



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch
Michael Shugart, Sr.

Meritta Kennedy
Lanie Brown

Jay Odom
Gail Langton

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Jon Sherwin
Christopher Leavins

Theresa Van Meter

Mike Stelly

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Branch
Gary Dearing
Gerald Thomas
Sonny Hubbard

Cathey Fleming
Kirk Roccaforte
April Wilson

Brent Dearing
Sharon Thomas
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.

Consent Agenda

Discussion and Possible Action on approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Council Meeting and the December 17, 2025 Special-Called Meeting - A motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Council Meeting and the December 17, 2025 Special-Called Meeting into record was made by Council Member Brown, followed by a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. A vote was cast; motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

In Mr. Sherwin reported the following activities for the month of December & Year-end, 2025:

- **Construction Projects**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is on schedule. Slated to begin operations in April 2026
 - Dayton Street reconstruction – soft spots identified during proof-rolling has slowed the forming process down
 - Generator project pre-construction meeting was held and generators ordered. Notice to Proceed will be issued when generators are procured.
- **Building Official**
 - 9 permits issued in December / 236 for the year
 - 10 permits completed / 308 for the year
- **Sanitation**
 - 11 loads of green waste collected
 - 0 loads of C&D to landfill
 - Truck has been down for a large portion of the month
- **Animal Control**
 - 89 calls in December / 861 for the year
 - 10 intakes in December / 122 for the year
 - 1 claimed in December / 19 for the year; 3 adopted in December / 42 for the year; 2 rescued in December / 43 for the year
 - No court filings in December / 7 filed during the year
- **Street**

- Preparing for Christmas
- Patching of Streets and driveways
- Cleaning ditches
- **Parks**
 - Mowing & litter removal
- **Shop**
 - Normal repairs and maintenance of City assets
 - Monthly 30-for-30 – all Police and Fire Vehicles in good working condition
 - FD-10 has been repaired and is in service

Council Member Brown asked if it would be possible to have Community Service Workers work off their fine by picking up litter throughout the City. Council Member Odom responded that the City would have to provide supervision for these workers and that manpower is just not available.

Mr. Sherwin then reported that, when inspecting Engine 10, Terrell Steiner (the City's Maintenance Mechanic) found an open circuit switch causing the electrical problems. This switch was replaced and the truck has been started up every workday morning since with no issues. He added that Engine 10 is in good working order.

Police Department – Mike Stelly

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

- Traffic contacts: 203
- Crashes reported: 7
- Arrests: 27
- Reports: 22
- Calls for service: 325
- Miles driven: 11,637

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 17
Violations filed w/Court: 0

Fire Department

In Assistant Chief Gibson's absence, Mrs. Van Meter gave the following report for the WOVPD for the month of December, 2025:

- Motor vehicle accidents w/injuries: 1
- Gas leak (natural): 1
- Electrical wiring/equipment problem: 1
- Public service assistance: 1
- Dispatched and cancelled enroute: 1

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on amending the contract between the City of West Orange and Gary R. Traylor & Associates (Grant 22-085-067-D324) – Council Member Brown made a motion that the contract between the City of West Orange and Gary R. Traylor & Associates (Grant 22-085-067-D324) be amended as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy seconded her motion. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on rate increase request from Live Oak Environmental – Mr. Hubbard addressed Council requesting a 3.8% rate increase for residential and commercial sanitation customers in the City. This would be a \$0.58 increase for residential customers having one cart.

Council Member Brown then moved that a rate increase of 3.8% be approved. Council Member Odom seconded her motion. Mrs. Van Meter asked for the effective date. Mr. Sherwin responded that, per contract, it would go into effect on October 1, 2026. Mr. Hubbard requested that it be retroactive as of October 1, 2025, but Mr. Sherwin responded that the City has to follow the language in the contract.

Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then announced the following meetings:

Resilient Communities Public Meeting – Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
Next City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

RK Branch

Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter

Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

