

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF MARCH 23, 2010
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:56 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 Josh Taylor, with Boy Scout Troop 301, and the invocation was given by resident Jimmy Fenwick.

District Chairman Grover explained that this year is the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouting America. Boy Scouts learn how to be good citizens. Mayor Jessup read the resolution of the City Council of the City of Meadows Place, Texas naming February 2010 as "Boy Scouts of America" month. Councilmember Staigle made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded this motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Police Chief Mike Baker reported on Police activities since the last Regular Council Meeting. He noted there were two reportable accidents, 11 arrests, 1191 calls for service, 52 offense reports, 272 traffic citations, one code citation and 110 traffic and 18 city ordinance warnings issued. There were seven motor vehicle burglaries, two residential burglary and no building burglaries. Police officers completed 303 business checks, 251 house watches and 379 property checks during this time period. Fourteen parking violations were issued under the department's new parking enforcement. These were for wrong way parking, parking in a cross walk, or parking more than 14 inches from the curb or too close to a stop sign. Three men were stopped in a parking lot. They had burglary tools in their vehicle and were found to be wanted for burglary in Houston. One officer received a full release today from his Doctor and will be back on the streets. Another officer is still on light duty. Our new officer will be at the next meeting to officially meet Council. The Police Department has a new hiring process in place. Two field training officers are available to train new officers. The new COBAN system, which provides audio and video to the patrol vehicles is working great so far. This system was paid for with grant funds. Officers will be on duty at the school during the up coming Spring Carnival, Friday evening, April 16th.

Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo said thus far in March there has been a 100% increase in EMT and fire alarms. There were two structure fires in the city in March. One was a kitchen fire. There was no significant damage in the second structure fire. Most of the EMT calls were medical calls and not due to violence. Due to volunteers moving, there is a significant decrease in the amount of volunteer fire fighters from Meadows Place. There is a campaign to recruit volunteers. An ad will be in the next newsletter. The fire station in Meadows Place is staffed once or twice each week over night. There will be six staffing the station tonight. It is staffed 24 hours on weekends with a rotating group of volunteers. The reduced report times is a huge benefit. At yesterday's COOP-COG meeting (Continuation of Operating Procedures - during an emergency) staff from Stafford, Sugar Land, Missouri City and Meadows met to develop strategies and identify weak spots. Councilmember Staigle said he hoped to equip the traffic signals on West Airport and Kirkwood to allow emergency vehicles to pass quickly through the light.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw reported on the activities of his department during the last three months. He said there have been rain delays in the changing out the diffusers work. There are still 331 diffusers to replace. 120 of the should be replaced by Friday. A new scum box was built in house resulting in a savings of \$2000 to \$3000. It is necessary to use only one of the blowers now, resulting in a significant savings in electricity costs. All street signs must be reflective in the next few years and his department is starting a new signage program. The signs will all be displayed on our GIS system for visual inspection. The replacement program must be in place by 2012 and signs must start being replaced by 2015. The SECO (State Energy Conservation) grant agreement should be approved shortly. This is a \$40,303 grant which will allow replacement of the air conditioning system in the Police Department as well as the council/court chambers. Mosquito sampling has been ongoing, even during the winter months. During their breeding season, samples are taken twice each week by the county. In April the storm drains will be treated. It is hoped we can sweep our streets twice each year to limit the amount of debris that goes into the storm sewers. There have been a few incidents of paint being dumped into the storm sewer which have been cleaned up.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted that: 1: All Meadows Place residents now vote at Meadows Place City Hall. 2: The run-off election will be held on April 13th and all residents are encouraged to come out and vote. 3: Meetings are being held concerning the 90A rail corridor. There is a united effort with cities and the county to put commuter rail through to Rosenberg with Metro. 4. The census is important. We need to have all residents send their form in. While the forms were mailed to residents with a Stafford address, Congressman Pete Olson's office has assured us that we would all be counted as residents in the City of Meadows Place. At last count, Meadows Place residents were below the national average in response to the 2010 census.

During Council Comments, Councilmember Staigle noted that HDR Claunch & Miller was the selected bidder to do the engineering work on the West Airport replacement. We are waiting for a sample form from TxDOT to work from. We hope to have a contract in place by next month. Engineering will take up to nine months to complete. The traffic signal at West Airport and Kirkwood will be reconstructed and an additional left turn lane will be installed in three directions on Kirkwood. A left turn lane on Troyan will be added and the "bump" in the left turn lane at US 59 will be removed.

Minutes of the March 23, 2010 workshop and regular meetings were presented to council for approval. Councilmember Staigle made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember Wilkens seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Council then discussed taking possible action on determining the amounts of local option exemptions pursuant to Section 11.13 (n) of the Texas Property Tax Code. It was decided to leave the local option exemption the same as last year. They are as follows: A Homestead Exemption of 13% or \$5,000 whichever is greater; an over 65 Exemption of \$30,000; a Disabled Person Exemption of \$30,000 and a Disabled Veteran's Exemption of from \$5,000 to \$12,000.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3 OF ORDINANCE 2010-01 CALLING FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 8TH DAY OF MAY 2010, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CITY OFFICIALS PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SAID ELECTION.

In the past, the county has assigned voting precinct 2018 to undeveloped land along West Airport and the area where Senior Meadows Apartments are now located. They have since consolidated this voting precinct with Precinct 2017. Precinct 2018, therefore, no longer exists. It was inadvertently added to the ordinance calling the May 8, 2010 General Election. This ordinance amends the original ordinance by deleting Precinct 2018. Councilmember Case made a motion, seconded by

Councilmember Staigle, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2010-05**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, ENTITLED, "GARAGE SALES," ARTICLE 1, ENTITLED "IN GENERAL," BY REPEALING THE PRESENT PROVISIONS OF SECTION 15-2 ENTITLED "PERMIT REQUIRED; FEE; RECORDS" AND DELETING THE PRESENT PROVISIONS OF SECTION 15-3 AND SUBSTITUTING NEW PROVISIONS FOR SECTION 15-3 AS HEREINAFTER SET OUT.

After numerous discussions and a Public Hearing, Council decided to allow residents to hold garage sales on any or all specified dates. Those dates are the second weekend of the second month of each quarter. No permit will be required. The next scheduled garage sale weekend is May 14th and 15th. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion to adopt the ordinance numbered **2010-06** calling for the change in garage sale requirements as presented. Councilmember Case seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Garage sales can now be held on the second weekends of February, May, August and November.

Councilmember Henley then made a motion to table the next item on the agenda, presentation of a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Staigle then made a motion to ratify the expenditures of \$6,970.29 to Texas Lawn & Landscape Service. for February landscaping maintenance. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Henley and carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Scott Holland, president of Meadows Place Baseball, said that on behalf of the league he was requesting that the City and the Parks and Recreation Department reconsider their ruling that the yellow fence guard around the majors and minor fields must be taken down at the end of the season. The baseball league appreciates all that the city has done in and around the baseball fields. He believes the fencing adds to the children's safety and coincides with the City's vision statement by practicing visionary government in Meadows Place. Mayor Jessup noted that the City has spent approximately \$125,000 in the last five years making the fields and their surroundings more attractive. It stands by its decision to have the yellow fence guard removed at the end of the baseball season. Resident Shirley Isbell said she has researched the issue through the internet and has found no baseball injuries that have been attributed to a lack of the yellow fencing guard around fields. Shad Shreve, 12200 block Hoggard, said the city looks great. The baseball board has an issue with taking the guards down after the season due to an inability to store them and the cost with having to put them back up. He thanked the city for their financial and manual help and hopes a peaceful solution can be reached. Alan Ainsworth, a Towne West resident said he chose to bring his son to Meadows Place to play baseball. He, too, hopes an amicable solution can be reached.

David Alpha, 12000 block Pender, thanked the city for all they do. He said every Saturday close to 300 people can be found at the baseball fields. 150 of them are young ball players. The ball fields are a definite draw to our community.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary