



City of West Orange Economic Development Corporation

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX
77630

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch, Mayor
Wayne Wiggins

Meritta Kennedy
Mike Dixon

Charlotte Alford
Jon Sherwin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christopher Leavins
Jay Odom
Jane Branch
Simmie Gibson
Clayton Baker
James Fisette
Richard Jones
Tyler Roberts

Michael Shugart
Gail Langton
Randal Veitch
Richard Bland
Guy Geuder
Billy Moore
Kirk Roccaforte
Chris Sowell

Lanie Brown
Rhonda Block
Sharon Thomas
David Roberts
Benjamin Tannery
Sybil Hughes
Terry Veitch

Call to Order

Mayor Branch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He announced that a quorum of the Board was present. The invocation was given by Council Member Shugart. Pledges of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags were then given.

Mayor Branch explained that this Economic Development Board meeting should only take a few minutes, and that a Public Workshop will follow.

Regular Session

Discussion of any non-confidential recent developments pertinent to the Economic Development Corporation – Mayor Branch stated that the Economic Development Corporation has not had any opportunities to offer development to anyone coming into the City of West Orange. He added that revenue has accrued to almost \$300,000. He explained that this money comes from the sales tax that the citizens voted on, and approved, last year, to be used for economic development of the city.

For the benefit of the audience, the mayor then introduced those serving on the EDC Board: Mike Dixon, Wayne Wiggins, Charlotte Alford, Meritta Kennedy, Mike Stelly, Jon Sherwin and himself. The mayor explained that, for the time being, the Corporation is waiting for an opportunity to help somebody move into West Orange and bring some sales tax into the city.

Mayor Branch stated that there were really no big announcements to make, but that he felt a meeting was warranted just make sure that they are above-board on as much as possible. He thanked everyone in attendance.

He did inform the Board that there had been a possible opportunity recently for a business to move in, but the owners of the property decided they did not want to sell. He added that it hurt his feelings that they decided not to sell it. The prospect was a pretty good-sized business and would have brought in substantial revenue for the city.

Mr. Sherwin reported that they have had the opportunity to visit with several franchises that are in the fast-food industry. They identified two properties here in West Orange that they really want. However, they are not having much cooperation with the owners of the properties. It is still up in the air and they are continuing to work at it...but the property owners are just not budging. One owner is only interested in leasing his property, but most franchises want to purchase the property.

Mayor Branch added most retail businesses want to establish themselves only on a main thoroughfare, such as MacArthur Drive.

Adjournment

With there being no further discussion, and no questions put forth, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.



R R Branch
Randy Branch, EDC Board President

ATTEST:

Charlotte Alford
Charlotte Alford, EDC Board Secretary