



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Randy Branch
Meritta Kennedy

Jay Odom
Lanie Brown

Michael Shugart, Sr.

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:

Brent Dearing

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Theresa Van Meter
David Roberts

Jon Sherwin
Simmie Gibson

Mike Stelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gail Langton
Tramena Horn
Georgia Parzen
Anna Seale (*attorney filling in for Christopher Leavins*)

Tremaine Wilson, Sr.
Jane Branch
Gerald Thomas

Alton Horn
Lila Parzen
Sharon Thomas

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 February 10, 2025 Council Meeting** – A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy to accept the minutes as presented. Her motion was seconded by Council Member Brown. A vote was cast; motion carried.
- **proclaiming the month of March, 2025 as “Red Cross Month” in West Orange** – A motion was made by Council Member Brown to proclaim the month of March, 2025 as “Red Cross Month” in the City of West Orange. This motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was cast; motion carried.
- **proclaiming the month of April, 2025 as “Fair Housing Month” in West Orange** – A motion was made by Council Member Brown to proclaim the month of March, 2025 as “Fair Housing Month” in the City of West Orange. This motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

Mr. Sherwin reported the following activities for the month of February, 2025:

- **Construction Projects**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is on schedule.
 - Drainage improvement project – scheduled to begin concrete from MacArthur to South Street this month
 - Water District – two tower restoration and installation of new water lines throughout the city; Tower 3 complete with 30-60 days to complete Tower 2
- **Building Official**
 - 25 permits issued
 - 34 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 0 loads of green waste collected
 - 1 loads (2 tons) of C & D to landfill
- **Animal Control**

- 61 calls
- 4 intakes
- 0 claimed / 8 adopted / 8 rescued
- 2 court filings
- **Street**
 - Patching utility cuts and potholes throughout city
 - Replacing street signs
- **Parks**
 - Litter pickup and beginning to mow
- **Shop**
 - Normal repairs of city assets
 - 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 February, 2025:

- Traffic contacts: 272
- Crashes reported: 10
- Arrests: 31
- Reports: 26
- Calls for service: 479
- Miles driven: 11,953

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 44

Violations filed w/Court: 0

WOVFD – Simmie Gibson

Asst. Chief Gibson reported the following activities for the month of February, 2025:

Alarm system calls - 4

Structure fires – 1

Grass fires – 2

Fires – other - 2

Medical assists – 2

EMS assists - 3

Cancelled en route – 2

Natural gas leak – 1

Auto accidents – 1

Smoke calls – 1

Other calls - 3

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was convened at 5:12 p.m. to solicit input from the community concerning awareness for the support of fair housing, as well as to address concerns of residents as they may relate to fair housing.

There were no comments brought forth by anyone in the audience pertaining to Fair Housing.

Adjourn Public Hearing and Reconvene Regular Session

Mayor Branch adjourned the Public Hearing at 5:13 p.m. and reconvened Regular Session.

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on a request submitted by Mr. Mark Lemoine for a variance to Ordinance No. 304-B as it pertains to mobile vending units – As Mr. Lemoine was not in attendance at this meeting, Council Member Odom then moved that this item be tabled until a later date. Council Member Brown seconded his motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on nominating Jon Sherwin, Public Works Director, to serve on the TX Health Benefits Pool Board of Trustees for Region 16 – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion for the City to nominate Jon Sherwin, Public Works Director, to serve on the TX Health Benefits Pool Board of Trustees for Region 16. This motion received a second from Council Member Brown. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution in support of the widening of FM 105 (Foreman Road) and the imposition of a lower speed limit on said road – A motion to pass a Resolution in support of the widening of FM 105 (Foreman Road) and the imposition of a lower speed limit on said road was made by Council Member Brown, followed by a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Council Member Brown asked which part of the road is to be widened. Chief Stelly responded that it would be from Western Avenue south past the contractor entrances. With there being no further discussion, a vote was cast with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution to submit an application to the Office of the Governor for Homeland Security Funds to provide equipment – A motion was made by Council Member Brown to pass a Resolution to submit an application to the Office of the Governor for Homeland Security Funds to provide equipment. A second to this motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution to submit an application to the Office of the Governor for a Justice Assistance Grant for the Police Department - A motion was made by Council Member Brown to pass a Resolution to submit an application to the Office of the Governor for a Justice Assistance Grant for the Police Department. A second to this motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance of the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the May 3, 2025 General Election – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the May 3, 2025 General Election presented by Mrs. Van Meter be accepted into record. Her motion was seconded by Council Member Brown. 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 3 de mayo de 2025 - El alcalde interino Kennedy hizo una moción para que se aceptara en los registros la Certificación de candidatos sin oposición para las elecciones generales del 3 de mayo de 2025 presentada por la Sra. Van Meter. Su moción fue secundada por el miembro del consejo Brown. Se emitió una votación; la moción fue aprobada.

Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No.492, an Ordinance cancelling the May 3, 2025 General Election – A motion to pass Ordinance No.492, an Ordinance cancelling the May 3, 2025 General Election, was made by Council Member Brown, with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discusión y posible acción en la Ordenanza No. 492, una Ordenanza que cancela la Elección General del 3 de mayo de 2025 - El miembro del consejo Brown presentó una moción para aprobar la Ordenanza N ° 492, que cancela las elecciones generales del 3 de mayo de 2025, y el alcalde interino Kennedy la apoyó. Luego, el alcalde Branch pidió que se votara la moción, que se aprobó por unanimidad.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then made note of the following dates:

- Golden Triangle Polymers Community Meeting – Tuesday, April 1, 2025; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; West Orange City Hall
- City of WO Spring Cleanup – Friday & Saturday, April 11th & 12th, 2025; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Bark in the Park - Saturday, April 12, 2025; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Next Council meeting – Monday, April 14, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.
- All non-emergency departments of the City closed on Friday, April 18 and Monday, April 21, 2025 in observance of Good Friday and Easter holidays

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, Mayor Branch adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Randy Branch

Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter

Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

