



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 8, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Meritta Kennedy
Lanie Brown

Jay Odom

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:

Gail Langton

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Jon Sherwin
David Roberts

Theresa Van Meter
Simmie Gibson

Mike Stelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Branch
Sandy Howard
Sonny Hubbard
Gerald Thomas
Benjamin Tannery
April Wilson

Gay Cormier
Crystal Bates
Cliff Grier
Sharon Thomas
Tyler Roberts
Richard Jones

Joey Cormier
Alan Bates
Rafael Garcia
Clayton Baker
Tremaine Wilson

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.

Public Comments

Mr. Sonny Hubbard of Live Oak Environmental Services introduced Mr. Cliff Grier, who is their new District Manager over Silsbee and Orange areas.

Mr. Hubbard also asked that he be put on the January, 2026 agenda to formally request a 3.8% rate increase. He added that there have been no increases in the past two years.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Council Meeting – A motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Council Meeting into record was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy, followed by a second from Council Member Brown. A vote was cast; motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

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

- **Construction Projects**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is on schedule. Slated to begin operations in April 2026
 - Dayton Street project is approximately 22% complete
- **Building Official**
 - 16 permits issued
 - 23 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 25 loads of green waste collected
- **Animal Control**

- 96 calls
- 7 intakes
- 2 adopted
- **Street**
 - Working on lights in the park
- **Parks**
 - Mowing & litter removal

Police Department – Mike Stelly

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

- Traffic contacts: 287
- Crashes reported: 10
- Arrests: 24
- Reports: 27
- Calls for service: 373
- Miles driven: 12,182

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 23

Violations filed w/Court: 5

Fire Department

Assistant Chief Gibson gave the following report for the WOVFD for the month of November, 2025:

- Grass fires: 1
- Medical assists: 4
- Dispatched and cancelled enroute: 3
- Rescue, EMS incidents: 1
- Motor vehicle accidents/fires: 1
- Service calls: 1
- False alarms: 2
- 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 made a motion that Mrs. Gradalyn Cormier's request to replat property located the corner of Western Avenue at Flint Street be approved. Council Member Shugart seconded her motion. With there being no questions, nor discussion, a vote was cast; motion carried.

Mrs. Cormier thanked Council for granting her request.

Discussion and Possible Action on a request from Rafael Garcia for a variance to Ordinance No. 304-B to continue operations of a food truck at 527 Hwy 87S – Council Member Brown made a motion that Mr. Rafael Garcia be granted his variance to continue operating a food truck at 527 Hwy 87S. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded her motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible action on a request from Alan & Crystal Bates for a variance to Ordinance No. 302-F, to allow them to live in their RV on-site while home repairs are being made at 1122 Albany Street – Council Member Odom made a motion to approve the request from Crystal and Alan Bates, allowing them to live in their RV on-site while repairs are done to their home at 1122 Albany. The issue of attaching a time limit to this approval was then discussed. Council Member Odom then rescinded his original motion and then moved that Crystal and Alan Bates be allowed to live in their RV on-site while repairs are done to their home at 1122 Albany for up to six months. This motion was seconded by Council Member Brown. Mr. Bates assured Council that if he sees the repairs will take longer than six months, he will follow the proper channels to have it extended. With there being no further discussion, the mayor called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the October 2024 - September, 2025 Annual Investment Report - Council Member Brown made a motion that the October 2024 - September, 2025 Annual Investment Report be accepted as presented. Her motion received a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance and approval of the 2025 Delinquent Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman - Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the 2025 Delinquent Tax Roll (totaling \$167,721.47) as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman be accepted and approved. Council Member Brown seconded her motion. A vote was then cast, with the motion passing.

Discussion and Possible Action on acceptance and approval of the 2025 Current Tax Roll as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman - Council Member Brown made a motion that the 2025 Current Tax Roll (totaling \$860,996.39) as submitted by Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman be accepted and approved. A second to this motion was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was then cast, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on amending the contract between the City of West Orange and Schaumburg & Polk (Grant 22-085-067-D324) – A motion to amend the contract between the City of West Orange and Schaumburg & Polk (Grant 22-085-067-D324) was made by Council Member Brown, followed by a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Council Member Brown then asked for an explanation of the amendment. Mr. Sherwin explained that the amendment will decrease the contracted payment amount to Schaumburg & Polk per State guidelines, which sets caps for engineering services within a grant. This particular contract will decrease by approximately \$7,900. With there being no further discussion, a vote was called with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on repealing Ordinance No. 425-C and adopting Ordinance No. 425-D, an ordinance regulating gaming machines within the City of West Orange – Council Member Odom made a motion that Ordinance No. 425-C be repealed and replaced with Ordinance No. 425-D, an ordinance regulating gaming machines within the City of West Orange. The motion received a second from Council Member Brown. Chief Stelly explained that there is one change to make before the document is approved. He pointed out that in item number 13, the word “police” (which shows up twice) needs to be replaced in both instances with “peace.”

Ms. Howard (sitting in for City Attorney Christopher Leavins), agreed, stating that it should be made as least restrictive as possible in order to receive less challenges. The WOPD will still have to approve anyone used for security.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then announced that the next meeting of the City Council would be Monday, January 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.


 Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

