



## City of West Orange

City Hall  
2700 Western Avenue  
West Orange, TX 77630

### City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Randy Branch  
Meritta Kennedy

Jay Odom  
Brent Dearing

Michael Shugart, Sr.

**COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:**

Lanie Brown

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Theresa Van Meter  
Christopher Leavins

Jon Sherwin

Mike Stelly

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gail Langton  
Tremaine Wilson, Sr.

Jane Branch

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 December 9, 2024 Council Meeting** - These minutes were unanimously approved by vote after a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy with a second by Council Member Odom.

**Staff Reports**

**Public Works – Jon Sherwin**

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

- **Construction Projects**
  - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is on schedule. GLO funds at 95%; remainder of funding through EDA and GTP
  - 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; Tower 3 complete with 60-90 days to complete Tower 2
- **Building Official**
  - 9 permits issued (298 issued for the year)
  - 35 permits completed (401 completed during the year)
- **Sanitation**
  - 14 loads of green waste collected
  - 0 load (0 tons) of C & D to landfill (13 tons during year)
- **Animal Control**
  - 73 calls (955 for year)
  - 23 intakes (178 for year)
  - 3 claimed (22 for year)/ 2 adopted (44 for year)/ 25 rescued (81 for year)
  - 1 court filing (26 for year)
- **Street**
  - Patching utility cuts and potholes throughout city
  - Park decorations
- **Parks**
  - Litter pickup continues
  - Mowing city property and alleyways

- **Shop**
  - Normal repairs of city assets (3 full-services performed)
  - Monthly 30-for-30 – All police and fire vehicles in good working condition

**Police Department – Mike Stelly**

Chief Stelly gave the following statistics for the month of December, 2024:

- Traffic contacts: 229
- Crashes reported: 5
- Arrests: 22
- Reports: 31
- Calls for service: 430
- Miles driven: 9,272

**Code Enforcement**

Violations Investigated: 24

Violations filed w/Court: 0

Chief Stelly also reported that the police department now is at full-staff, following his hiring Officer Frank Carpenter.

**Regular Session**

**Discussion and Possible Action on adoption of Ordinance No. 490, an ordinance authorizing participation with other Entergy service area cities in matters concerning Entergy Texas, Inc. at the Public Utility Commission of Texas in 2025; 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 Odom made a motion that Council adopt Ordinance No. 490, an ordinance authorizing participation with other Entergy service area cities in matters concerning Entergy Texas, Inc. at the Public Utility Commission of Texas in 2025; 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. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. Council Member Odom questioned who pays the law firm. Mr. Leavins responded that the costs are covered by Entergy. With there being no further discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 491, an Ordinance ordering the General Election to be held in the City of West Orange, Texas on May 3, 2025 to fill the offices of a mayor and two aldermen; stating the location of the polling place and designating the City of West Orange as one voting precinct; making certain provisions related to the manner of voting in the conduct of the elections; prescribing the form of ballot and voting system to be used; providing that this ordinance shall constitute an order for such election and that proper notice thereof shall be given**

***(Discusión y posible acción sobre la Ordenanza No. 491 una Ordenanza que ordena la celebración de elecciones generales en la ciudad de West Orange, Texas, el 3 de mayo de 2025 para cubrir los cargos de alcalde y dos concejales; que establece la ubicación del lugar de votación y designa a la ciudad de West Orange como un distrito electoral; que establece ciertas disposiciones relacionadas con la forma de votación en la realización de las elecciones; que prescribe la forma de la boleta y el sistema de votación que se utilizará; que esta ordenanza constituirá una orden para dicha elección y que se dará el aviso correspondiente.)***

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy moved that Ordinance No. 491 be adopted as presented. Council Member Odom seconded her motion. With there being no discussion, a vote was cast, with the motion passing unanimously.

***(El alcalde interino Kennedy propuso que se adoptara la Ordenanza N.º 491 tal como se presentó. El concejal Odom apoyó su moción. Al no haber discusión, se emitió una votación y la moción se aprobó por unanimidad.)***

**Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution for the City Staff to apply for a grant through the Governor's Public Safety Office which will provide certain cybersecurity measures –** Council Member Odom made a motion that this resolution authorizing the City Staff

to apply for a grant through the Governor's Public Safety Office which will provide certain cybersecurity measures be approved as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded his motion. With there being no discussion on the matter, the mayor called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

**Discussion and Possible Action on accepting into record the 2024 Racial Profiling Report for the West Orange Police Department** – A motion to accept the 2024 Racial Profiling Report for the West Orange Police Department into record was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy, followed by a second from Council Member Shugart. A vote was cast; motion carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action on placing before the voters a City Charter amendment extending Mayor and Aldermen terms of office from two-years to four-years** – Council Member Odom made a motion that this Charter amendment, extending Mayor and Aldermen terms of office from two-years to four-years, be placed before the voters on the May ballot. Council Member Shugart seconded his motion.

Discussion followed regarding when the ordinance would actually take effect, how future terms would be handled, etc. Mr. Leavins presented some possibilities that would need to be addressed by Council should this amendment pass. He stated that he would need to do some research in order to answer Council's specific questions.

Council Member Odom then rescinded his original motion and moved that this item be tabled until Council's next meeting. Council Member Shugart rescinded his second to the original motion and then seconded Council Member Odom's motion to table the item until the next meeting. Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### Announcements

Mayor Branch then noted the following:

- Period for filing application for place on May 3, 2025 General Election Ballot – Jan. 15, 2025 thru February 14, 2025

*(Período para presentar solicitudes de participación en las elecciones generales del 3 de mayo de 2025: del 15 de enero de 2025 al 14 de febrero de 2025)*

- Next Council Meeting – Monday, February 10, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

#### Adjournment

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

  
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Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

