



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 14, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Randy Branch
Lanie Brown

Jay Odom

Michael Shugart, Sr.

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

Meritta Kennedy

Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter
Simmie Gibson

Jon Sherwin

David Roberts

OTHERS PRESENT:

Claude Webb
Sandra Howard
Bobby Granger
Mary Odom
John Lowe
Sonny Hubbard
Richard Jones

Jane Branch
Debbie Schlicher
Richard Bland
Lisa Bukowsky
Sharon Thomas
Tremaine Wilson, Sr.

Michael Corbett
William Lee
Sherry Shugart
Brady Bukowsky
Gerald Thomas
Tremaine Wilson, Jr.

Call to Order

Mayor Branch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Council Member Shugart gave the invocation followed by the mayor leading 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 following meetings:

- September 9, 2024 Council Meeting
- September 24, 2024 Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget
- September 24, 2024 Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate
- September 26, 2024 Special-Called Council Meeting

All minutes were unanimously approved by vote after a motion was made by Council Member Brown with a second by Council Member Shugart.

Public Comments

Mr. Hubbard (Live Oak Environmental/Piney Woods Sanitation) wanted to express his appreciation to the city for its business. He added that his job duties have changed and he will be spending more time in this area, so if anyone has any concerns, to please call him.

Ms. Schlicher addressed council expressing her concern regarding the puppies being sold and given away in front of WalMart. Many have had parvo. She would like to see it not be allowed to sell or give away puppies there. She explained the dangers of parvo to an entire shelter should just one dog be brought in that has it. She asked for any help she could get from council.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

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

- **Construction Projects**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction has begun and is on schedule

- City Hall Generator Project is complete.
- Drainage improvement project – culvert replacement complete; working on large collection ditch cleaning
- Water District – two tower restoration and installation of new water lines throughout the city
- GTP pipeline installation ongoing
- **Building Official**
 - 37 permits issued (2 new construction)
 - 37 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 23 loads of green waste collected (\$3,450)
 - 1 load (2 tons) of C & D to landfill
- **Animal Control**
 - 82 calls
 - 20 intakes
 - 1 claimed/2 adopted/15 rescued
 - 1 court filing
- **Street**
 - Patching utility cuts and potholes throughout city
- **Parks**
 - Litter pickup continues
 - Mowing city property and alleyways
- **Shop**
 - Normal repairs of city assets (4 full-services performed)
 - Monthly 30-for-30 – All police and fire vehicles in good working condition
 - Mowing large collection ditches

Police Department – Mike Stelly

In Chief Stelly's absence, Mr. Sherwin gave the following statistics for the month of September, 2024:

- Traffic contacts: 299
- Crashes reported: 2
- Arrests: 45
- Reports: 29
- Calls for service: 471
- Miles driven: 11,770

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 70
Violations filed w/Court: 9

Volunteer Fire Department – Simmie Gibson

Asst. Fire Chief Gibson reported the following activity for the department during the month of September, 2024:

- Structure Fires: 2
- Vegetation Fires: 1
- Electrical Issues: 1
- Medical Assist Calls: 3
- Combustible Spills/Leaks: 1
- Service Call, other: 2
- Dispatched/Cancelled Enroute: 1
- Detector/System Malfunction: 2

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on a request from Mr. John Lowe (1812 Houston St.) for a variance to Ordinance No. 302-F § 3.B(3) – Council Member Brown made a motion to grant Mr. Lowe's request for a variance to Ordinance No. 302-F § 3.B(3). This motion received a second from Council Member Shugart. Mr. Lowe then addressed council, stating that he had a buyer for this property, however that individual has been unable to get a signature of approval to place a manufactured home on the property from one of the next-door neighbors. He believes they are upset because they were unable to reach an agreement on a price for them to purchase this property. Council Member Brown asked if signatures had been obtained from other neighbors, and if so, stated that council needed to see them. Mr. Lowe responded that the signatures had been obtained, but he did not have them in his possession at that moment.

Mayor Branch suggested tabling this matter until a future meeting so that Mr. Lowe could get this paperwork together to present to council. Council Member Brown then rescinded her

original motion, as did Council Member Shugart his second. Mayor Branch then tabled this item for a future meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action on a request from Mrs. Lisa Bukowsky for reduction in lien and/or interest amount due on 215 Katherine Street property – Mr. Brady Bukowsky addressed council, stating the he would like to purchase this property, however with the accrued interest added, the lien is over \$7,900. He asked council for help in reducing this amount in some way. Council Member Odom made a motion that the interest amount be forgiven and the Bukowskys pay only the \$2,200 that the city was actually out. Council Member Brown seconded this motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing.

Discussion and Possible Action on a request from Mr. Claude Webb for a variance for the “cure date” on Webb Family Trust houses listed as substandard - Mr. Webb (Webb Family Trust) stated that he was speaking to Council regarding 407 Dayton, 1117 Dayton and 825 Jasper. Mr. Webb asked council for an extension until after the first of the new year to take care of these properties. He reported that he has had 923 Irving torn down, but has not yet had the debris removed. After some discussion, Council Member Shugart made a motion to allow Mr. Webb until February 20, 2025 to repair or demolish 407 Dayton, 1117 Dayton and 825 Jasper. With there being no further discussion, the mayor called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a resolution to nominate individuals to be placed on the ballot for the Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors – Council Member Shugart nominated Council Member Jay Odom to be placed on the ballot for the Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors. Council Member Brown seconded this motion. With there being no additional nominees, Mayor Branch called for a vote. The motion to nominate Council Member Odom passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on retaining Officer Eugene Summage as a full-time police officer with the City of West Orange effective October 1, 2024 – Council Member Brown made a motion that Officer Eugene Summage be retained as a full-time police officer with the City of West Orange effective October 1, 2024. Council Member Odom seconded her motion. Council Member Brown state that she had seen Officer Summage respond to a call recently, and she was very impressed with him. With there being no further discussion, a vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of a Resolution authorizing the submittal of a 2025/2026 TxCDBG application to the Texas Department of Agriculture and committing matching funds – Council Member Brown made a motion that council pass a Resolution authorizing the submittal of a 2025/2026 TxCDBG application to the Texas Department of Agriculture and committing matching funds. The motion received a second from Council Member Odom. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on an update to the City of West Orange “Procurement Policy Applicable to All Procurements Made with Federal Funds” – Council Member Brown made a motion that the City of West Orange “Procurement Policy Applicable to All Procurements Made with Federal Funds” be updated as presented. Her motion received a second from Council Member Odom. The motion passed unanimously by vote.

Discussion and Possible Action on repealing Ordinance No. 358 and adopting Ordinance No. 358-A regulating Recreational Vehicle Parks within the city – Council Member Brown made a motion that council repeal Ordinance No. 358 and adopt Ordinance No. 358-A regulating Recreational Vehicle Parks within the city. Council Member Odom seconded her motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then made announced that the next Regular Council Meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2024; 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

R.R. Branch
Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter
Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

