

**City of West Orange
Monday, November 13, 2023
Regular Session**

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:

Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter	Jon Sherwin	Mike Stelly
David Roberts	Simmie Gibson	Christopher Leavins

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Corbett	Keestan Cole	Dustin Hartsfield
Jane Branch	Tremaine Wilson	Ida Schossow
Robert Ashworth	Jessie Romero	Matt Frederick

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 October 9, 2023 Council meeting - The minutes of this meeting was approved by vote following a motion from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy with a second by Council Member Brown.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

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

- **Construction Projects**
 - WWTP – Bid opening tomorrow.
 - City Hall Generator Project – expecting delivery of generator soon
 - Drainage improvement project – mobilization has started; notices have been sent out to homeowners
- **Building Official**
 - 32 permits issued; 26 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 16 loads (43 tons) of green waste collected (He announced that, due to their closing, this was the last month to take green waste to International Paper.)
 - 5 loads (13 tons) of C & D to landfill
- **Animal Control**
 - 90 calls
 - 17 intakes
 - 4 claimed/4 adopted/1 rescued
 - 0 court filings
- **Street**
 - Prepped for Holiday in the Park
 - Trimmed limbs in parks and on streets
 - Repairs to gazebo in park
 - Installation of Blessing Box
 - Patching
- **Parks**
 - Litter pickup and cutting grass
 - Pesticide application
- **Shop**
 - Three full-services performed including generators

- 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 October, 2023:

- Traffic contacts: 54
- Crashes reported: 5
- Arrests: 40
- Reports: 62
- Calls for service: 533
- Miles driven: 10,669

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 228

Violations filed w/court: 43

General Administration – Theresa Van Meter

Mrs. Van Meter announced that Holiday in the Park was a great success. The weather could not have been better for the event.

Volunteer Fire Department – Simmie Gibson

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

- Building/Structure fires: 2 (mutual aid provided)
- Grass/Brush fires: 3
- Gas leak: 1
- Medical assist calls: 4
- Smoke Investigation: 2
- Mutual Aid given: 4
- "Good intent" calls: 1
- False Alarms: 2
- System activation: 1

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on authorizing the mayor to execute any and all documents for the formation of the West Orange Economic Development Corporation – A motion was made by Council Member Brown that Mayor Branch be authorized to execute any and all documents for the formation of the West Orange Economic Development Corporation. This motion received a second from Council Member Odom. A vote was cast; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on retaining Joel Stinnett as Police Officer with the WOPD after successfully completing his probationary period with the City – Council Member Shugart made a motion to accept Chief Stelly's recommendation that Joel Stinnett be retained as Police Officer with the WOPD, as he has successfully completed his probationary period with the City. Council Member Brown seconded this motion. Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of subdivision of a 3.271 tract of Odom Acres into two tracts – A motion was made by Council Member Odom to approve the of subdivision of a 3.271 tract of Odom Acres into two tracts. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. With there being no questions, nor discussion, the mayor called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution to cast the City's 26 votes for one or more candidates to serve on the Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors for a one-year term (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024) – Council Member Shugart made a motion that all 26 of the City's votes be given to Lanie Brown. Council Member Odom seconded his motion. A vote was cast, being unanimous to approve motion.

Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the Quarterly Investment Report for July – September, 2023 – A motion to accept into record the Quarterly Investment Report for July – September, 2023 was made by Council Member Brown, followed by a second from Council Member Odom. The mayor then called for a vote to approve the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the Annual Investment Report for FY October 2022 – September 2023 - A motion to accept into record the Annual Investment Report for October 2022 – September 2023 was made by Council Member Brown, followed by a second from Council Member Odom. Mayor Branch then noted that, since July, over \$75,000 in interest has been earned in the TexPool accounts, which is more than has been earned in most total years in the past.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of an Agreement with Traylor & Associates, Inc. for Administration/Professional Services for Project No. DR 4485-0430 (Community Safe Room) – Council Member Brown made a motion to approve this agreement with Traylor & Associates, Inc. for Administration/Professional Services for Project No. DR 4485-0430 (Community Safe Room) in the amount of \$172,350. A second to this motion was submitted by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Chief Stelly explained that this is a grant that is expected to be received from TDEM, who has sent it on up the ladder to the federal government. Plans are to construct this “safe room” behind the shop area which is also behind the police department. Mayor Branch called for a vote, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of an Agreement with Traylor & Associates, Inc. for Administration/Professional Services for Project Nos. DR 4485-0043 & DR 4485-0044 (Fire Dept. and Police Dept. Generators) – Council Member Brown made a motion to approve this agreement with Traylor & Associates, Inc. for Administration/Professional Services for Project No. DR 4485-0044 (Fire Dept. and Police Dept. Generators) in the amount of \$17,300. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Mayor Branch stated that these new generators would replace the older generators presently in use for those departments and the new ones would run on natural gas instead of diesel. He then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on repealing Ordinance No. 324-A and replacing with No. 324-B, an ordinance setting the authorized strength of the Police Department – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that Ordinance No. 324-A be repealed and replaced with No. 324-B, an ordinance setting the authorized strength of the Police Department. Council Member Odom seconded her motion. He then asked if this would mean more officers for the Police Department. Chief Stelly replied that it would. He further explained that several months back, the mayor had encouraged him to apply for a COPS grant, and he was awarded funding for two officers. The award was based on the CP Chem site. He added that it will require a budget adjustment down the road, but right now he feels he is financially good to proceed. He did want Council to be aware that he does anticipate approaching them in the new year for additional budget funding for the additional costs of two additional officers not covered by the grant. Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then announced the following upcoming meetings/events:

1. A Special-Called meeting of Council will be held on Thursday, November 16th at 3:45 to canvass the results of the November 7, 2023 election on the ¼% sales tax dedicated to Economic Development.
2. Non-emergency City departments closed for the following upcoming holidays:
 - Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24, 2023 in observance of Thanksgiving
 - Monday & Tuesday, December 25 & 26, 2023 in observance of Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
 - Monday & Tuesday, January 1 & 2, 2024 in observance of New Year's Eve & New Year's Day
3. City of West Orange Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration: Monday, December 4, 2023; 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.


 Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

