

**STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF ORANGE }**

January 27, 2026

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT a Regular Meeting of the Orange City Council of the City of Orange, Orange County, Texas, was held in the City Council Chambers (Orange Public Library Auditorium) on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Larry Spears Jr. Brad Childs Matt Chandler Terrie T. Salter Mary McKenna George Mortimer Paul Burch	Mayor Mayor Pro-Tem Council Member Council Member Council Member Council Member Council Member
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:	None	
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:	Michael Kunst Jay Trahan	City Manager Assistant City Manager, Director of Economic Development
	Patricia Anderson Jennifer Pool Cheryl Zeto Lane Martin John Bilbo Kelvin Knauf	City Secretary Deputy City Secretary Director of Finance Chief of Police Fire Chief Director of Planning and Community Development
	Adam Jack Brenna Manasco Divon Williams	Director of Public Works Library Director Deputy Director of CVB/Assistant to the City Manager
	Alison Clary	Communication and Marketing Coordinator
	Kristen Ross	Visitor Services and Events Manager
	Marvin Benoit Mike Zeto Chris Arnold Kate Leverett	Building Official CIS Manager Police Baliff City Attorney
STAFF MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jake Travis	I T Technician

Mayor Spears called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member McKenna led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION FINDING THAT THE ADVANCE POSTING AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 8.1200 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ORANGE, TEXAS HAVE BEEN MET IN RELATION TO ALL MINUTES AND PENDING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS ON THIS AGENDA AND THAT THE READING OF SUCH ITEMS BE CONFINED TO THE CAPTIONS AS ARE AGREED UPON BY THE ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Council Member Chandler moved to approve the motion. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Burch which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Grant Gaspard, 4300 Lincoln Avenue, Nederland, Texas, with Old West Smoke Company advised they are excited to bring the 4th Annual Craft BBQ Festival to Orange on March 7th from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Riverside Pavilion.

Jeremy Reeves, Elite Fishing Series, advised this will be a nationally televised fishing tournament at the City Boat Ramp, September 10th through the 12th. He advised he is asking for City support for the event.

CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Clary invited everyone to "Mardi Gras on the Sabine", Saturday, February 7th. She advised of the following schedule of events:

- * 2:00 pm: Gates Open
- * 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Kid Activities
- * 2:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Food Vendors, Free State Cellars Winery, and Beer Booth
- * 3:00 pm: Second Line March with the Krewe de Kids Parade
- * 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Big Fun Brass Band
- * 6:00 pm: Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce Krewe of Krewes Parade
Live Entertainment following the Krewe of Krewes Parade
- * 7:00 pm: Opener – The Four Horses
- * 8:30 pm: Headliner – Wayne Toups

Mayor Spears advised he would like to commend the CVB Staff for their hard work on this event.

PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION BY OCTAVIA GUZMAN, ORANGE COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR, REGARDING PROPERTY TAX RATES.

Ms. Guzman gave a presentation regarding property tax rates, "Truth-In-Taxation." A copy of this presentation is included in and being made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Childs asked if the slides could be emailed to Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

DECEMBER 9, 2025 ORANGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2026 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Pro-Tem Childs moved to approve the foregoing two items on the Consent Agenda in one motion. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Chandler which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

ORDINANCES**FIRST READING:**

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER ENERGY SERVICE AREA CITIES IN MATTERS CONCERNING ENERGY TEXAS, INC. AT THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS IN 2026; AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF LAWYERS AND RATE EXPERTS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION TO THE FULL EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW AT THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS; FINDING THAT THE MEETING COMPLIES WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Mortimer moved to approve the ordinance. Second to the motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Childs which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION ORDERING A GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A COUNCIL MEMBER FOR PLACE 3 (SINGLEMEMBER DISTRICT 3) AND A COUNCIL MEMBER FOR PLACE 6 (ATLARGE); PROVIDING FOR THE DATE, HOURS, BALLOT, EARLY VOTING CLERK AND NOTICE OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR POLLING PLACES AND JUDGES; PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE CITY ELECTION; ORDERING A RUN-OFF ELECTION, IF NECESSARY, TO BE HELD ON JUNE 13, 2026; AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

UNA RESOLUCIÓN QUE ORDENE UNA ELECCIÓN GENERAL CON EL FIN DE ELEGIR A UN CONCEJAL PARA EL LUGAR 3 (DISTRITO DE UN SOLO MIEMBRO 3) Y UN CONSEJAL PARA EL LUGAR 6 (EN GENERAL); DISPONGA LA FECHA, EL HORARIO, LA BOLETA, EL SECRETARIO DE VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA Y UN AVISO DE ELECCIÓN; DISPONGA LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN Y JUECES; DISPONGA OTROS ASUNTOS RELACIONADOS CON LAS ELECCIONES DE LA CIUDAD; ORDENE UNA ELECCIÓN DE DESEMPEATE, SI FUERE NECESARIO, PARA REALIZARSE EL 13 DE JUNIO DE 2026; Y DETERMINA QUE LA REUNIÓN EN LA QUE SE APRUEBA ESTA RESOLUCIÓN ESTÁ ABIERTA AL PÚBLICO SEGÚN LO REQUIERAN LAS LEYES.

Council Member Burch moved to approve the resolution. Second to the motion was made by Council Member McKenna which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

A copy of this resolution is being made a part of these minutes as Resolution Number 2026-03.

RESOLUTION ENTERING INTO A JOINT ELECTION AGREEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE ELECTION SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF ORANGE.

Council Member Mortimer moved to approve the resolution. Second to the motion was made by Council Member McKenna which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

A copy of this resolution is being made a part of these minutes as Resolution Number 2026-04.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

MOTION TO APPROVE A PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH PRO WATERCROSS TO HOST A JET SKI RACING EVENT AT THE CITY BOAT RAMP, MARCH 6-8, 2026, AT A FEE OF \$26,500 IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND THE HOTEL INDUSTRY.

Council Member Burch moved to approve the motion. Second to the motion was made by Council Member McKenna which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

MOTION TO APPROVE A SPECIAL EVENT AGREEMENT WITH DEEP SOUTH RACING ASSOCIATION (DSRA) TO HOST A DRAG BOAT RACES EVENT AT THE CITY BOAT RAMP THE WEEKEND OF MAY 16-17, 2026, AT A FEE OF \$16,000, IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND THE HOTEL INDUSTRY.

Ms. Williams introduced Randy Wheat with DSRA. Mr Wheat advised he is the President of DSRA. He gave a brief review of the event; advised they are looking forward to hosting the event; and appreciates all the support the City of Orange has given DSRA.

Council Member Chandler moved to approve the motion. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Salter which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

MOTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH ELITE FISHING SERIES TO HOST A NATIONALLY TELEVISED FISHING TOURNAMENT AT THE CITY BOAT RAMP, SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2026, AT A FEE OF \$19,865, IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND THE HOTEL INDUSTRY.

Mayor Pro-Tem Childs moved to approve the motion. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Mortimer which carried with the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AYE: Mayor Spears, Mayor Pro-Tem Childs, Council Member Chandler, Council Member Salter, Council Member McKenna, Council Member Mortimer and Council Member Burch

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING NO: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Kunst advised he will be out of the office, Wednesday January 28th through Friday, January 30th attending a conference in Austin. He advised the slides from Ms. Guzman's presentation will be emailed to the Council.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Council Member McKenna thanked all the City staff who helped during the cold weather.

Mayor Pro-Tem Childs also thanked all the City staff who helped during the cold weather. He advised the Mardi Gras Ball this past weekend was great and is looking forward to the parade. He advised he would like more information regarding the ditch by IH-10.

Council Member Mortimer thanked Mr. Kunst for bringing in Scott Overton, Chief Appraiser of the Orange County Appraisal District and Octavia Guzman, Orange County Tax Assessor-Collector to discuss appraisals and tax rates. He advised he is looking forward to having workshops on the budget.

Council Member Chandler thanked Animal Control for a great job.

Council Member Salter congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Childs for receiving an award along with everyone else who received an award.

Mayor Spears thanked Ms. Guzman for her presentation; advised the NAACP March was a great event; and the Mardi Gras Ball was fun.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. a) Deliberation with City Attorney pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code:

- (1) Deliberation regarding real estate development project proposal as authorized by Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code - Project Northwest update.
- (2) Deliberation regarding real estate development project proposal as authorized by Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code - Project Capstone update.

The Council met in a closed executive session at 6:28 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Council reconvened in open session at 6:58 p.m.

TAKE ACTION AS NECESSARY REGARDING ITEMS 12 a (1) and 12 a (2).

No Action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Chandler moved to adjourn the meeting. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Burch, which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Larry Spears Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia Anderson, City Secretary