

**City of West Orange
City Council
Monday, January 9, 2023
Regular Session**

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Meritta Kennedy
Lanie Brown

Jay Odom
Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Christopher Leavins
Theresa Van Meter

Mike Stelly
David Roberts

Jon Sherwin
Simmie Gibson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dustin Hartsfield
Robin Strother
Rob Smith

Matt Frederick
Jane Branch

Bobby Ashworth
Richard Mosel

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 December 12, 2022 City Council Meeting – Council Member Brown made a motion that these minutes be approved as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded her motion. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mr. Richard Mosel addressed Council, expressing his concern regarding landlords within the city not following codes for their rent houses. He stated that he knows of at least one landlord who intimidates his tenants to the point that they are afraid to report the conditions of their rental property. He feels that it is wrong for people to be treated this way. He went on to describe in detail specific issues that have occurred with a particular rental/landlord. Mr. Mosel was very upset and concerned and stated that he is certain that there are other similar situations within the city.

Mr. Strother addressed Council, announcing that Suez is in the process of being purchased by Veolia. He stressed, however, that they will not be bringing in any hazardous waste. The local site will continue to be a water treatment company. He anticipates business to continue as usual, just under a new name. He also commended the WOVFD for their assistance for issues they encountered at the plant during the recent freeze.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 475, an Ordinance calling the General Election to be held in the City of West Orange, Texas on May 6, 2023 to fill the offices of Mayor and two Aldermen; stating the location of the polling place and designating the City of West Orange as one voting precinct; making certain provisions related to the manner of voting in the conduct of the election; prescribing the form of ballot to be used; providing that this ordinance shall constitute an order for such election and that proper notice thereof shall be given

Discusión y Posible Acción sobre la Ordenanza Núm. 475, una Ordenanza que convoca a Elecciones Generales a celebrarse en la Ciudad de West Orange, Texas el 6 de mayo de 2023 para llenar los cargos de Alcalde y dos Concejales; indicando la ubicación del lugar de

votación y designando a la Ciudad de West Orange como un recinto de votación; hacer ciertas disposiciones relacionadas con la forma de votar en la conducción de la elección; prescribir la forma de votación que se utilizará; disponiéndose que esta ordenanza constituirá una orden para tal elección y que se dará aviso apropiado de la misma

Council Member Brown moved that Ordinance No. 475 be approved as presented. Her motion received a second from Council Member Shugart. Mrs. Van Meter explained that an amendment to this ordinance will be presented at the next meeting, once the County has finalized its polling places. She wanted to get the election called, however, well before the deadline to do so.

The mayor then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

El Concejal Brown hizo la moción de que la Ordenanza No. 475 sea aprobada tal como fue presentada. Su moción recibió el apoyo del concejal Shugart. La Sra. Van Meter explicó que se presentará una enmienda a esta ordenanza en la próxima reunión, una vez que el Condado haya finalizado sus lugares de votación. Sin embargo, quería que se llamara a elección mucho antes de la fecha límite para hacerlo.

Luego, el alcalde pidió una votación sobre la moción, que fue aprobada por unanimidad.

Executive Session

The mayor adjourned Regular Session and convened Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code – Personnel Matters - regarding deliberation on employment matter and request by Patricia Garrett at 5:19 p.m.

Return to Regular Session

Mayor Branch reconvened Regular Session at 5:29 p.m. Council Member Brown made a motion that Ms. Garrett's request for her unpaid leave of absence to be extended be approved February 13, 2023. This motion received a second from Council Member Shugart. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then made note of the following:

- Period to file for place on May 6, 2023 General Election ballot: January 18, 2023 (8:00 a.m.) - February 17, 2023 (5:00 p.m.)
 - *Periodo para solicitar el lugar en la boleta de las elecciones generales del 6 de mayo de 2023: 18 de enero de 2023 (8:00 a.m.) – 17 de febrero de 2023 (5:00 p.m.)*
- Next Council meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023; 5:00 p.m.
- City Hall closed in observance of Presidents' Day – Monday, February 20, 2023
- Council Member Brown announced that Ms. Kimberly Manning had recently donated 300 pounds of dog and cat food to the animal shelter. She plans on this becoming an annual project.

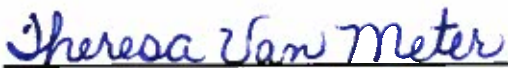
Adjourn

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

