

**CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2016**

Present were: Mayor Charles D. Jessup, IV, Mayor Pro Tempore Terry J. Henley Aldermen Steven Bezner, John F. Isbell, Kelle K. Mills, Rick J. Staigle and City Secretary, Courtney Rutherford.

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Jessup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

a. Discussion: Discussion of Challenge to City of Meadows Place Sex Offender Ordinance No. 2006-21.

Mayor Jessup called the item and gave background information. He stated that City is facing two issues, which are related but need to be addressed separately.

This first issue is that a registered sex offender is planning to move into the City of Meadows Place. Texas state law says that a sex offender cannot live within 1,000 feet of a location where children commonly gather, such as a school, park, day care, etc. The City of Meadows Place Ordinance No. 2006-21 states that they cannot move within 2,000 feet of these places.

A Harris County Judge has made an exception for this person approving them to move into Meadow Place about 900 feet from a daycare. At this time the City plans to respect what the Community put in place in 2006 and the Police Department has not allowed the defendant to register and move in.

The second issue at hand is that the City has been sued by Texas Voices for Reason and Justice stating that Meadows Place laws are too restrictive and are seeking to defend sex offenders and eliminate the ordinance for General Law cities.

So far the City has reached out to Texas Municipal League, legislature, some of the 46 cities being sued by this same group and our legal defense. Ultimately, this our fight and the purpose of this meeting to take comment from the residents on how they would like the City move to forward. Do we dissolve Ordinance No. 2006-21 or do we fight to protect it.

Alderman Henley spoke in support in of the ordinance and wants to fight to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the community.

Alderman Isbell also spoke in support of the ordinance. He stated that Council took an oath to uphold the laws of Meadows Place and is against changing Ordinance No. 2006-21.

Alderman Mills agreed with Alderman Isbell and wants to keep the kids of Meadow Place safe by fighting to keep the ordinance.

Alderman Bezner applauded the Mayor for all the work he has done thus far in fighting to defend Meadows Place and its laws and gives his full support.

Alderman Staigle stated that he agrees with everything said and wants the City to fight to keep the ordinance in place.

b. Public Comments

Mayor Jessup called for public comments at 7:33 p.m.

Mark McGrath, resident of 11623 Brighton, spoke in support of Council fighting to keep the ordinance.

Shirley Isbell, resident of 12326 Scottsdale, thanked Council for standing their ground to protect the ordinance and supports the City in fighting to keep the ordinance as is.

Tracy Spiller, resident of 11723 Brook Meadows, spoke in support of enforcing the ordinance.

Bruce Mills, resident of 12123 Scottsdale, spoke in support of Council to fight to keep the ordinance and protect the children. He also thanked the Mayor and Council for supporting the Police Department and the community.

Jessie Rodriguez, resident of 11707 Brook Meadows, spoke in support of fighting all the way to keep the ordinance.

Kurt Kopczynski, resident of 11903 Meadows Dale, spoke in support of the ordinance and asked for information on who the residents can contact to get more support.

Stewart Barrowman, resident of 11947 Brook Meadows, spoke in support of fighting to keep the ordinance. He stated that it made him angry that somebody is trying to come in change the City's laws.

Ann Jones, spoke in support of Council.

Mike Jones, resident of 11815 Blair Meadow, said don't back down and stated that he supports Council 100%.

Ann Sweeney, resident of 12211 Level Run, spoke in support of Council.

Rebecca Goolsby, resident of 11306 Brighton, spoke in support of Council. She stated that she grew up here and moved back to raise her kids here.

Robert Work, resident of 12018 Scottsdale, spoke in support of the Council. He stated that he wants to protect the laws and the children. He believes a change in the ordinance will depreciate property values.

Sheryl Teague, 11611 Dorrance Ln, stated that she has seven children and moved here after doing a sex offender search and supports Council in fighting to keep the ordinance.

Mayor Jessup asked if there was anybody else in the audience who wish to speak in support of or against fighting to protect Ordinance No. 2006-21. With no other residents wishing to speak the Mayor stated that Council took that as a unanimous agreement from those present to fight to keep the ordinance in place. Public comments were closed at 7:54 p.m.

- 2. Adjourn into Executive Session: City Council may convene into closed executive session under Texas Government Code Sec. 551-071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY for discussion of and legal action on Ordinance No. 2006-21.**


Mayor Jessup closed the regular council meeting at 7:55 p.m. to move into Executive Session as authorized under Texas Government Code Sec. 551-071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY for discussion of and legal action on Ordinance No. 2006-21.


Reconvene into Open Meeting Session and Adjourn:

Mayor Jessup reconvened the meeting into open session at 8:51 p.m. No action was taken. Alderman Henley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Bezner with unanimous approval and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

These minutes were approved by City Council on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

ATTEST:


Courtney Rutherford, City Secretary


Charles D. Jessup, IV, Mayor

