

**City of West Orange
Monday, August 1, 2022
Budget Workshop**

**West Orange Community Center
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)
West Orange, Texas
5:00 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch	Meritta Kennedy	Jay Odom
Brent Dearing	Michael Shugart, Sr.	Lanie Brown

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mike Stelly	Jon Sherwin	Theresa Van Meter
David Roberts		

OTHERS PRESENT:

Matthew Frederick	Jessie Romero	Dustin Hartsfield
Blake Breaux		

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.

2023 FY Budget Workshop

Mayor Branch opened the workshop by reviewing the Budget Summary (see below) and asking for any questions. There were none.

2022-23 BUDGET SUMMARY					
		<u>Operations</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	
10	General Administration	\$ 492,389	\$ 60,000	\$ 552,389	
11	Building Inspector	155,967	-	\$ 155,967	
12	Fire Department	70,807	312,945	\$ 383,752	
13	Sanitation	703,412	-	\$ 703,412	
14	Humane	81,559	-	\$ 81,559	
15	Police	1,747,040	169,000	\$ 1,916,040	
16	Municipal Court	185,282	-	\$ 185,282	
17	Street	463,572	65,000	\$ 528,572	
18	Parks & Facilities	84,464	10,000	\$ 94,464	
21	Maintenance Shop	86,258	-	\$ 86,258	
		\$ 4,070,750	\$ 616,945	\$ 4,687,695	
TOTAL REVENUE			\$ 3,487,276		
+ EST. BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			957,115		
+ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRANSFER			235,354		
+ COURT SPECIAL FUND TRANSFERS			7,950		
= EST. FUNDS AVAILABLE			\$ 4,687,695		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES			\$ 4,070,750		
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY & IMP.			616,945		
			\$ 4,687,695		
NET INCOME(LOSS)			\$0		

He then followed with discussion of the Revenue section, pointing out an estimated increase of approximately \$25,000 in both Property Tax revenue and Sales Tax revenue. The mayor also explained that this budget increases the projected revenue from the collection of sanitation fees (trash bills) to \$420,000 to offset the rate increase from Piney Woods. This increase will be possible by raising residential rates from \$22.16 per month to \$23.25 per month and commercial rates from \$42.16 to \$43.25 per month.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy asked the mayor if the Community Center was going to be opened back up for rentals. He responded that that decision had not yet been made.

Council Member Brown questioned if the City gets to keep the revenue from Court. Mrs. Van Meter explained that, although some certain line items are "dedicated" for specific expenditures, the items shown under Court Revenue are income to the City.

With there being no further questions or discussions pertaining to revenue, Mayor Branch then moved on to the various departmental expense sections of the budget. He explained that, in most departments, he budgeted a 3% wage increase for employees.

General Administration:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy asked why the City was leasing a copier rather than buying one. Chief Stelly explained that due to the cost of maintenance, it was cheaper to lease on a state contract.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy then asked about the Hotel/Motel Promo Expenses. Mrs. Van Meter explained that those expenses are regulated by state law. She has, in the past, used those funds to advertise for the Bass Master's Tournament and also for Holiday in the Park. They can also be used to pay for the historical marker Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy plans to purchase for 1st Baptist Church.

Building Inspector:

The mayor pointed out that the Abatement expense line was decreased from the current fiscal year from \$100,000 to \$75,000. Council Member Odom questioned why there was nothing budgeted for Mowing. Mr. Sherwin explained that he hopes to use some of the funds budgeted for Abatement to cover any mowing that needs to be done.

Fire Department:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy questioned the need for more radios. Fire Chief Roberts responded that they do need additional radios for new members and also need to replace one or two older ones. She also asked if they had requested AEDs but did not get them, or just did not request them. Chief Roberts informed her that the department has filed paperwork, but it has not yet come back approving them to be a full "first responder" organization.

Mayor Branch also pointed out that there is again \$113,304 budgeted in grant match funds. This is for the new fire truck. If, by chance, the truck is delivered and paid for before October 1st, then this expense can be removed for next year. Chief Roberts stated that the truck was actually supposed to leave the factory to go to the Deep South facility in Mississippi today to finish being built.

Sanitation:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy questioned why there was nothing budgeted in "Designated Cleanups." Mr. Sherwin responded that he was trying to keep expenses down. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy asked what those funds were used for this year. Mr. Sherwin responded that they were used to fund the fall cleanup. Chief Stelly stated that it is in the Piney Woods contract to provide dumpsters for the cleanup events.

Humane:

Mr. Sherwin noted that the wages for this position were increased more than 3% in an effort to bring the position more in line with comparable positions across the state. This will go into effect in October rather than a 3% increase.

Police:

Chief Stelly reported that the increase in Certificate Pay is an addition of \$150 per month pay to seven officers who are on the SRT Team. Council Member Brown asked how many people were employed at the Police Department. Chief Stelly responded that there were ten peace officers and two clerical staff members.

Council Member Brown asked Chief Stelly how many vehicles he planned on purchasing with the \$150,000 budgeted. He responded, "Three." He explained that he usually gets two new ones each year, but was only able to get one in this current year due to the backlog.

Council Member Odom questioned that with the purchase of new vehicles, would the purchase of new equipment be necessary. Chief Stelly responded that whenever possible, equipment is transferred from the old vehicle to the new. Sometimes there are style changes when the equipment no longer fits, and then new equipment must be purchased.

Municipal Court:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy questioned the "Alternate Magistrate Fees" expense – was it a "per attendance in court payment," or a "set amount per month." Mayor Branch explained that this would have to be approved by Council.

Street:

Council Member Odom stated that he was glad to see the employees receiving a pay increase.

Council Member Brown asked if the Pickup Truck shown under "Capital Outlay" was to be purchased new. Mr. Sherwin responded that it would be. He stated that the current truck has over 100,000 miles on it, maintenance expenses are going up on it, and there has not been a new truck purchased in over ten years.

Parks & Facilities:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy questioned if the purchase of playground equipment was waiting on grant funding. Mr. Sherwin responded that she was correct. She then asked about Christmas decorations. He responded that he did not budget for those.

Maintenance Shop:

Council Member Brown questioned why there were no fuel fees expensed for this department. Mr. Sherwin responded that the fuel for both the Parks and Maintenance Departments are included in with the Street Department's fuel expense line.

The mayor then asked if there were any other questions or comments pertaining to any of the departmental budgets. Council Member Shugart stated that he appreciated all who worked on this budget. The mayor stated that all of the department heads had done a good job on the budget.

Council Member Shugart stated that Capital Outlay is much higher on this budget than it has ever been, but it will be much lower next year. The mayor agreed that it should be much lower next year.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then made note of the following upcoming meetings:

- Monday, August 8, 2022 – Council Meeting
- Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022; 5:00 p.m. – Public Hearing on Proposed Budget
- Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022; 5:15 p.m. – Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate
- Monday, Sept. 12, 2022; 5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting
(Adoption of Budget & Tax Rate on Agenda)
- Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022 – *HOLIDAY IN THE PARK*

Adjournment

Mayor Branch adjourned the workshop at 5:45 p.m.

Randy Branch

Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter

Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

