



City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council
Regular Session
Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8, 2026	5:00 p.m.	Council Chambers
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COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch	Meritta Kennedy	Gail Langton
Michael Shugart, Sr.		

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lanie Brown	Jay Odom
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APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Jon Sherwin	Mike Stelly	Theresa Van Meter
Christopher Leavins	David Roberts	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Yeny Avila	Sherry Shugart	Maureen McAllister
Tiana Smith	Jane Branch	Crystal Bates
Alan Bates	Sharon Thomas	Gerald Thomas
Tremaine Wilson, Sr.	Michael Corbett	

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 May 11, 2026 Council Meeting
- a Proclamation recognizing the United Way of Orange County

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy, followed by a second from Council Member Langton, to approve the May 11, 2026 minutes as well as the proclamation for the United Way of Orange County. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

The mayor then read aloud the proclamation recognizing the United Way of Orange County for achieving 100 years of service to this area. The proclamation was then presented to Ms. Maureen McAllister, present representing the organization.

Public Comments

Ms. Tiana Smith addressed Council and guests pertaining to services available to the City by Waste Management. She stressed their community support and participation, as well as the efficiency used in trash collection by the company.

Ms. McAllister then spoke to Council, formally thanking them for the proclamation recognizing the United Way of Orange County. She pointed out that this 100-year anniversary is not for the national organization...but is specific for the Orange County.

Staff Reports

Public Works – Jon Sherwin

Mr. Sherwin reported the following activities for the month of May, 2026:

- **Construction Projects**
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant construction is on schedule and should be online by the end of June, with the tertiary system by the end of the year.
 - Generator project – Generators have been installed, with a startup scheduled for the following week. Mayor Branch pointed out that these generators at the police and fire departments, as well as the one outside City Hall were purchased with grant funds. He added that he was very grateful for that, and for those employees working to obtain these grants.
- **Building Official**
 - 22 permits issued
 - 26 permits completed
- **Sanitation**
 - 15 loads of green waste collected
 - 2 loads of C&D to landfill
- **Animal Control**
 - 108 calls in May
 - 22 intakes in May
 - 2 claimed / 1 adopted / 16 rescued
- **Street**
 - Patching of Streets and driveways
 - Cleaning ditches
 - Gradall currently out of service.
- **Parks**
 - Litter and vegetative waste removal
 - Mowing
- **Shop**
 - Normal repairs and maintenance of City assets
 - Monthly 30-for-30 – all Police and Fire Vehicles in good working condition

Police Department – Michael Stelly

Mr. Stelly reported the following activities for the month of May, 2026

- Traffic contacts: 177
- Crashes reported: 5
- Arrests: 28
- Reports: 36
- Calls for service: 339
- Miles driven: 11,660

Code Enforcement

Violations Investigated: 34

Violations filed w/Court: 8

Chief Stelly also reported that he had attended an evacuation meeting, and informed those present that West Orange's evacuation route will stay Hwy 87 north.

He then announced that the City's new telephone system has been installed with no down time to employees.

Fire Department – David Roberts

Fire Chief Roberts reported the following activities for the month of May, 2026

- Trash fire: 1
- Outside fire: 1
- EMS call: 1
- Vehicle fire: 1
- Gas leaks: 1
- Service call: 2
- Person in distress: 1
- Cancelled in route: 2
- Alarm malfunction: 5

Regular Session

Discussion and Possible Action on a request submitted by Yeny Avila for a variance to Ordinance No. 304-B to allow a food truck on Western Avenue – Council Member Shugart

made a motion that Ms. Avila's request be denied. This motion received a second from Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. Ms. Avila distributed copies of plans for placement of this truck on the slab at the corner of Western Avenue and Quincy Street. She then addressed Council, describing their tentative plans for the food truck. She stated that they have looked at an 8' X 20" truck.

Council Member Shugart and Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy reported that they had both spoken with Council Member Brown (who owns this property) who told them that she and her husband have reservations about the truck, as there would need to be a significant amount of work done to the site before it could open there (water, sewer, etc.). Council Member Shugart suggested that Ms. Avila come back to Council with her request if/when this work is completed. It was also suggested that she look at setting up at the Exxon station. Council has already approved the area for three food trucks, and only one is there at this time.

Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the motion. The motion to deny the variance request passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on extending variance to Ordinance No. 302-F issued to Alan and Crystal Bates on December 8, 2025 – Council Member Shugart moved that the Bates be granted an additional six months to their variance. Council Member Langton seconded his motion. Mr. Bates explained that the house is in much worse condition than they originally realized. He and his wife are now discussing placing a modular or tiny home on the property (after the house is demolished). Mayor Branch stated that Mr. Corbett has inspected the structure and, in his opinion, it is not repairable. After a bit more discussion regarding the condition of the house, and the fact that the Bates do not own the property, Council Member Shugart amended his original motion to approve a one-month variance, rather than six months. The Bates were asked to come back at that time with plans for the property. Mr. Woods, property owner, should be responsible for tearing it down. Council Member Langton then amended her second to the original motion to grant the variance for one month, rather than six. Mayor Branch then called for a vote on the amended motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on a request from Travis Rost for a variance to Ordinance No. 205-A, to allow for an outdoor public burn – Mr. Rost's request for a variance which would allow him to have an outdoor public burn was denied by unanimous vote after a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy, with a second from Council Member Shugart. Mr. Rost was not present to address the issue.

Discussion and Possible Action on reviewing and approving the City of West Orange's Investment Policy - Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the City's Investment Policy be renewed as presented with no changes. Council Member Shugart seconded this motion. Mayor Branch pointed out that there were no recommended amendments to the policy approved last year. He then called for a vote, with the motion passing unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on approving a contract for Disaster Recovery Services, per the Committee's recommendation, and awarding a primary and secondary vendor pursuant to the Orange County award of RFP 26001, further allowing the Chief of Police to execute - Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the contract for Disaster Recovery Services, awarding a primary and secondary vendor pursuant to the Orange County award of RFP 26001, and allowing the Chief of Police to execute said documents be approved as presented. A second to this motion was made by Council Member Shugart. Chief Stelly explained that the City would be going in with the County on their contract for said services. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on approving a contract for Disaster Monitoring Services, per the Committee's recommendation, and awarding a primary and secondary vendor pursuant to the Orange County's award of RFP 26002, further allowing the Chief of Police to execute - Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the contract for Disaster Monitoring Services, awarding a primary and secondary vendor pursuant to the Orange County award of RFP 26001, and allowing the Chief of Police to execute said documents be approved as presented. A second to this motion was made by Council Member Langton. Chief Stelly stated that the City would be going in with the County on their contract for these services, as well. A vote was cast; motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution allowing the Chief of Police to execute disaster-related contracts – A motion to pass a resolution authorizing the Chief of Police to execute disaster-related contracts was made by Council Member Shugart, with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy. With there being no discussion, Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on renewal of Employee health, vision and dental benefits through TX Health Benefits Pool – Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy made a motion that the City of West Orange enter into an Interlocal Agreement for healthcare benefits with Texas Health Benefits for the 2026-2027 plan year with the increased out-of-pocket coverage of \$5,000. Council Member Langton seconded this motion. Mayor Branch called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Branch then announced that the next Council Meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 13, 2026; 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With there being no further business before Council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.



Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:



Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

