

**City of West Orange
Monday, September 12, 2022
Regular Session**

**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:

Chris Leavins	Mike Stelly	Jon Sherwin
Theresa Van Meter	Simmie Gibson	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Matt Frederick	Jane Branch	Sherry Shugart
Mary Odom	Dustin Hartsfield	Gail Langton
Sharon Thomas	Gerald Thomas	

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 8, 2022 City Council Meeting – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the minutes of the August 8, 2022 City Council meeting be approved as presented. Council Member Brown seconded her motion. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Reports and Comments

City Staff:

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

Mr. Sherwin reported the following:

Construction Projects:

- Street Improvement Project (20-065-119-C390) 92% complete w/est. comp. date Sept 30th
- Western Ave. (Irving to Foreman) UPRR permit received and should begin project in October or November
- City Hall generator project – waiting on contractor to give estimated start date
- MacArthur Dr. –
- LED sign ordered supposed to be delivered to contractor on September 15th
- WWTP –EDA for approval
- WCID Generator project – installations are complete – still working out small issues
- Pavement completed behind the fire department
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Building Official:

- 23 permits issued
- 12 permits completed

Sanitation Dept.:

- Hired one new employee
- 21 loads of green waste (49 tons) (24 loads STLY)
- 45yd³/12 tons curbside C&D (34yd³/9 tons STLY)

Animal Control:

- 92 calls
- 11 intakes

- 2 claimed/12 adopted/2 rescued/0 euthanized
- 0 citations filed with the court

Street Dept.:

- Responded to flooding on Smith St. due to lateral pipe clogged...was able to remedy with hydro blasting
- 4 tons HP Cold Mix applied
- 5 tons limestone placed
- Beaver dam removal behind Wynona Park w/help from OCDD

Parks Dept.:

- Mowing 18.55 acres weekly
- Maintaining Park restrooms

Shop:

- Daily maintenance on city vehicles (hydraulic lines, flats, etc...)
- 3 full service
- 30 for 30 on all ERV's w/no issues identified
- Mowing outfall ditches

Police Department – Mike Stelly

Chief Stelly gave the following statistics for the month of August, 2022:

Police Department:

- General Traffic Contacts – 185
- Crashes Reported – 4
- Arrests – 105
- Reports – 84
- Calls for Service – 602
- Miles Driven – 11,546

Code Enforcement

- Violations Investigated – 227
- Violations filed w/Court – 36

Fire Department – Simmie Gibson

Asst. Chief Gibson reported the following activities/responses for the fire department since the last Council meeting:

- 1 trash fire
- 1 electrical issue
- 3 medical assists
- 1 motor vehicle collision
- 1 service call
- 1 lifting assist
- 1 "good intent" call cancelled enroute
- 1 fire alarm system malfunction
- Annual testing conducted on SCBAs and pump testing on apparatus

He also reported that he had made a trip to the Deep South facility in Mississippi to review and inspect progress of the new fire truck.

He then asked for any assistance possible in addressing the accessibility and maintenance of fire hydrants in the city. He would also like to have a current lay-out of the system and to know how often they are flow-tested and how often they are flushed.

General Administration – Theresa Van Meter

Mrs. Van Meter reported that:

- Registrations were being accepted for the 2022 Holiday in the Park
- The kick-off meeting for the City's new website has been scheduled. It will take approximately six-months for the new site to go online once development begins.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on casting the City's ballot for persons to fill the open positions on the TML-IRP Board of Directors – Council Member Shugart made a motion that the City of West Orange cast its ballot in support of the following individuals to fill open places on the TMLIRP Board of Directors: Place 6 – Allison Heyward; Place 7 – Mary Dennis; Place 8 –

Chris Coffman and Place 9 – Opal Mauldin-Jones. This motion received a second from Council Member Brown. With there being no further discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 470, an Ordinance declining to approve the change in rates requested by Entergy Texas, Inc's Statement of Intent filed with the City on or about July 1, 2022 – Council Member Shugart made a motion that Ordinance No. 470 be adopted as presented, declining the change in rates requested by Entergy Texas, Inc. on or about July 1, 2022. A second to this motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. This ordinance was unanimously adopted after a vote was called by Mayor Branch.

Discussion and Possible Action on pursuing a 2023/24 TxCDBG grant and authorize the procurement of a grant administrator to assist in the application and implementation, if awarded – Council Member Brown made a motion that the City pursue a 2023/24 TxCDBG grant to authorize the procurement of a grant administrator to assist in the application and implementation of said grant, if awarded. Council Member Shugart seconded this motion. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on updating the City's procurement policies to comply with federal grant requirements, as required by CDBG-DR 20-065-119-C390 – A motion was made by Council Member Brown to update the City's procurement policies to comply with federal grant requirements, as required by CDBG-DR 20-065-119-C390 as presented. The motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on updating the City's financial policies to comply with federal grant requirements, as required by CDBG-DR 20-065-119-C390 – A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy to update the City's financial policies to comply with federal grant requirements, as required by CDBG-DR 20-065-119-C390 as presented. The motion received a second from Council Member Brown. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on adding stop signs at north and south intersections of Dayton Street at Crockett Street – Council Member Shugart made a motion to deny adding stop signs at the north and south intersections of Dayton Street at Crockett Street. To allow discussion, Council Member Brown seconded his motion. Council Member Shugart asked if this recommendation was being brought to Council from committee. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy responded that the reason it was on the agenda was because the concern had been brought to her with the need to slow traffic down in that area. Following more discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on Council Member Shugart's motion. The motion failed as all council members voted against it, with the exception of Council Member Shugart, who voted for the motion.

Council Member Odom then made a motion that stop signs be added at the north and south intersections of Dayton Street at Crockett Street. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed as all council members voted for it, with the exception of Council Member Shugart, who voted against the motion.

Discussion and Possible Action on allowing the Police Department to apply for funding through the Governor's office to provide Bullet Resistant Shields and designating the Chief of Police as the authorizing official – Council Member Odom made a motion to allow the Police Department to apply for funding through the Governor's office to provide Bullet Resistant Shields and to designate the Chief of Police as the authorizing official for said grant. This motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of sanitation service rate increases – Mayor Branch explained that, with Piney Woods' rate increase going into effect October 1st, the City really had no choice other than to raise rates as well. When Piney Woods raised their rates last year, the City absorbed that increase, but cannot do that again. The recommendation is to increase residential rates from \$22.16 per month to \$23.25 per month and commercial rate from \$42.16 to \$43.25.

Council Member Shugart made a motion to implement this rate increase, effective October 1, 2022, as presented. Council Member Brown seconded his motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 471, adopting the City's budget (by record vote) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year requiring a tax rate of \$0.4228 per \$100 assessed value – Council Member Brown moved that Ordinance No. 471, setting the budget for the City of West Orange, Texas for fiscal year October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, be approved and adopted as presented. Council Member Shugart seconded this motion.

Mayor Branch called for a record vote on this motion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy - Aye
 Council Member Dearing - Aye
 Council Member Odom - Aye
 Mayor Branch - Aye
 Council Member Brown - Aye
 Council Member Shugart - Aye

Ordinance No. 471, adopting the 2022-23 fiscal year budget was adopted as presented.

(Budget summary outlined as shown below:)

2022-23 BUDGET SUMMARY					
		Operations	Capital Outlay	Total	
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	95,464	10,000	\$ 105,464	
21	Maintenance Shop	86,258	-	\$ 86,258	
		\$ 4,081,750	\$ 616,945	\$ 4,698,695	
TOTAL REVENUE			\$ 3,498,660		
+ EST. BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			956,731		
+ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRANSFER			235,354		
+ COURT SPECIAL FUND TRANSFERS			7,950		
= EST. FUNDS AVAILABLE			\$ 4,698,695		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES			\$ 4,081,750		
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY & IMP.			616,945		
			\$ 4,698,695		
NET INCOME(LOSS)			\$0		

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 472 (by record vote), levying taxes at the rate of \$0.4228 per \$100 assessed value for the maintenance and operation expenses of the City of West Orange, Texas for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023 – Council Member Odom made a motion that, by the adoption of Ordinance No. 472, the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.4228, which is effective a 3.76% increase in the tax rate. A second to this motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

Mayor Branch called for a record vote on this motion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy - Aye
 Council Member Dearing - Aye
 Council Member Odom - Aye
 Mayor Branch - Aye
 Council Member Brown - Aye
 Council Member Shugart - Aye

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution ratifying a property tax rate that would increase the budget by \$52,572, which is a 7.86% increase over last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$29,186. - Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the Resolution for the budget presented for the 2022-23 that proposes to raise more revenue from taxes that was raised in 2021-22. Council Member Shugart seconded this motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion. It passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on adopting procedures for oversight of labor standards and contracts for grants funded through the General Land Office – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the City adopt procedures for oversight of labor standards and contracts for grants funded through the General Land Office as presented. The motion received a second from Council Member Brown. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote. Motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then announced the following:

- Next Council meeting: Monday, October 10, 2022; 5:00 p.m.
- Registrations are now being accepted for "Holiday in the Park" (Nov. 5, 2022)

Adjourn

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.



Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

