

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF JUNE 23, 2009
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 Charles Jessup, 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 Section 551.041, TGC with the following members present and in attendance:

Mayor: Charles Jessup

Aldermen: Heidi Case
Terry Henley
Charles Kulhanek
Rick Staigle
Dave Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum.

The pledge to the flag was led by Councilmember Kulhanek and Councilmember Wilkens gave the invocation.

Captain Jack Ashton reported on Police activities since the last Regular Council Meeting. He noted there were 2376 total incidents reported. No city ordinance citations but nine city ordinance warnings were issued - mostly to door to door salespersons. There were 338 traffic citations and 76 traffic warnings issued. Captain Ashton noted there were two incidents of burglaries of motor vehicles, one residential burglary, four traffic accidents, seven arrests, 198 business checks, 528 house watches and 690 property checks made during this time. A new RAD Kids program will be starting in July.

Dan McGraw, Public Works/Public Utilities Director updated Council on activities since his last report in March. He said the landscaping project along Dairy Ashford has been completed. Some funds remain and will be used to extend the landscaping further south along Dairy Ashford. There have been 15 water main breaks in the last eight weeks - six in the past week. Approximately \$120,000 is needed to fund our gray water project. This would amount to about five cents on the tax rate. The irrigation is being adjusted along West Airport and Kirkwood and should be completed this week. Sign replacement is an ongoing project. Recently 33 new, high intensity signs have been installed. Year two of our Storm Water Management Plan ends in August. Stenciling of storm water casements must still be completed. The TCEQ has ordered us to develop six Best Management Practices. Year one encompassed educating the public about no dumping being allowed in storm drains. This was accomplished via the Newsletter and web site. Year two is the stenciling.

During audience comments, Leen Zellers said she feels we should keep our stop signs along Kirkwood since they are safe, clean, protect our people, and provide the city with needed revenues.

Sue Ella Mueller said she disagrees about our plans for a big lake. The park is used by school and soccer players and would attract mosquitoes, as well as smell when it dries out. Also it may flood. She does not want her green space taken away.

Stuart Barrowman believes installing roundabouts along Kirkwood would take revenues away from the city. With folks experiencing hard times, he is afraid taxes will increase.

Shad Shreve believes installing roundabouts would be taking a foreign concern and implanting it here - a costly hindrance. Regarding a pond in the park, he believes it would involve additional mosquito control and could pose a drowning issue.

Dustin Poe is concerned with potential drownings and asked if he could see a design anywhere.

Christie Fawn noted the park is used extensively by PE teachers at the school and feels a pond would decrease the available useful area. She hopes the city will reconsider the idea.

Christopher Fawn said he and his father spend time each morning along the jogging trail and he would not like a pond to take away this place.

Steven Russell said he loves the Kirkwood stop signs. He doesn't approve of the pond but we need to check with the people whose homes back up to the park.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted that: 1: the Fire Department made 17 EMS calls, three good intention calls, one hazmat and one fire alarm call in the city last month; 2: At the Town Meeting on June 12, Council tried to get the information to the people about the parks plan (there was also a public hearing on this matter in December), and the roundabouts; 3: A short Parks update was given; 4: Regarding the preliminary budget, this will be a particularly rough year. The City of Meadows Place runs on a very lean budget with no fluff.

During Council comments, Councilmember Staigle noted that he received a mixed message about the roundabouts at the Town Meeting and many positive comments about the proposed pond. Regarding comments about not informing the public, a poster regarding the parks project has been in the lobby for the past nine months. We do our best to inform people about what is going on in the city. He will do more research into the roundabout project.

Councilmember Case reminded residents we have a Wall of Heroes in our City Hall and we would love to honor any man or woman currently serving in the military who has a connection to our city.

Minutes for the May 26, 2009 workshop and regular meetings were presented for approval. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE AND FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO WEST AIRPORT BOULEVARD.

Mayor Jessup explained this ordinance would start the process with the county for improvements to West Airport Boulevard. Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Case to approve the Ordinance, numbered **2009-13**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE AND FORT BEND COUNTY TEXAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO KIRKWOOD ROAD.

Councilmember Staigle made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2009-14**, as presented. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Brazos Technology	\$21,905.00
Joe L. Salvide	5,796.00

Councilmember Case made a motion to ratify the expenditure to Brazos Technology for \$21,905.00 for the purchase of new ticket writers and to Joe L. Salvide for \$5,796 for cement work in the city. Councilmember Wilkens seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Sue Ella Mueller noted that most people trust Council to make decisions for the betterment of the City and that is the reason they do not come to Council meeting.

Shad Shreve said baseball needs access to an ice machine - even if it is donated. He also said that the Town Meeting was a good method to spread the news about roundabouts. Perhaps the City should set up an email blog on the subject.

Mrs. Pong said she couldn't come to the Town Meeting so she didn't see the information on the pond. She also doesn't come to many City Council meetings as she trusts Council to do the right thing.

Stewart Barstone thanked Council for answering his email.

Rick Mueller said he was surprise to read about the roundabouts in the newspaper before he read about them in the Newsletter.

Steve Bezner said he got fired up about the ponds when he first saw them on the plans at the Town Meeting. Now he's not so sure.

John Lewis felt children would be too tempted to go into the water and they are not worth the life of even one child. Regarding roundabouts, he said he never felt safe traveling roundabouts from DuPont Circle to all around the world. There is too much confusion.

Sharon Kitchen said three to four years ago she asked if the city could acknowledge our soldiers and the city instituted the Wall of Heroes. The city does listen to its residents. She also announced that she is accepting donations, that can be left at her house, for school supplies, clothing and stuffed animals that will be sent to soldiers overseas to be distributed to children in war torn countries.

A twenty-two year resident said he has never had a communication problem with the City.

Cindy Shaw said, regarding the pond issue, we need to examine other ponds in the area. They are different than what we are proposing. She is very concerned about the safety issue. Right now, Meadows Place is a safe place for little kids.

Skip Blackstone said he likes the idea of fields and a pond but wondered where the funds would come from. He was told that funds would come from a fourth grant, should it be awarded, from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Right now it is simply a proposed item. Asking about the speed limit on Kirkwood should roundabouts be constructed, he was told it would average 15 to 20 mph.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary