

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF MARCH 28, 2006
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:37 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 Rick Staigle

thus constituting a quorum.

Captain Jack Ashton reported on police activity since the last regular council meeting. He said there were three reportable accidents, 14 arrests, 1018 calls for service, six city ordinance citations, 519 traffic citations, 61 offense reports, 40 city ordinance warnings and 104 traffic warnings issued. Captain Ashton said that there was a suicide at Meadows Place Senior Village, four motor vehicles broken into at various businesses and three motor vehicles broken into at various residences in the city. During this reportable time, 11 residential alarms were answered, 234 business checks, 197 close patrols and 206 house watches were performed. During some of the traffic stops made, controlled substances and illegal fire arms were discovered. Also, some of the youth that were caught doing criminal mischief at the park during the Christmas break were caught and are being prosecuted.

In the Public Works Department, there were 119 water related service calls for the month of February. 110 were city related and nine were on private lines. There were two sewer related service calls during the same period. All were on private lines. The Public Works Department has been replacing irrigation valves in the big park and will be laying electrical conduit for the new marquee at the Community Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department was proud to accept a platinum (the highest) award on behalf of the aquatic staff at the Community Pool for 2005 presented by Jeff Ellis & Associates. They are in the process of selecting Life Guards for the 2006 season. The new marquee for the Community Center is on order and the new T-Ball field is being built.

There were no audience comments at this time.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath noted he has called a workshop session for Council for Tuesday, April 11th to begin at 6:00 p.m. at which time a marketing plan for the city will be discussed with Encore Communications. The Economic Development Corporation has already met to hold this discussion and were very impressed with the ideas of the presenters and are recommending the plan to City Council. One of their suggestions is to conduct a poll of residents asking such things as what they like about our city, why they live here, why they stay here, etc. and to offer an incentive of some sort to encouragement to complete the survey.

Mayor McGrath also said that the cities of Manville and Alvin have recently passed sex offender ordinances which make it an offense for sex offenders to live within a certain distance of where kids hang out. We will look into their ordinances and see if they might work here.

During Council comments, Councilmember Henley, as Chairman of the EDC, attended the original presentation from Encore Communications. He said that after

the survey is complete a marketing campaign will be added. It was also suggested that some historical facts about the community be added to the "Did You Know" column of the Newsletter. Or, perhaps, a "Then and Now" column could be added. This public relations campaign will be an on going project of the city. Councilmember Henley also reported that he recently attended a National League of Cities meeting in Washington, D.C. While there he met with both Senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchinson. He learned that Congress is listening to cities on subjects such as franchise fees and eminent domain problems. Councilmember Henley also noted that there would be a special Legislative Session called the end of April in Austin during which the subject of school finance will be discussed. He hopes that tax reform in the form of appraisal/revenue caps will not be addressed due to the fact that studies indicate property values are depressed by revenue caps. Councilmember Jessup said the key words in this matter are "get educated." It is important for people to be aware of what would happen in any given situation concerning tax reforms. He encouraged everyone to get involved, noting that school board elections will be held on May 13th and that 60% of our tax dollars currently go to schools. Councilmember Staigle said he tells his friends, when they complain about high taxes, to get involved by going to meetings of local agencies, especially during budget sessions and telling the elected officials what programs they should cut when they request a cut tax rates.

Councilmember Jessup then made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2006, workshop meeting, February 28, 2006, public hearing and February 28, 2006, regular meetings. Councilmember McCann seconded this motion which carried unanimous approval.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, ENTITLED, "MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES," ARTICLE I, ENTITLED "IN GENERAL," BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 20-25, ENTITLED "JUVENILE CURFEW."

A public hearing was held on Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m. Comments made were mostly favorable. The curfew would apply to children under the age of 17 and would be in effect at 11:00 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and at midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. Councilmember McCann made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Piwonka to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2006-06**, as presented. A short discussion followed in which Mayor McGrath noted that the ordinance would be in effect for three years after which time it would automatically rescinded unless another public hearing is held and the ordinance is renewed by Council. This is a requirement of State statute. Councilmember Jessup said the ordinance still troubles him. He has done a lot of research and is convinced that our Police Department will effectively use it. Mayor McGrath called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Councilmembers Henley, McCann, Piwonka and Staigle voting "aye" and Councilmember Jessup voting "nay."

Council then received a Certification of Unopposed Candidates from the City Secretary which verified that only one candidate has filed for each open place on the May 13, 2006 ballot as follows: for Mayor – Mark McGrath; for Alderman Place No. 1 – Charles Jessup; for Alderman Place No. 2 – Charles Kulhanek; for Alderman Place No. 3 – David Wilkens. Councilmember Piwonka made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to accept the Certification of Unopposed Candidates as received from the City Secretary.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2.053 OF THE TEXAS ELECTION CODE DECLARING THE CANDIDATES NAMED HEREIN ELECTED FOR THE OFFICES STATED AS UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES.

Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann, to declare the following candidates as having been elected: Mark McGrath, Mayor; Charles Jessup, Alderman Place No. 1; Charles Kulhanek; Alderman Place No. 2 and David Wilkens, Alderman Place No.3; and adopt the ordinance, **No. 2006-07**, thereby canceling the May 13, 2006 City of Meadows Place General Election. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FORT BEND COUNTY MULTI-HAZARD DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN, AUTHORIZING THE FORT BEND COUNTY JUDGE TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE FORT BEND COUNTY DEBRIS MANAGEMENT TEAM AND AGREEING TO TAKE SUCH OTHER OFFICIAL ACTION AS MAY BE REASONABLY NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MULTI-HAZARD DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Hurricane season is fast approaching. We have witnessed the help that the county can provide when a tornado passed through the city a few years ago. This resolution solidifies the relationship between the County and our City. We will also help other entities when help is needed whenever possible. Councilmember Staigle made a motion to adopt the resolution, **No. 2006-01**, as presented. Councilmember Jessup seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilmember Staigle then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Piwonka, to ratify expenditures totaling \$355,279.97 as presented on the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

During audience comments resident Marti Pattinson, a member of the Texas Real Estate PAC invited everyone to travel to Austin on April 17th to encourage our Legislatures at the State Capital not to impose appraisal caps on properties. Councilmember Henley added that the economic impact of appraisal caps in Texas could reach \$22 billion in 20 years. Appraisal caps in Colorado have already resulted in the loss of 68,000 jobs in that one state alone.

Councilmember Staigle thanked Councilmembers Piwonka and McCann for their many years of service to the city as City Council members.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember McCann made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Piwonka, to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary