

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
OF JULY 20, 2010
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The workshop meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 6:00 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
Shirley Isbell
Rick Staigle
Dave Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum.

Also present was Alan Clark, H-GAC MPO Director, Transportation Department and Dan McGraw, Public Works/Public Utilities Director.

Mayor Jessup received Council's consensus to proceed first with agenda item 2c - Roundabout data review, with Mr. Clark. Mayor Jessup explained to Mr. Clark that someone had questioned the validity of the report due to Councilmember Henley's involvement with the H-GAC. Before tonight's discussion, Mayor Jessup felt it important that Mr. Clark assure Council that the report was totally unbiased. Apparently a Mr. Maddox, whose sister is a resident of Meadows Place, had asked the H-GAC to pull the funding for the roundabout project. Since there was no H-GAC funding involved, this was Mr. Clark's first knowledge of the project. Mr. Clark then approached Councilmember Henley to see if he would like the H-GAC to conduct a study. Mr. Clark explained it is extremely common to get these kinds of requests. The report is careful not to make a recommendation since it is the City's decision in which direction it should go. We may have outgrown an approach that has served the city well in the past. H-GAC contracted with TTI (Texas Transportation Institute) to conduct study. Their job was to determine if there was a fatal flaw in the idea (no) and what would be good or not good about the idea. The report indicated that roundabouts would save drivers time, and gas, reduce emissions and, maybe, accidents. Roundabouts have a tendency to act as a traffic calming effect. Green space would be increased in the city. While four way stop signs are perceived to reduce a vehicle's speed, there is no actual proof of this occurring. Four stop signs in a row increase delays and air pollution. Councilmember Isbell said she was not convinced that roundabouts were a good thing until she actually drove through several while visiting eastern states. She contacted Cheryl Bauigan, the Chief Traffic & Transportation Planning, Hartford County, Maryland where several roundabouts have been installed. Ms. Bauigan has answered many of her questions.

Council then discussed the proposed Public Utilities/Public works Department's budgets with Director Dan McGraw. Mr. McGraw proposed a budget close to last year's but he has pulled the fire station expenses out and made a new line item for them so that we can see what we are spending on this facility as well as separate line items for the GIS system in each department.

Discussing the General Fund budget in total, Council studied possible ways to lower the 19% increase in employee medical insurance by raising the deductible and lowering the 90/10 match to 80/20.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary