City of West Orange

City Hall
2700 Western Avenue
West Orange, TX 77630

City Council
Tax Rate Hearing

Thursday, September 10, 2026 | 5:18 p.m. | Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Branch	Meritta Kennedy	Jay Odom
Michael Shugart, Sr.	Lanie Brown	Gail Langton

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Jon Sherwin	Mike Stelly	Theresa Van Meter
Simmie Gibson		

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Branch	Marvin Burke Weems	Richard Bland
Tiffany Elmore		

Call to Order

Mayor Branch called the hearing to order at 5:18 p.m., announcing that a quorum was present.

Hearing

Mayor Branch explained that the purpose of this hearing was to provide time to receive and discuss citizen's input regarding the proposed property tax rate for the City of West Orange for Tax Year 2026. The proposed rate is $0.424515 per $100 assessed value.

Council Member Brown stated that, in an effort to better understand how property taxes are computed, she visited with the County Tax Assessor-Collector, who helped her understand the different terminology used in this process and how property value fluctuations affect tax rates. She added that when property values go up, the tax rate goes down and when the property values go down, the tax rate goes up. She added that she now has a much better understanding of the issue and encouraged everyone to visit with the Tax Assessor-Collector to be able to understand the process better.

Mayor Branch asked if there was any further discussion on the proposed tax rate. With there being none, he then announced that this rate will go before the City Council for a vote at the Monday, September 14, 2026 meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kennedy then congratulated Council Member Brown on being honored with the "Distinguished Woman of Southeast Texas Award."

Asst. Fire Chief Gibson stated that the fire department would be hosting a link sale the following Saturday in front of Walmart, with proceeds going toward medical expenses for firefighter Clayton Baker, who was injured in a freak accident. The sale will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Mayor Branch adjourned the hearing at 5:24 p.m.

R R Branch
Randy Branch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Van Meter
Theresa Van Meter, City Secretary

CITY OF WEST ORANGE Corporate SEAL ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS