



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Randy Branch
Lanie Brown

Jay Odom
Meritta Kennedy

Michael Shugart, Sr.
Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter
Simmie Gibson

Jon Sherwin
Christopher Leavins

Mike Stelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debbie Schlicher
Tremaine Wilson, Sr.

Jane Branch
Brett Swarson

Bobby Granger

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 October 14, 2024 Council Meeting and the November 7, 2024 Special-called Meeting - These minutes were unanimously approved by vote after a motion was made by Council Member Brown with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

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

- **Construction Projects**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is on schedule
 - Drainage improvement project – currently working on change order for additional ditch work
 - Water District – two tower restoration and installation of new water lines throughout the city
- **Building Official**
 - 27 permits issued (2 new construction)
 - 33 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 3 loads of green waste collected (\$5,500) (largest this year)
 - 1 load (2 tons) of C & D to landfill
- **Animal Control**
 - 114 calls
 - 16 intakes
 - 4 claimed/ 2 adopted/ 15 rescued
 - 3 court filings
- **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 October, 2024:

- Traffic contacts: 277
- Crashes reported: 2
- Arrests: 122
- Reports: 33
- Calls for service: 453
- Miles driven: 12,384

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 44
Violations filed w/Court: 5

Chief Stelly also reported that the police department had received a grant to purchase an AED.

Volunteer Fire Department – Simmie Gibson

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

- Structure Fires: 5
- Vegetation Fires: 4
- Outside Rubbish Fires: 1
- Flammable Gas or Liquid Conditions: 1
- Medical Assist Calls: 2
- Person in Distress: 2
- Combustible Spills/Leaks: 2
- Smoke, odor problems: 1
- Dispatched/Cancelled Enroute: 1
- Detector/System Malfunction: 1

Asst. Chief Gibson also reported that the LifeShare Blood Bus collected 12 units of blood during Holiday in the Park.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on an Application for Membership to the WOVPD submitted by Benjamin Tannery – Council Member Shugart made a motion to accept Mr. Tannery's application. This motion received a second from Council Member Brown. A vote was cast; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the July – September, 2024 Quarterly Investment Report – A motion was made by Council Member Brown to approve the July – September, 2024 Quarterly Investment Report. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded this motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the October, 2023 – September, 2024 Annual Investment Report - A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy to approve the October, 2023 – September, 2024 Annual Investment Report. Council Member Brown seconded this motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on October, 2023 – September, 2024 Annual the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on updating *Article IX, Internet/Technology Policy* of the City's Employee Manual – Council Member Brown moved that the City's Employee Manual *Article IX, Internet/Technology Policy* be updated as presented. Her motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. There was no discussion, so Mayor Branch called for a vote, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 355-D and replacing with Ordinance No. 355-E regarding Animal Control within the City – Council Member Brown made a motion that Ordinance No. 355-D be repealed and replaced with Ordinance No. 355-E regarding Animal Control within the City. A second to this motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy.

Council Member Brown thanked Ms. Schlicher for the time she spends helping with the animals in the shelter. She also thanked her for bringing to Council's attention the items which have now been addressed in the newly adopted Animal Control ordinance.

Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 356 and replacing with Ordinance No. 356-A, pertaining to the regulation of signs within the City – A motion to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 356 with Ordinance No. 356-A was made by Brown. This motion was seconded by Council Member Shugart. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Mr. Granger (West Orange Christian Church) thanked Council for their assistance and support with their recent community meal. He was most grateful that they were able to put signs out in the area inviting people to attend, adding that they were taken up within 24 hours of the event being finished. They are hoping to do the meal again in the future. They were very pleased with the results of their first event.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance and approval of the 2024 Delinquent Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman – Council Member Brown made a motion to accept and approve the 2024 Delinquent Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman, with Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconding the motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance and approval of the 2024 Current Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman - Council Member Brown made a motion to accept and approve the 2024 Current Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman, with Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconding the motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approving engineering services for the HMGP Drainage Project 4332-114 – A motion to approve to provide engineering services for the HMGP Drainage Project 4332-114 was made by Council Member Brown. This motion was seconded by Council Member Shugart. A vote was cast; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approving engineering services for the Fire Department Generator Project (DR 4485-043) and Police Department Generator Project (DR 4485-044) - A motion to approve engineering services for the Fire Department Generator Project (DR 4485-043) and Police Department Generator Project (DR 4485-044) was made by Council Member Brown. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was cast; motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then noted the following:

- All non-emergency departments of the City will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29, 2024 in observance of Thanksgiving
- Trash will be picked up on Saturday the week of Thanksgiving
- Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration – Monday, December 2, 2024; 6:00 p.m.
- Next Council Meeting – Monday, December 9, 2024; 5:00 p.m.
- All non-emergency departments of the City will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 & 25, 2024 in observance of Christmas
- All non-emergency departments of the City will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31, 2024 and January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.


Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:


Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

