

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 25, 2003
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:30 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
Leen Zellers

and the following absent

Alderman: David Piwonka

thus constituting a quorum.

Police Chief Mike Pickett gave the police report. He said there were 918 total calls during the past month. There were seven accidents – three of which occurred on the Southwest Freeway feeder road. There were no injuries and about \$6,300 in damages. Seven people were booked, 441 citations and 122 warnings were issued. Officer Nix completed his motorcycle training last Friday and should be on the street within two to three weeks – as soon as his customized uniform arrives.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw was not able to attend this meeting. Mayor McGrath noted Mr. McGraw reported that ECO Resources received 81 water related and 21 sewer related calls during the past month. Due to the tornado, 770 cubic yards of debris were removed from the city to date. Mayor McGrath thanked the men in the Public Works department for the extra time they put in during this emergency. He also thanked the Fort Bend County Road & Bridge crew and the City of Stafford's emergency employees for their help.

Parks and Recreation Co-Director Terry Modeland gave a report on progress to date for applying for grant number two with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. She and Co-Director Monya Keenen met in Austin with Elaine Dill from the TP&W staff who offered suggestions on revising projects and making changes in the grant application. Mrs. Modeland is confident that using the census figures from surrounding cities will help as use by those citizens can be justified. The new grant request will include some pool decking projects. She plans to meet with a representative of the swim team tomorrow and with the rest of the Board on Monday requesting their financial commitment. Mrs. Modeland said no contract have been let yet on projects approved by the first grant. We are still on target for lighting the baseball field by March.

Mrs. Keenen reported on the upcoming Christmas Memories in the Park, scheduled for Friday, December 12th from 6 to 9 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring items for the Fort Bend Food Pantry when they come. Tee shirts will be sold for the first time. Santa is scheduled to arrive at 7:00 p.m. There will be hayrides – pulled by horses and a tractor. Volunteers for the event are still needed.

There were no comments from the audience.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath noted that next month's regular council meeting would be held on December 16th, the third Tuesday, due to the Christmas holidays.

Mayor McGrath gave an update on the November 17th tornado. He said it touched down in the city about noon at the West Airport/Dairy Ashford intersection and continued on a northeasterly path to Monticeto near Amblewood. There was much damage to resident's roofs. One home was totally destroyed and its roof flew totally off and landed in the sewer plant taking an electrical line with it. The sewer treatment plant suffered major damage and an electrical panel was exposed. All police officers were called upon to direct traffic. They were assisted by the Stafford P.D. Public Works employees spent the afternoon in the soaking rain pulling debris out of storm drains so they could flow smoothly and avoid flooding. The Stafford Fire Department checked the area for possible injured residents. About ten children at the day care center on West Airport at Dairy Ashford were injured by flying glass. The Ft. Bend County Road & Bridge Department arrived that afternoon, as soon as the rain stopped. City Hall staff were kept busy trying to answer questions of anxious residents who were not at home. Eco Resources helped with the sewer plant operations. Mayor McGrath said he has requested the Governor to declare the city a disaster area, along with other areas in Wharton, Fort Bend and Harris counties which were also severely affected.

During Council comments, Councilmember Zellers noted the city has had a busy couple of months. She wanted to thank all the staff personally for their efforts. She encouraged the Mayor to commend the other entity employees to the County Judge and Mayor of Stafford.

Councilmember Henley noted he had a busy week. It was his honor and privilege to be installed as president of the Texas Municipal League on Friday, November 21st. During that conference, Governor Rick Perry made an appearance promoting his "Texas Round Up – Fit to be a Texan" program to reduce citizen medical costs by being in good shape. Our Parks Directors were challenged to run the program in our city so we can be named among the fittest cities in Texas on April 17th in Austin.

Councilmember Jessup congratulated Mr. Henley noting this was quite an honor for him and our city. Mr. Jessup noted that Fort Bend ISD employees also helped in the tornado cleanup and he agreed that Dan McGraw and his crew deserved every bit of praise we could give them. He noted that the tornado cleanup was facilitated by the fact that Meadows Place folks know how to help and take care of themselves.

Mayor McGrath then presented the consent agenda to council for their approval. The items included approval of minutes of the October 28 workshop and regular meetings, appointing Doug Schroeder a regular member and Ken Blankenship an alternate member of the Board of Adjustment for two years, presentation of the city's investment portfolio, authorizing the Mayor and the City Secretary to execute Change Order Number One to the Paving Improvements Project with Southern Customs, Inc., authorizing employee Updated Services Credits with the Texas Municipal Retirement System and ratification of expenditures in the amounts of \$5,605.20 to Knudsen & Associates and \$6,330.07 to Ross, Banks, May, Cron & Cavin, P.C. Councilperson Zellers made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda as listed. Councilmember Henley seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The appointments to the Board of Adjustment is ordinance number **2003-37**. The contract change order with Southern Customs, Inc. is ordinance number **2003-38**. The TMRS Updated Service Credits is ordinance number **2003-39**.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FIRST SOUTHWEST COMPANY TO ACT AS THE CITY'S FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

Mayor McGrath explained the city is in the beginning stages of planning another bond issue to repair streets and bird baths not yet fixed. We have \$1,250,000 in voter authorized bonds that can be sold. We hope to do this in about 15 months. First Southwest Company works with many municipalities and surrounding cities and with Fort Bend County. Mayor McGrath introduced Joe Morrow, Vice President with the company. Mr. Morrow said his firm was established in 1946. They focus on Texas and Texas municipalities. They are a full service firm dealing with full disclosure and arbitrage issues. They help with financial and debt planning. They only get paid with the city sells their bonds. They are familiar with TIRS and TIRZ contracts. Councilmember McCann made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2003-40**, authorizing the Mayor and City Secretary to enter into a contract with First Southwest Company to act as the city's financial advisor. Councilmember Jessup seconded this motion which carried unanimously. Mayor McGrath said the city was still in need of a Bond Counsel and he will have a contract with McDonald & Seachrist for Council to consider at their December meeting.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEADOWS PLACE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE SMALL COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM.

This public hearing is a requirement of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department when awarding their grants so that they know the citizen affected by the grant have an opportunity to address the pros and cons of going out for the grant. This will be the second grant requested from the TP&WD. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2003-41**, calling the public hearing for Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., as presented. Councilmember McCann seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.

During audience comments, Jim Donahue noted that the free newspapers were becoming an eyesore in the neighborhood with they were not timely picked up. He asked if we could encourage residents in our newsletter to pick up these papers.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Zellers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary