

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF DECEMBER 16, 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 David Piwonka Leen Zellers

thus constituting a quorum.

Capitan Jack Ashton gave the police report. He said the numbers were low because this meeting is being held one week earlier than normal due to the Christmas Holidays. In the last week there were six vehicle accidents, 15 arrests and 313 calls for service. There were 287 citations and 74 warnings issued. There were nine burglaries of motor vehicles (this increase coincides with the Christmas holidays.) There were two DWI charges, one sexual assault and one sexual assault of a child. Both of these involved e-mails and chat rooms. It is important that parents monitor their children's computer and internet usage. Captain Ashton had nothing new to report on the recent family shooting in Sugar Land. He said it was important, however, to understand that these things can happen and residents must always be alert and call the police if they see suspicious activity. Our motorcycle officer has completed his training and is waiting for his helmet and pants to arrive. The motorcycle was modified to reflect the height change in officers – from 5'5" to 6'2". The city has a new police officer. Ron Williams comes to us from the Harris County Adult Probation Office. He should be ready to patrol solo by the end of February. He is replacing Sergeant Lang. Sergeant Lang is also working with Officer Velasquez who will take over as DARE Officer.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw is ill and his report will be deferred to next month.

Parks Co Director Terry Modeland noted that a public hearing was held at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Grant Project number two. This grant must be ready by January 30th and the total \$50,000 will again be requested. She said we are moving along with grant number one which includes baseball lights and jogging trail renovations. She also noted the tennis court is deteriorating and the surface must be repaired. She congratulated Councilmember Henley on being president of the TML, bringing such recognition to our small city. Councilmember Jessup told Ms. Modeland he liked the time line chart and would like to see one for the current grant.

Parks Co Director Monya Keenen gave an update on Christmas Memories. She said due to the rain only two of the three hours scheduled took place. She thanked the Girl Scouts, Pack 301, Meadows Elementary School, All Play Baseball, Swim Team, Police Department and Public Works employees for their help. She also expressed appreciation for the band from Ridgemont School. Because of the rain, some carriage rides were cancelled. Most will be rescheduled for Monday evening and some money will be refunded. Tee shirt sales were down because the weather caused many people to stay home. Mayor McGrath said the conditions were miserable and he appreciated the efforts of the city staff making the event so successful. The kids didn't seem to mind the rain and Santa was his usual hit.

There was no audience to give comments.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath commented on the status of Meadows Place Senior Village. He said a building permit was issued and they plan to break ground after the first of the year. Owner Al Fairfield has also purchased Park Place. The 14 acre tract will be rebuilt and new medical facilities will be added. Mr. Fairfield also has a contract on the triangular piece of property on land adjacent to Park Place and will build amenities to service the aging population. This is expected to be a quality product for Meadows Place.

During Council Comments, Councilmember Henley noted this was a busy month for him. After being inducted as President of the Texas Municipal League at their recent conference, he attended the National League of Cities Conference in Nashville. He hopes to bring recognition to Meadows Place during his tenure as president of TML. Martha Wong, Councilmember for the City of Houston, has sent a resolution recognizing Councilmember Henley and the City of Meadows Place. This resolution will be posted on the city's bulletin board.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MCDONALD & SECHRIST LLP, TO SERVE THE CITY AS BOND COUNSEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF FUTURE DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY.

Mayor McGrath said the city will sell \$1,250,000 of voter approved bonds in late 2004 or early 2005 for street repairs. Last month the city hired First Southwest Company as our financial advisors. McDonald & Sechrist, LLP have worked with Tax Reinvestment Zones (TRIZ) in the area. Terry Sechrist and Jeanne McDonald introduced themselves. They said they started their own firm about three years ago. They are responsible for making bonds legal and attractive to investors, making sure the bonds are tax exempt. They know what types of projects would or would not be allowed under a TRIZ. Work performed by a Bond Counsel has a direct impact on the interest rate when bonds are sold. Councilmember Piwonka made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2003-43**, naming McDonald & Sechrist LLP as Bond Council for the City of Meadows Place. Councilmember Zellers seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

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, TEXAS, TO ENTER INTO A PRIMARY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF FORT BEND AND THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, IN A FORM AS ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED EXHIBIT "A".

This is the annual standard agreement between the city and the county. Councilmember Jessup moved to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2003-43**, as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McCann and unanimously approved.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS (HEREINAFTER CALLED THE APPLICANT), DESIGNATING OFFICIALS AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPLICANT IN DEALING WITH TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE (TPW), FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATING IN THE TEXAS RECREATION AND PARKS ACCOUNT SMALL COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM (HEREINAFTER CALLED THE PROGRAM); CERTIFYING THAT THE APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE; CERTIFYING THAT THE APPLICANT'S MATCHING SHARE IS READILY AVAILABLE; AND DEDICATING THE PROPOSED SITE FOR PERMANENT (OR FOR THE TERM OF THE LEASE FOR LEASED PROPERTY) PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATIONAL USES.

It is necessary for the city to adopt this resolution to continue with the parks grant application process. Mayor McGrath said he is recommending we appoint Terry Modeland, Parks Co Director as the designated representative. Councilmember McCann made a motion to adopt the resolution, **2003-06**, as presented and explained by Mayor McGrath. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, TO PARTICIPATE IN A STATEWIDE PURCHASING PROGRAM THROUGH THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASING COOPERATIVE.

Mayor McGrath said the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative, better known as the "Buy Board" is another avenue for the city to purchase materials and other items from the lowest qualified bidder without actually having to go through the bidding process ourselves. The Buy Board has already bid and awarded contracts and joining the Buy Board allows us to use these same vendors. We currently have similar agreements with the Houston-Galveston Area Council and with Fort Bend County. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt the resolution, numbered **2003-07**, as presented. Councilmember Piwonka seconded the motion which was unanimously adopted.

Bills were presented for council's ratification. They were \$7,745.00 for a permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, \$6,835.00 for sidewalk construction to Joe Salvide, \$15,600.00 for tornado related roof repairs at the sewer treatment plant to New Dawn Enterprises, \$6,678.86 for December legal services to Ross, Banks, May, Cron & Cavin, P.C., \$36,596.86 for the final payment phase one street repairs to Southern Customs, Inc. and \$20,901.31 for the final payment for Community Center improvements to Stonewall Constructors. Councilmember Henley made a motion to ratify the expenditures as presented. Councilmember McCann seconded this motion. Councilmember Jessup said he was glad the parks directors kept such a close eye on the Community Center Project. Mayor McGrath said they treated the Community Center as if it were their own homes that were being renovated. Put up for a vote, the motion to ratify the expenditures was unanimously approved.

There were no audience comments at this time.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Zellers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary