

**City of West Orange
Monday, December 27, 2021
Special Session**

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Randy Branch
Brent Dearing

Shirley Bonnin

Michael Shugart, Sr.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dale Dardeau

Meritta Kennedy

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter

Jon Sherwin

Simmie Gibson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Perrine

Jay Odom

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.

Special Session

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution amending the City's budget for FY2021-2022 – Council Member Shugart made a motion that this resolution be passed, amending the City's budget for FY2021-2022. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion.

Council Member Bonnin questioned the type of equipment being purchased with these funds. Mayor Branch responded that it would be used to purchase a new "jaws-of-life" and equipment associated with vehicle rescues. It would be a \$60,000 addition to the budget, and that money would be coming from the City's Capital Improvement account. Council Member Bonnin stated that she thought the department already had this equipment. Asst. Fire Chief Gibson responded that it is over thirty (30) years old and is not compatible with newer cars, and at this time is not in service. It does not run. Council Member Bonnin then asked if it could be repaired. Asst. Fire Chief Gibson responded that with it being a lower pressure unit, it will not work on newer cars. Council Member Bonnin asked if this equipment was used regularly. Asst. Fire Chief Gibson responded that it was not, but when it was needed, as in a recent traffic fatality, they had to call another department to bring one out.

The mayor then called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with three votes for, and one vote against by Council Member Bonnin.

Council Member Dearing questioned Council Member Bonnin as to why she was opposed to the purchase. She responded that her concern was that every department in the City has needs, and this is a lot of money. Mayor Branch responded that there was currently close to one million dollars in the City's Capital Improvement Fund, so the money is there for other departments if something is needed.

Council Members Shugart and Dearing also mentioned other items being purchased to update the fire department, such as bunker gear and a new fire truck. Council Member Shugart stated that many updates are needed in the fire department and these purchases are just a start.

Adjournment

With there being no further business to be brought before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

R.R. Branch
Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter
Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

