



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Meritta Kennedy
Gail Langton

Jay Odom
Lanie Brown

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Jon Sherwin

Theresa Van Meter

Mike Stelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Branch
Wayne Wiggins
Cheryl Ray

Gay Cormier
Tremaine Wilson, Sr.

Joey Cormier
Sandy Howard

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 13, 2025 Council Meeting – A motion to accept the minutes of the October 13, 2025 Council Meeting into record was made by Council Member Brown, followed by a second from Council Member Odom. A vote was cast; motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

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

- **Construction Projects**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is on schedule.
 - Dayton Street reconstruction preconstruction meeting held; start date Nov. 3
- **Building Official**
 - 15 permits issued
 - 24 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 25 loads of green waste collected @ \$150 = \$3,750
- **Animal Control**
 - 97 calls
 - 7 intakes
 - 0 claimed / 2 adopted / 4 rescued
 - 0 court filings
- **Street**
 - Preparing for Holiday in the Park
 - Patching of streets and driveways
 - Cleaning ditches
- **Parks**
 - Mowing & litter removal
- **Shop**
 - Ditch mowing continues
 - Normal repairs and maintenance of City assets
 - Monthly 30-for-30 – All Police and Fire vehicles in good-working order

Police Department – Mike Stelly

Chief Stelly gave the following statistics for the month of October, 2025:

- Traffic contacts: 302
- Crashes reported: 7
- Arrests: 33
- Reports: 33
- Calls for service: 428
- Miles driven: 13,353

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 42

Violations filed w/Court: 3

General Administration

Mrs. Van Meter reported that the number of vendors and guests at the 2025 Holiday in the Park was drastically down. Food vendors declined mainly due to the new cottage food laws passed by the last Legislature. With so many other events being scheduled on the same date as Holiday in the Park, a change in date to October 24, 2026 is being discussed.

Mrs. Van Meter also reported that the 2025 Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Monday, December 1st; 6:00 p.m.

Fire Department

In Assistant Chief Gibson's absence, Council Member Brown gave the following report for the WOVPD for the month of October, 2025:

- Grass fires: 5
- Natural vegetation fires: 5
- Medical assists: 4
- Natural gas leaks: 3
- Dispatched and cancelled enroute: 3
- Emergency medical service incidents: 2
- Trash or rubbish fires: 2
- Motor vehicle accidents/fires: 3
- Structure fires: 1
- Forest, woods or wildlands fire: 1
- Service calls: 2
- False alarms: 1
- Smoke detector malfunctions: 1

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on a request submitted by Mrs. Gradalyn Cormier to replat property located the corner of Western Avenue at Flint Street – Council Member Brown reported that she had checked the records on this property at the Orange County Appraisal District. It is shown to have three owners. Council Member Brown asked Mrs. Cormier if she had any paperwork from her sister and brother-in-law stating that they also wanted to have the property replatted.

Mrs. Cormier explained that she and her sister wish to replat it so that the brick home can be sold. They will keep the remaining pieces of property.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that this item be approved at such time as Mrs. Cormier can present a notarized letter from her sister and brother-in-law expressing that they are in agreement with Mrs. Cormier for the property. Council Member Langton seconded her motion.

Council Member Brown expressed her concern regarding approval of this request without the necessary paperwork from Mrs. Cormier's sister. It could possibly cause problems on "the back end," not only for the City, but for Mrs. Cormier as well.

Ms. Sandy Howard (filling in for City Attorney Christopher Leavins) agreed, that before the vote goes forward, the City really does need a notarized documents from each of the other two owners stating that they are completely in agreement with the replatting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy later rescinded this motion and then moved that this item be tabled until the next meeting when notarized documentation can be presented. Council Member Langton rescinded her second to the original motion and then seconded the second motion. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the July – September, 2025 Quarterly Investment Report – A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy to approval of the July – September, 2025 Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Her motion received a second from Council Member Brown. A vote was cast; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution to cast the City’s 28 votes for one or two candidates to serve on the Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the term January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2029 – Council Member Brown made a motion to distribute the City’s twenty-eight votes for the following candidates to serve on the Orange County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the term January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2029 as follows: Karen Fisher – 14 votes; Maquettia Ledet 14 votes. Council Member Shugart seconded her motion. With there being no further discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of a Resolution reaffirming Civil Rights Policies related to the General Land Office Resilient Communities Program grant – A motion to approve a Resolution reaffirming Civil Rights Policies related to the General Land Office Resilient Communities Program grant was made by Council Member Brown. A second was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. With there being no further discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then announced that the next meeting of the City Council would be Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

ATTEST:


Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary




Randy Branch, Mayor