

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2006
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:34 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 Kulhanek Charles Jessup Rick Staigle David Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum.

Captain Jack Ashton gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting. He said there were six reportable accidents, 23 arrests, 1768 calls for service, one city ordinance violation citation issued and 687 traffic citations issued. Twenty-nine city ordinance violation warnings and 139 traffic warnings were also issued during this time frame. Twelve of the 23 arrests were for Meadows Place charges, the others were for other agencies. Seven of the arrests involved narcotics. This month saw high activity levels. Seventeen residential alarms and six business alarms were responded to. There were five burglaries of motor vehicles. Police also made 426 business checks, 97 close residence patrols and 568 house watch checks during this time period. Captain Ashton expanded on the nature of several of the arrests. He also noted that the tennis courts are now open and the visibility is good due to the fact that there are tennis screens only along two sides of the courts. Visibility is also good around the community center due to the new fencing.

There were no audience comments at this time.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath noted that the West Nile virus was found in a mosquito trap in our city about six weeks ago. Since then our Public Works Department has hung a larvicide "donut" in every storm drain in the city and we are spraying at least twice every week. Once two negative test results are received, we will cut back on the spraying.

During Council comments, Councilmember Jessup said he was proud of the way the city jumped on the West Nile problem by putting information on our web site as soon as we received it.

Mayor McGrath then asked if council wanted to remove any of the items from the consent agenda for further discussion. Since there were no requests, Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to approve the consent agenda items as presented. They are as follows:

1. Agenda item #6: Approval of minutes of August 22, 2006, workshop and regular meetings, September 12, 2006 special and public hearing meetings; and September 19, 2006 workshop, public hearing and special meetings.
2. Agenda item #7: A proclamation from the Mayor naming September 29, 2006 as Fort Bend County Fair Day in Meadows Place, Texas.
3. A resolution (numbered **2006-03**) consenting to change of control of cable television from Time Warner to Comcast.

4. Agenda item #15: Ratification of expenditures totaling \$173,394.36.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE AND OFFICIAL ALTERNATE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2007.

In past years, Councilmember Terry Henley as served as our representative and Councilmember Piwonka has served as our official alternate to the General Assembly of the H-GAC. Mayor McGrath proposed Councilmember Staigle be named to the position of official alternate. Councilmember Henley noted that, as the city's representative, he attends the General Law Cities workshop each November. This is how he first became a member of the board. Councilmember Jessup made a motion to adopt the resolution, numbered **2006-04**, as presented. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FISCAL 2006-2007 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED.

Mayor McGrath said this is a \$4.5 million budget as compared to \$4.1 million last year. It includes a 3% pay raise for all city employees, a new patrol position, a restored Public Works position, clerical help on City Hall side, two new Public Works vehicles and rehabilitation of the interior of Well #1. It follows the local trend of increased costs in energy (gas and electricity.) The proposed tax rate is a decrease from \$0.76 to \$0.73 per \$100 of valuation. A proposed water/sewer/garbage rate increase will be discussed later this evening which will raise the average cost about \$5.00 per month per household. Councilmember Jessup made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle to approve the ordinance, numbered **2006-31**, adopting the budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL 2006-2007 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THEIR AUGUST 31, 2006, REGULAR MEETING AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED.

Mayor McGrath noted the ½ cent EDC tax is paying for the city survey marketing program and Dairy Ashford landscaping improvements and has paid for the Well #3 debt service, West Airport – Kirkwood traffic signal and monument landscape improvements, West Airport widening and sound walls along Dairy Ashford and West Airport. EDC President Terry Henley thanked Margaret Sandlin, Garden Club President for her help coordinating the landscaping. The new budget projects \$205,000 in revenues and \$197,000 in expenditures. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2006-32**, as presented. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, FOR THE TAX YEAR 2006.

Mayor McGrath noted that the proposed \$0.73 tax rate should include \$0.2003 for debt service reduction and \$0.2597 for maintenance and operation. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt a \$0.2003 tax rate for debt service reduction. Councilmember Staigle seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt a \$0.2597 tax rate for maintenance and operation purposes. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Councilmember Henley then made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2006-33**, levying a \$0.73 tax rate for the City of Meadows Place, Texas, for the tax year 2006. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jessup and carried unanimously.

Council then discussed taking action on casting the city's votes in the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election. Councilmember Henley made a motion the city vote for Greg Ingham in Place 11, Frank Estrada in Place 12 and Byron Black in Place 13. Councilmember Staigle seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Council then considered taking action on approving an engagement letter presented by WCL Enterprises regarding an agreement to conduct a management and operations review of the Police Department of the City of Meadows Place, Texas. Mayor McGrath reminded everyone that Chief Pickett has retired and Captain Gary Stewart was appointed Acting Chief on September 19th. Council has a lot of good faith in Chief Stewart. The recent survey rated the Police Department either good or excellent 90% of the time. Council feels it is in the best interest of the city to take its time to study the situation to determine what is good in the department and what can be made better. This review will be a collaborative effort between the Police Department, the consultants and Council, providing a road map for the new chief on which direction he or she should follow. Councilmember Jessup noted this was a great opportunity for the city. Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek to approve the engagement letter. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, CHAPTER 29, ENTITLED "UTILITIES," ARTICLE I, ENTITLED "IN GENERAL," DIVISION 2 ENTITLED "BILLING AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE," SECTION 29-11, ENTITLED "BILLING AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE."

As mentioned earlier when discussing the budget, this ordinance will result in a \$5.00 per month average increase in water/sewer bills. Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2006-34**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE AND THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE TO BE HELD ON THE 24TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2006, AT 7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. AT THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE CITY HALL, ONE TROYAN DRIVE, MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS TO HEAR ANY AND ALL PERSONS DESIRING TO BE HEARD ON OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY MATTER OR QUESTION INVOLVING A PROPOSAL TO AMEND CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE ENTITLED "PLANNING AND ZONING REGULATIONS" ARTICLE X ENTITLED "SIGNS." SECTION 24-1008 ENTITLED "SIGNS – RESIDENTIAL,"

**SUBSECTION (4) LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF TIME BEFORE
AN ELECTION WHEN POLITICAL SIGNS CAN BE PLACED;
AND TO PROVIDE FOR NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY LAW.**

The joint public hearing would be held on Tuesday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. and would discuss limiting the amount of time a political sign could be displayed in a residential yard to 30 days before the election. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jessup to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2006-35**, calling the public hearing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no audience comments at this time.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary