

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2012
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The workshop meeting of Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 6:06 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: Terry Henley
John Isbell
John Whiteman
Dave Wilkens

and the following absent:

Alderman Terry Morgan

thus constituting a quorum.

Also present were Elaine Herff, City Secretary, Rick Staigle, past Council Member, and Shirley Isbell, past Council Member.

First item on the agenda was a discussion of the 2012-2013 Cumulative budget. Mayor Jessup began the meeting by discussing the revenue side and the increase in TML insurance. The Mayor stated the City came out higher than he anticipated on sales tax this year. Home valuations, however, are down, mainly were due to the economic downturn a couple of years ago. Newsletter ad rates were reviewed. The Newsletter contains not only local business ads but other Houston area businesses as well. Mixed beverages, for which \$0.00 was budgeted this past year, are increasing but still below the level brought in when C&H Steak house existed. Councilmember Isbell indicated a possible increase in the cost of fuel. The Mayor stated he discussed revenues with Police Chief Gary Stewart. After reviewing all revenues, Mayor Jessup discussed salaries with Council. He stated he hoped it would be possible to provide either a straight across the board 3% increase to employees or perhaps a 3% bonus which could be given to employees in December. He reiterated how dedicated the staff has been and how hard they have worked and should at least be given this one-time bonus.

Mayor stated staffing has changed in the Police Department. Gary Stewart is now Chief and Captain Ashton is our sole Captain. The chain of command has changed. A new officer is scheduled to start work on August 20th, leaving two additional officer positions yet to be filled. Councilmember Whiteman stated he thinks the City could do without hiring another officer and we should hold off doing so until the next fiscal year. Councilmember Henley stated that it takes a long time to hire an officer due to the screening process so he would not recommend holding off on hiring an officer. The Mayor reminded him that due to the promotions of two officers, the other position will have to be filled and the selection process does take time. Councilmember Whiteman stated there are enough patrol officers to cover each shift so there should be no need to hire another one. The Mayor stated he disagrees and says only one officer has been hired and there is a need to fill the other vacancy mainly due to the change in staff. There are currently one out of two vacancies filled and there are two patrol officers for each shift.

There are other priorities and ad valorem tax revenue did fall shorter than expected however tax delinquencies are declining .

Second item on the agenda was a discussion of the West Airport Reconstruction Project. Mayor Jessup stated that he and Billy Burge of Ayrshire Corporation visited with Fort Bend County Precinct 4 Commissioner James Patterson. He noted that Commissioner Patterson agreed the project was beneficial to all of Fort Bend County and he would support the request for funds to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) through the their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the City for improvements for the project on that basis. The City is at an advantage in that it has all the environmental testing done and would be ready to go if funds are approved.

Third item on the agenda was a discussion of Longevity pay. Mayor Jessup stated anyone beginning after October of 2012 will not receive longevity pay until after five years of service. There is no policy that should prevent us from implementing this new policy this year.

Potential items for the upcoming regular agenda were briefly discussed.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Yolanda M. Wilson, Deputy City Secretary