



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council
Special Session
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024 5:00 p.m. Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Randy Branch Jay Odom Michael Shugart, Sr.
Meritta Kennedy Brent Dearing

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:
Lanie Brown

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter Christopher Leavins Simmie Gibson

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 both the United States and Texas flags.

Special Session

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 489 (by record vote), levying taxes at the rate of \$0.3780 per \$100 assessed value for the maintenance and operation expenses of the City of West Orange, Texas for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025 – Council Member Odom made a motion that, by record vote, Council pass Ordinance No. 489, levying taxes at the rate of \$0.3780 per \$100 assessed value for the maintenance and operation expenses of the City of West Orange, Texas for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. Mayor Branch then called for a record vote on the motion:

Mayor Branch:	For	Council Member Odom:	For
Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy:	For	Council Member Shugart:	For
Council Member Dearing:	For		

The mayor stated that the record vote passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution ratifying a property tax rate that would increase the budget by \$31,197, which is a 4.22% increase over last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$6,784. – Council Member Odom moved that Council pass a Resolution ratifying a property tax rate that would increase the budget by \$31,197, which is a 4.22% increase over last year's budget, noting that the property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$6,784. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion.

Before a vote was cast, Mrs. Van Meter and Mr. Leavins pointed out that there was specific mandatory wording that must be used for both motions on this agenda.

Council Member Odom then amended his motion to read, "I move to approve this Resolution ratifying the budget adopted for 2024-2025 that proposes to raise more revenue from taxes than was raised in 2023-2024, requiring a tax rate of \$0.3780 per \$100 valuation." Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy then seconded the amended motion. With there being no further discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Leavins then recommended a motion be made to reconsider and amend the motion made on the adoption of Ordinance No. 489. Council Member Shugart then made a motion that action taken on Agenda Item B-1 pertaining to the adoption of Ordinance No. 489 be reconsidered and amended. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy then made the following motion: "I move that, by the approval of Ordinance No. 489, the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.3780, which is effectively a 3.30% increase in the tax rate." Council Member Odom seconded her motion. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a record vote:

Mayor Branch:	For	Council Member Odom:	For
Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy:	For	Council Member Shugart:	For
Council Member Dearing:	For		

The property tax rate of \$0.3780 per \$100 valuation was therefore unanimously adopted by those present for the 2024 tax year.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

R R Branch

Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter

Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

