orange, Texas – Council Member Shugart made a motion that Charles Davis be named as “Rabies Control Authority” for the City of West Orange. This motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. There was no discussion on the item. Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on the appointment of Police Officer Robert Ashworth as “Code Enforcement Official” for the City of West Orange – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that Police Officer Robert Ashworth be appointed “Code Enforcement Official” for the City of West Orange. Her motion received a second from Council Member Dearing. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on the 2021-2024 Articles of Agreement between the West Orange Municipal Police Association, Inc. and the City of West Orange – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the proposed Articles of Agreement for the years 2021-2024 between the City of West Orange and the West Orange Municipal Police Association, Inc. be approved as presented, and do further authorize the mayor to execute said agreement. Council Member Dearing seconded her motion. He then questioned if there were any changes from the current agreement. Mayor Branch responded that the new agreement includes a 3% annual pay increase, and an annual \$25 per certificate level pay increase. With there being no further questions or discussion, the mayor then called for a vote, with the motion being unanimously approved.

Discussion and Possible Action on adopting the City’s budget (*by record vote*) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year requiring a tax rate of \$0.4449 per \$100 assessed value – Council Member Shugart made a motion that the City Council of the City of West Orange, Texas adopt the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 (FY 2022) as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. Mayor Branch asked if there were any questions. There were none brought forth. He then called for a record vote on the motion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy:	Aye
Council Member Dearing:	Aye
Council Member Shugart:	Aye
Mayor Branch:	Aye

Receiving four “ayes” and no “nays,” the budget was unanimously adopted for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 460 (*by record vote*), levying taxes at the rate of \$0.4449 per \$100 assessed value for the maintenance and operation expenses of the City of West Orange, Texas for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022 – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.4449, which is effectively a 3.88 percent increase in the tax rate. This adoption is to be ordained through City Ordinance No. 460. Council Member Shugart seconded her motion. Mayor Branch asked if there were any questions. There were none brought forth. He then called for a record vote on the motion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy:	Aye
Council Member Dearing:	Aye
Council Member Shugart:	Aye
Mayor Branch:	Aye

Receiving four "ayes" and no "nays," the tax rate of 0.4449 was unanimously adopted.

Discussion and Possible Action on ratifying a property tax rate that would increase the budget by \$45,774, which is a 7.31% increase over last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$24,110. – Council Member Shugart made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption and ratification of a tax rate of 0.4449 per \$100 assessed value, which is effectively a 3.46% increase in the tax rate. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. With there being no discussion on the matter, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements

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

- Monday, October 11, 2021; 5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting
- 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 5:22 p.m.



Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary