

City of West Orange  
Monday, January 8, 2024  
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        | Brent Dearing |                      |

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:  
Meritta Kennedy

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

|                   |             |             |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Theresa Van Meter | Jon Sherwin | Mike Stelly |
| Simmie Gibson     |             |             |

OTHERS PRESENT:

|               |                 |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gail Langton  | Sharon Thomas   | Gerald Thomas   |
| Richard Mosel | Tremaine Wilson | Robert Ashworth |

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 11, 2024 Council Meeting** – These minutes were approved by vote following a motion from Council Member Brown with a second by Council Member Shugart.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

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

- **Construction Projects**
  - City Hall Generator Project – Contractor is to begin Automotive Transfer Switch installation this weekend
  - Drainage improvement project – on-schedule
  - Acquisition grant – near completion with only demolition of structure remaining
- **Building Official**
  - 345 permits issued in 2023 (5 new construction)
  - 356 permits completed in 2023
- **Sanitation**
  - 223 loads (562 tons) of green waste collected in 2023
  - 22 loads (60 tons) of C & D to landfill in 2023
  - Grapple truck back in service after repairs to onboard computer failure
- **Animal Control**
  - 942 calls in 2023
  - 196 intakes in 2023
  - 38 claimed/50 adopted/84 rescued in 2023
  - 5 court filings in 2023
- **Street**
  - 61 tons of HP Cold Mix used in patching in 2023
  - 102 tons of limestone base used in patching in 2023
- **Parks**
  - No metric for report
- **Shop**
  - Thirty-three full-services performed in 2023

**Police Department– Mike Stelly**

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

- Traffic contacts: 101
- Crashes reported: 5
- Arrests: 40
- Reports: 41
- Calls for service: 350
- Miles driven: 9,452

**Code Enforcement**

Violations Investigated: 68

Violations filed w/court: 24

**Volunteer Fire Department – Simmie Gibson**

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

- Grass/Brush/Trash fires: 2
- Gas leak: 3
- Medical assist calls: 1
- Mutual Aid given: 3
- “Good intent” calls: 3
- False Alarms: 2

**Regular Session**

**Discussion and Possible Action on adoption of Ordinance No. 485, an ordinance authorizing participation with other Entergy service area cities in matters concerning Entergy Texas, Inc. at the Public Utility Commission of Texas in 2024; authorizing the hiring of lawyers and rate experts; authorizing the City’s participation to the full extent permitted by law at the Public Utility Commission of Texas; finding that the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act and declaring an effective date –** Council Member Brown made a motion that Ordinance No. 485 be adopted as presented. Her motion received a second from Council Member Odom. The mayor explained that this ordinance is done annually. With there being no additional discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the 2023 Racial Profiling Report for the West Orange Police Department –** Council Member Odom made a motion that the 2023 Racial Profiling Report for the West Orange Police Department be accepted into record as presented. His motion received a second from Council Member Brown. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution amending the City’s 2023-2024 FY Budget –** Chief Stelly explained that he would like to change this amendment slightly before a vote is cast. The change will not alter the amendment total. He explained that he has been made aware that there are possibly some alternate funds available for the Software and Hardware Upgrade items he has listed on the amendment and he would, therefore, like to move these amounts into “Grant Support.” Council Member Brown made a motion that this Resolution, amending the City’s 2023-2024 budget be adopted, to include the changes presented by Chief Stelly. Council Member Shugart seconded her motion. With there being no additional discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Resolutions regarding the following grants:**

- a. 2024 Homeland Security Grant Application
- b. 2024 – Homeland Security LETPA Grant Application
- c. 2025 Justice Assistance Grant
- d. 2025 Rifle Resistant Armor Grant
- e. 2025 Bullet Resistant Shield Grant
- f. 2025 Body Worn Cam Grant

Council Member Odom made a motion that each of these Resolutions be passed authorizing the application for said grants. Council Member Dearing seconded his motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which unanimously passed.

**Announcements**

- Next Council Meeting – Monday, February 12, 2024; 5:00 p.m.

- Period to file for place on May 4, 2024 General Election ballot: January 17, 2024 (8:00 a.m.) - February 16, 2024 (5:00 p.m.)  
*Periodo para solicitar el lugar en la boleta de las elecciones generales del 4 de mayo de 2024: 17 de enero de 2024 (8:00 a.m.) – 16 de febrero de 2024 (5:00 p.m.)*
- April 1, 2024 – ¼% sales tax dedicated to economic development will go into effect in West Orange

**Adjournment**

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

  
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Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

