

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF JUNE 24, 2003
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Mark McGrath at Meadows Place City Hall, One Troyan Drive, Meadows Place, Texas, with notice of said meeting giving the time, place, date and subject thereof having been posted as prescribed by Article 6252-17, V.T.A.C.S. with the following members present and in attendance:

Mayor:	Mark McGrath
Aldermen:	Terry Henley Charles Jessup Joe McCann David Piwonka Leen Zellers

thus constituting a quorum.

Mayor McGrath called for departmental reports. Police Chief Mike Pickett noted that in the last month there were three accidents in the city with no injuries, no fatalities and approximately \$7,700 in damages. His department completed 17 bookings, issued 227 citations and 19 warnings and concluded 61 incident reports. There were several drug related arrests for marijuana, cough syrup and zanax. There was a burglary in the 11800 block of Meadow Crest where the homeowners were held at gunpoint. An open garage door provided access to the perpetrator who was eventually arrested. Several arrests for public intoxication were made at the Denny's restaurant which seems a popular place to go in the early morning hours. The department is working on preparing grants for homeland security funds and a bullet proof vest reimbursement program. Two new officers have been hired to replace the two leaving officers. Both new officers are graduates of the University of Houston Police Academy, one male and one female. Alderman Jessup said he was encouraged in the manner that Chief Pickett and Mayor McGrath were staying on top of maintaining the police staffing level.

Public Works/Public Utilities Director Dan McGraw noted 17.323 million gallons of water was pumped during the month of April. Forty-three water related service calls and five sewer related service calls were made during the month of May. The public works department installed 26 new sign posts, 16 new signs (including stop, school zone, speed limit and no parking signs) and raised 12 existing post to the seven foot height requirement. Point repairs have been made at the West Airport and Kirkwood intersection and Mulholland street repairs are nearing completion.

Parks and Recreation Co-Director Terry Modeland gave an up date on the 4th of July parade and the Community Center construction. She said the swim team held their fourth competition of the season – their first at Meadows Place pool on Monday. The event went fairly smooth with only a slight problem lacking bathroom doors and partitions. Lifeguards were stationed to help with the problem. It is expected the work will be completed within the next two weeks. The contract calls for a completion date by July 3rd. The pool will be closed next Tuesday for parking lot work. Mayor McGrath commended Stonewall for getting so much work done and the area cleaned up for the swim meet. Alderman Jessup commended the parks directors noting they did a great job staying on top of the situation and making sure the work got done. Mrs. Modeland noted the July 4th parade would begin next Friday at 10:00 a.m. Past resident Bob Stolting has promised the traditional "fly-by" would take place. His co-pilot will be his son-in-law, a current Meadows Place resident who has also been serving in the Air Force for the past 6 ½ years. Parade Marshal will be resident Joel Klasen, currently serving in the Air Force in Germany. He is being flown back to the states to take part in this parade. Fifteen members of his family will join him. Within the parade will be a puppet parade, a ten piece bag pipe alumni band from St. Thomas Episcopal School and a four member ROTC color guard from Hightower School. Members of Meadows Place open boys swim team will sing the National Anthem. Boy Scouts will put out flags along the parade route that morning. Mrs. Modeland then noted flyers about the upcoming golf tournament were ready and had been underwritten by Pamela Printing.

During audience comments, resident Sandra Cradit said she appreciated the active response the city gave in fixing the sidewalk where she tripped and injured herself. She asked if the city was remaining true to its promise to keep its police officer salaries competitive with surrounding cities, what the rules were on officers using city issued vehicles for personal reasons, including carrying family members, and if police officers were told to issue certain numbers of citations. Mrs. Cradit also asked when the ordinance limiting the number of animals was passed and why residents cannot get a response for the City Attorney when they call him. Mayor McGrath said Council has just completed a workshop on police officer salaries and agreed on keeping the salaries competitive with other cities our size. Surrounding cities are larger and we cannot compete financially with them but we can expand other benefits such as retirement and vacation. There is much movement in the force because of the fierce competition in the area. Regarding city vehicles, IRS rules limit how city owned vehicles can be privately used. And he is not aware of family members being transported in them but will check into the issue. There is no quota on traffic citations issued or fines collected. Also Mayor McGrath said the ordinance limiting the number of four legged animals to four per household was passed two weeks ago and the City Attorney does not work for the public but for the benefit of the city staff.

During Mayor's Comments, Mayor McGrath said Meadows Place Senior Village developers have received a favorable recommendation for tax credits from the Texas Department of Community Affairs. He also said he attended a workshop held by county commissioners regarding road and bridge affairs in the county since we have a county highway (West Airport Boulevard) in our city. He believes the county needs to pay for the maintenance of this road which will soon be opened from county road 1464 to US Highway 59. Mayor McGrath noted the uniform election date for Texas cities has been changed from the 1st Saturday in May to the 3rd Saturday.

During council comments, Alderman Henley said he had spent about an hour with Commissioner Andy Meyers who said he was committed to putting funds for repairs to West Airport in the county's budget. Also, he said City Council is concerned with police salaries and will make adjustments to them if necessary.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2002-19, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FISCAL 2002-2003 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED.

This ordinance will amend the budget by increasing the amount authorized for police vehicles to \$45,000, allowing us to take advantage of a 10% savings on the purchase of two new vehicles. It will also increase the line item for Capital Improvements in the Park budget by \$260,000 to pay for the cost of the Community Center renovations and increase from \$0.00 to \$60,000 the amount budgeted for entrance signs, an amount that was in previous budgets but not spent until this year. The total increase in expenses amounts to \$365,000. We currently have \$2.7 million in reserves, amounting to about eleven months of operating costs. Passing this amendment will still allow for nine months of operating costs being held in reserve, which is more than adequate. The expenses are all being used for capital improvements and not operating expenses. Alderman Piwonka reminded everyone the entrance signs had been discussed for four or five years and budgeted for last year. Community Center repairs have been needed for some time. Alderman Zellers made a motion to approve the ordinance, numbered **2003-20**, amending the 2002 -2003 fiscal year budget as discussed. Alderman Henley seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Expenses to Claunch & Miller, consulting engineers for the city for \$29,313.89, Insituform Technologies for \$422,783.82 for sanitary sewer repairs (paid for from bond proceeds,) Southern Customs, Inc. for \$19,740.33 for street repair work (also paid for from bond proceeds) and Stonewall Constructors' for Community Center renovations for \$67,660.81 were presented to council for

ratification. Alderman McCann made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jessup, to ratify the expenditures as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills to 3D Communications for video cameras for our police cars totaling \$5,229.00 and to Claunch & Miller, Inc. for May consulting work for \$7,526.26 were presented to council for approval. Alderman Piwonka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Henley to pay the two bills for payment as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

During audience comments, resident Sandra Cradit asked if the ordinance limiting animals was passed at a public meeting. She believes four is too small a number and asked how the ordinance would be enforced. Mayor McGrath noted the meeting was properly posted and public. Council was not in unanimous agreement on the number four and he promised city employees would not go knocking on doors to enforce the ordinance. Resident Mike Merlin asked if police and code enforcement reports could be published on the city's web site or in the newsletter. He was reminded he could come to the city to get this information. Another resident asked how many patrol vehicles the city owned and he was told we have six full time patrol cars.

There being no further business to consider, Alderman Zellers made a motion, seconded by Alderman McCann to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary