

**City of West Orange
Monday, September 11, 2023
Regular Session**

**City Council Chambers
2700 Western Avenue (rear entrance)
West Orange, Texas
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Randy Branch
Meritta Kennedy

Jay Odom
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Lanie Brown

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:

Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter
Mike Stelly

Jon Sherwin
Simmie Gibson

Christopher Leavins

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gerald Thomas
Tremaine Wilson

Sharon Thomas

James Fisette

Call to Order

Mayor Branch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., announcing that a quorum was present. 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 14, 2023 Council meeting – A motion was made by Council Member Brown to accept the minutes of this meeting into record as presented. Her motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

Mr. Sherwin reported the following activities for the month of August, 2023:

- **Construction Projects**
 - WWTP – waiting on EDA
 - City Hall Generator Project – Expecting delivery of generator in October
 - Drainage Improvement project preconstruction meeting scheduled later this week
- **Building Official**
 - 27 permits issued; 29 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 25 loads (67 tons) of green waste collected
 - 5 loads (17 tons) construction waste & debris collected
- **Animal Control**
 - 79 calls
 - 15 intakes
 - 4 claimed/ 7 adopted/ 8 rescued
 - 4 court filings
- **Street**
 - Trimmed limbs obstructing streets
 - Cut grass in ditches
- **Parks**
 - Picked up litter throughout city
- **Shop**
 - 5 full-services performed
 - Normal repairs of city assets
 - Monthly 30-for-30 (All police and fire vehicles in good working order.)

Police Department– Mike Stelly

Chief Stelly gave the following statistics for the month of August, 2023:

- Traffic contacts: 62
- Crashes reported: 9
- Arrests: 57
- Reports: 61
- Calls for service: 592
- Miles driven: 12,257

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 243
Violations filed w/court: 60

General Administration – Theresa Van Meter

Mrs. Van Meter announced that booth registrations were coming in well, and would continue to be accepted as long as any were available. Registrations were also being accepted for the 2023 Classic Car Show which is held in conjunction with the festival.

Volunteer Fire Department – Simmie Gibson

Assistant Chief Gibson reported the following activity for the department during the month of August, 2023:

- Structure fires: 2
- Grass/Brush fires: 13
- Trash fires: 6
- Medical assist calls: 6
- Smoke investigations: 2
- Service calls: 3
- False Alarms: 8 (high school)

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on retaining Charin Price as a “full-time” employee of the City – A motion was made by Council Member Shugart and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy to accept Mrs. Van Meter’s recommendation to retain Charin Price as a “full-time” employee of the City, effective September 18, 2023. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution requesting the lowering of the speed limit on Foreman Road from 65 mph to 45 mph within the city limits of West Orange – Council Member Brown made a motion that this Resolution requesting the lowering of the speed limit on Foreman Road from 65 mph to 45 mph within the city limits of West Orange be approved as presented. Her motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Mayor Branch pointed out that the area covered by this Resolution would be from Sepulvado Road north to Western Avenue. With there being no questions or discussion, he then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 482, adopting the City’s budget (by record vote) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year requiring a tax rate of \$0.3840 per \$100 assessed value - Council Member Brown made a motion that Ordinance No. 482, adopting the City's budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year requiring a tax rate of \$0.3840 per \$100 assessed value be adopted as presented. A second to this motion was made by Council Member Odom. With there being no further discussion, Mayor Branch called for a record vote. Council Members cast their votes as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy - aye
Council Member Shugart - aye
Council Member Brown - aye
Council Member Odom - aye
Mayor Branch – aye

With the record vote being unanimous of those present (Council Member Dearing being absent), Ordinance No. 482, adopting the 2023-2024 budget for the City of West Orange was passed as presented.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 484, an Ordinance regulating traffic control activities within the city – Council Member Odom made a motion that Ordinance No. 484, an Ordinance regulating traffic control activities within the city be passed as presented.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote. The motion unanimously passed.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then announced the following upcoming meetings/events:

- Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023; 5:00 p.m. – Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate
- Monday, Oct. 9, 2023; 5:00 p.m. – Council Meeting
- Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 – *HOLIDAY IN THE PARK*

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.



Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

