

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF AUGUST 26, 2003
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 Mark McGrath at 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 Article 6252-17, V.T.A.C.S. with the following members present and in attendance:

Mayor: Mark McGrath

Aldermen: Terry Henley
Charles Jessup
Joe McCann
Leen Zellers

and the following absent:

Alderman: David Piwonka

thus constituting a quorum.

Police Chief G. Michael Pickett presented citizenship awards to Tony and Elizabeth Gandy for their assistance in apprehending dangerous felons in the city on June 9, 2003.

Mayor McGrath called for departmental reports. Chief Pickett said that since the last regular council meeting there were eight accidents in the city, 22 arrests, 473 calls for service, 417 citations issued, 80 incidents reported to the District Attorney's office and 114 warnings given. He said there were 6 assaults and there were six drug arrests made just this past weekend. During the month there were three home invasions in the city, two during daylight hours and one between the hours of eight and nine at night. Two new police cars are due to arrive within the next two weeks.

Public Works/Public Utilities Director Dan McGraw was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mayor McGrath read his report which indicated there were 49 water related service calls and 1 sewer related service call were made during the month of July. Phases three and four of sidewalk repairs have been completed and a new sidewalk program will begin after October 1st.

Parks and Recreation Co-Director Terry Modeland thanked Council and their spouses, City Hall, Public Works/Public Utilities and Police Department employees for their help with Splash Night held last Friday evening. Approximately 300 pounds of barbequed beef and many hotdogs served about 400 people. Residents contributed about 400 pounds of food which was donated to the food pantry. Mrs. Modeland noted the next park's activity, the golf tournament is coming along nicely. Many donations have been received and she hinted to Council that golfers are now needed. Mrs. Modeland also reported that the Small Community Grant Fund which had been applied for has been recommended for 100% (\$50,000) funding. Final determination will be announced on Thursday. She and Alderman Jessup will travel to Austin for this meeting. The city placed 13th out of 18 cities recommended for funding. Included in the grant projects is lighting of the major's baseball field, a pavilion where the basketball goal was, renovations of the jogging trail and other smaller items. She noted the city's 50% match will be supplemented by donations from Meadows All Play Baseball and Meadows Elementary School. All of the items to be completed can be found in the City's Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

During audience comments, Marti Pattinson asked how the school could contribute to a city function. Mrs. Modeland said it was the Meadows PTO, not the school, contributing the funds. The school will use the pavilion as an outdoor classroom.

During Mayor's Comments, Mayor McGrath said he regretted the fact that there was a typo in the August Newsletter which listed October 28th and 29th as garage sale dates. It should have read November 28th and 29th. There will be no permitted garage sales in the month of October.

There were no council comments at this time.

Alderman McCann made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2003 workshop and regular meetings and the August 12, 2003 workshop meeting as presented. Alderman Jessup seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.

Mayor McGrath then read a Mayor's Proclamation recognizing the Sugar Land Rotary for the charity work they do. He noted it was a strong club with many area elected officials as members. Their only fund raising event is a yearly Shrimpfest, to be held at the Fluor Building this year on September 20th. Alderman McCann made a motion in support of the proclamation recognizing the Sugar Land Rotary and their Shrimpfest 2003. Alderman Zellers seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Council then discussed the proposed tax rate for 2003. Mayor McGrath said he was proposing the same rate, or 73 cents per \$100 evaluation, as the City has assessed for the past several years. Alderman Henley made a motion to support the proposed 73 cent tax rate for 2003. Alderman McCann seconded this motion. The motion carried 4 to 0 with Aldermen Henley, Jessup, McCann and Zellers voting aye. Alderman Piwonka was not present and did not vote.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004.

Alderman McCann made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2003-22**, calling a public hearing on the budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 to be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Alderman Zellers seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL FOR 2003.

Mayor McGrath explained that while the proposed tax rate was the same as last year, additional revenues will be raised because property values have gone up. The average residential tax bill will increase approximately 6%. Alderman Henley made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2003-23**, calling a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll for 2003 on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with the budget public hearing. Alderman Jessup seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NUMBER TWO (2) TO A CONTRACT FOR RENOVATIONS TO MEADOWS PLACE COMMUNITY CENTER WITH STONEWALL CONSTRUCTORS.

Change order number one was required due to more rotted wood being found once the walls were removed along with additional electrical work needed to bring the building up to code. Change order number two is the result of additional hardware needed and an exhaust system to the exterior of the building that needed to be installed. The final contract cost of the renovated community center, with the two change orders added, is \$240,892.18. The city is still holding a 10% retainage amount on the project. Alderman Henley made a motion, seconded by Alderman McCann, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2003-24**, approving the change order as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The city's investment portfolio was presented to council. This is a quarterly presentation showing that the city's funds are being held in very safe, pooled funds. These funds do not invest in any derivatives, commercial papers or stocks. Consequently, they earn very low interest. The city currently has \$3.2 million in operating funds, \$236,000 in debt service funds and \$1.2 million in bond funds which are restricted in what they can be spent on and \$69,000 in EDC funds for a total amount of \$5.2 million as of June 30, 2003. Alderman Zellers made a motion, seconded by Alderman Henley to accept the investment portfolio as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Council then conducted their annual review of the city's investment policy and investment strategies. Acknowledging the fact that city's money is in safe conservative investments, Council's consensus was that no changes were necessary. Alderman Jessup made a motion, seconded by Alderman Henley to continue with the City's investment policy and investment strategies as they currently exist. The motion carried unanimously.

Council then approved payment to Claunch and Miller, Inc. for on going engineering work with the city's street project for \$6,469.79 with a motion made by Alderman Zellers and seconded by Alderman McCann and unanimously approved.

Expenses to Canopies by WorthMark, down payment for canopies to be installed over the baby pool and at the baseball fields for \$5,410.00; Claunch & Miller for on going engineering work for \$14,002.10; ECO Resources, Inc. for water and sewer activities during the month of June for \$10,368.74; two invoices to Joe L. Salvide totaling \$28,500 for sidewalk repairs; Southern Customs for \$137,671.49 for Phase Two street repairs (paid for with bond funds) and to Stonewall Constructors for the final payment (less retainage) for renovation work to the Community Center for \$26,337.55 were presented to Council for ratification. Alderman Henley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jessup, to ratify the expenditures as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no audience comments at this time. Alderman Henley noted the city had enough funds in reserve to cover approximately one year's expenses and was in good shape.

There being no further business to consider, Alderman Henley made a motion, seconded by Alderman McCann to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary