

**City of West Orange
Monday, March 11, 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.
Meritta Kennedy	Lanie Brown	Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter	Jon Sherwin	Mike Stelly
Simmie Gibson		

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Branch	Ida Schossow	Sharon Thomas
Gerald Thomas	April Lombardo	Derek Graffagnino
Gail Langton	Jim Wilson	Fabricio Esquivel
Gary Coker		

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 both the United States and Texas flags.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action on:

- **approval of the minutes of the February 12, 2024 Council Meeting** – approved by vote after a motion by Council Member Odom, with a second by Council Member Brown.
- **proclaiming the month of April, 2024 as “Fair Housing Month” in West Orange** – approved by vote after a motion by Council Member Brown, with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy

Public Comments

Ms. Langton expressed her appreciation to Mr. Sherwin for his assistance with a year-long dog problem she has had in her neighborhood. She also requested Council to consider putting traffic lights back up in town, since traffic has gotten so much heavier. She believes this would help alleviate some of the congestion problems.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

Mr. Sherwin reported the following activities for the month of February, 2024:

- **Construction Projects**
 - City Hall Generator Project – Still waiting on CenterPoint Energy
 - Drainage improvement project – on-schedule
 - Acquisition grant – near completion with only demolition of structure remaining
 - Pipe-bursting project has going on throughout city
- **Building Official**
 - 33 permits issued (4 new construction)
 - 40 permits completed
 - Bid packages being put together for 4 demolitions
 - Have sent off for lien reports on 15 properties
- **Sanitation**
 - 12 loads of green waste collected (\$1,800 to Plessala)
 - 1 load of C & D to landfill
- **Animal Control**
 - 85 calls
 - 9 intakes
 - 1 claimed/1 adopted/6 rescued

- 0 court filings
- **Street**
 - 5 tons of cold mix place on streets
 - Cleared ditches & culverts – focused on south side of 2700 block of Western Avenue
- **Parks**
 - Litter pickup continues
 - Mowing continues
- **Shop**
 - 2 full-services performed
 - Normal repairs of city assets
 - Monthly 30-for-30 – All police and fire vehicles in good working condition

Police Department – Mike Stelly

Chief Stelly's gave the following statistics for the month of February, 2024:

- Traffic contacts: 214
- Crashes reported: 4
- Arrests: 36
- Reports: 26
- Calls for service: 409
- Miles driven: 10,415

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 70

Violations filed w/court: 5

Chief Stelly reported that meetings have begun and evacuation plans are being reviewed for the upcoming hurricane season.

Chief Stelly also reported that Officer John Brown retired in February.

Volunteer Fire Department – Simmie Gibson

Assistant Chief Gibson reported the following activity for the department during the month of February, 2024:

- Structure fires: 3
- Outside rubbish fires: 2
- Electrical: 1
- Medical assist calls: 5
- "Good intent" calls: 1
- False Alarms/Malfunctions: 4
- Dispatched and canceled, enroute: 2

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance of the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the May 4, 2024 General Election – A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy to accept the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the May 4, 2024 General Election as presented by City Secretary Theresa Van Meter. This motion received a second from Council Member Odom. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discusión y posible acción sobre la aceptación de la certificación de candidatos sin oposición para la elección general del 4 de mayo de 2024 - El alcalde interino Kennedy presentó una moción para aceptar la certificación de candidatos sin oposición para las elecciones generales del 4 de mayo de 2024 presentada por la secretaria de la ciudad, Theresa Van Meter. Esta moción recibió una segunda del miembro del Consejo Odom. Se emitió una votación; moción llevada a cabo.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 487, an Ordinance cancelling the May 4, 2024 General Election – Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 487, an Ordinance cancelling the May 4, 2024 General Election. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded this motion. With there being no discussion on the issue, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discusión y posible acción en la Ordenanza No. 487, una Ordenanza que cancela la Elección General del 4 de mayo de 2024 - El concejal Brown presentó una moción para adoptar la Ordenanza núm. 487, una ordenanza que cancela las elecciones generales del 4 de mayo de 2024. El alcalde provisional Kennedy apoyó esta moción. Al no haber discusión sobre el tema, el alcalde Branch convocó a votación y la moción fue aprobada por unanimidad.

Discussion and Possible Action on a request to subdivide a parcel of land on Edgar Brown Drive submitted by Mr. Fabricio Esquivel (subdivision name “Sol & Paloma Ranch”) – Council Member Odom made a motion that Council grant Mr. Esquivel’s request to subdivide a parcel of land on Edgar Brown Drive (subdivision name “Sol & Paloma Ranch”). His motion received a second from Council Member Brown. Mayor Branch explained that this property is where the Verizon store is currently being built. Council Member Brown thanked Mr. Esquivel for investing in West Orange. With there being no further discussion, the mayor called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of a Resolution determining revenue loss as allowed by the Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Final Rule and designating said funds as “Dedicated Grant-Match Funds” - Council Member Odom made a motion that Council approve a Resolution determining revenue loss as allowed by the Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Final Rule and designating said funds as “Dedicated Grant-Match Funds.” Council Member Brown seconded his motion. With there being no questions or discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on awarding contract to BDS Constructors LLC dba MK Constructors for the OCWCID#2 Improvements to Waste Water Treatment Plant (EDA Grant 08-79-05323 & GLO Grant 20-065-119-C390) as recommended by Orange County Water Control & Improvement District #2 Board of Directors – Council Member Brown made a motion to award the contract to BDS Constructors LLC dba MK Constructors for the OCWCID#2 Improvements to Waste Water Treatment Plant (EDA Grant 08-79-05323 & GLO Grant 20-065-119-C390) as recommended by Orange County Water Control & Improvement District #2 Board of Directors. A second to this motion was made by Council Member Odom. With there being no discussion, the mayor called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then made the following announcements:

- 1. City Offices closed in observance of Good Friday & Easter – Friday, March 29 & Monday, April 1, 2024
- 2. City’s Spring Clean-up – Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6, 2024; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 3. Next Council Meeting – Monday, April 8, 2024; 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.



Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:


Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

