

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF DECEMBER 21, 2004
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:45 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
Rick Staigle

thus constituting a quorum.

Sergeant Larry Eissler then reported on police activity since the last regular city council meeting. He noted there were a total of eight reportable accidents – most on the feeder road of US 59, and on West Airport between US 59 and Kirkwood; 8 arrests; 661 calls for service; 166 citations issued; 53 reports of criminal activity; and 47 warnings given. He noted the department was contacted by the FBI regarding their October crime statistics which were far below the average for the month. Mayor McGrath said that Jim Hussey, director of The Oasis, was extremely complimentary about our officers who attended to a death report at The Oasis.

Dan McGraw then gave the public works report for November. He noted that during that month ECO Resources responded to 112 water related services calls, 98 on city lines and 14 on private lines. 14.7 million gallons of water were pumped during November, averaging 492 gallons per day. ECO Resources responded to one city related and five private line sewer calls in November. Mr. McGraw noted final building inspections will take place at Senior Village Building 1 on December 29th, the extended day addition at the elementary school is nearly complete, drainage improvements at the big park are complete, CVS will begin their steel structure installation next Tuesday, the building final for Prestige Furniture Gallery is scheduled for early next week and most of the esplanade landscaping is complete. He said installation on street lights along Kirkwood should start in about 2½ weeks. He said the drug free/gun free signs have been installed. Mayor McGrath said he has begun talking with representatives at the City of Sugar Land to see if they had any interest in landscape improvements along Dairy Ashford. Councilmember Piwonka inquired about the furniture store signage, hoping it would not be the same type as the previous furniture store that was in the old Deauville Mall. Councilmember Henley inquired if the live oaks along West Airport weren't being planted too close to each other. Councilmember McCann complimented Mr. McGraw on the work his crew did on the left turn lane on West Airport at the Freeway. He also asked about trimming the vines that have grown up along the sound walls. Councilmember Henley suggested the city send out letters to the residents living behind the sound walls requesting that they keep vegetation from growing on them.

Parks Co-Director Terry Modeland commented on the current grants. She said Grant #1 had a slight delay because of all the recent rain and hopes it will be complete by February 15th. Another hold up has been the roof change at the field house. She commended NuWest for their outstanding work to date. She said all the drainage work is complete and about 60% of the crushed granite is in. Maintenance on the jogging trail will only require it be sprayed with Round-Up to keep the weeds from growing around it. Also, the width of the trail should increase over the years as the crushed granite spreads out (as well as new granite is added.) NuWest also donated a generator and lights for Christmas Memories.

Parks Co-Director Monya Keenen said this was the 15th year for Christmas Memories. She thanked NuWest for their contributions, Charles Kulhanek for his pictures (now on the city's web site), Council for their help distributing the glow necklaces and the Public Works Department for their help setting up and tearing down the event. The weather was perfect, just a bit nippy which added to the atmosphere.

Most of the t-shirts have been sold. Volunteer help is what makes the Parks Department a whole lot easier. Councilmember Jessup thought placing the tent in the street was a great idea with the other events set up behind it. Everything flowed together and the lights on the baseball field helped.

Mayor McGrath received Council's consensus to address agenda item 14 next. He read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIO-SOLIDS FACILITY AND THE H-GAC GRANT SHOULD BE USED TO FUND THIS STUDY.

Ron Drachenberg with Fort Bend County explained why he was requesting Council approve this resolution. He said grant funds are available through the H-GAC and TCEQ for solid waste issues. Three vendors are being looked at to complete the study and a centrally located facility in Arcola is available. The study will help to determine what materials can go to the facility and what can be done with the metals from the processing. They hope to obtain support from all area cities and school districts within a 50 mile radius for the pilot project. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt the resolution, numbered **2004-08**, as presented. Councilmember McCann seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Returning to agenda item 3, there were no comments from the audience at this time.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath said he was scheduling a special meeting for Tuesday, January 11, 2005, to review and approve the preliminary statement for the sale of \$1,250,000 in bonds for street improvements. He also noted that the audit was not quite complete but should be ready for approval at January's special council meeting.

During Council Comments, Councilmember Henley noted that applications for the new H-GAC Homeland Security Grant must be in by the end of the year. Sergeant Eissler said the Police Department is endeavoring to get their grant application in on time.

Councilmember Henley then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Piwonka to table agenda 6, receipt of the audit. The motion carried unanimously.

Council then considered a request received from Marsha P. Gaines, Fort Bend County Tax Assess/Collector for "Authorization for Waiver of Penalty and Interest Processing" as allowed by Section 33.001 of the State Property Code. Councilmember Piwonka said this was a routine request which allows Commissioner's Court to act on behalf of the City. He made a motion to grant the request as discussed. Councilmember Jessup seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

ON ORDINANCE APPOINTING FIVE (5) MEMBERS OF THE MEADOWS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS OF THE MEADOWS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM COMMENCING IMMEDIATELY UPON PASSAGE OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2006.

Mayor McGrath said he was recommending reappointment of the entire Board as follows: Councilmember Terry Henley as Chairman and members Bob Graf, Harry Hamilton, Ed Peeler and Margaret Sandlin. Councilmember McCann made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2004-43**, as presented. Councilmember Piwonka thanked Terry Henley and the rest of the EDC for their hard work. Councilmember Henley said TML will try to get the Legislature to relax some of the restriction currently placed on EDC projects.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING ALTERNATE MEMBERS(S) OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, (CITY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION) FOR A TERM BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY UPON PASSAGE OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND ENDING ON THE 1ST DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2006, PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE.

Mayor McGrath explained that since Rick Staigle was appointed to Council, a vacant position exists on the Planning Commission. He recommended David Wilkens who, he noted, has been a consistent attendee at City Council meetings. Mr. Wilkens is a commercial real estate agent. Councilmember Jessup made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2004-44**, appointing David Wilkens as an alternate member of the Planning Commission of the City of Meadows Place. Councilmember McCann seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinances:

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING A PRESIDING JUDGE TO SERVE IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS.

and

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE TO SERVE IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS.

The second ordinance is listed twice on the agenda for a reason. Mayor McGrath explained that Rose Mary Galvan-Schulze turned in her resignation as Presiding Judge of the city's Municipal Court. He recommended Council appoint Gene Frohbieter, our acting Associate Judge as the city's Presiding Judge. Bret Kilsuk has substituted for both Judge Galvan-Schulze and Judge Frohbieter when neither has been available to act in court. He recommended Mr. Kilsuk be appointed as an Associate Judge. And Judge Galvan-Schulze has agreed to act as a substitute judge when necessary. Mayor McGrath therefore asked Council to consider the three ordinances, appointing a Presiding Judge and two Associate Judges to serve in the Municipal Court of the City of Meadows Place. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to adopt the three ordinances, number **2004-45**, appointing Gene Frohbieter as Presiding Judge, number **2004-46**, appointing Bret Kilsuk as Associate Judge, and number **2004-47**, appointing Rose Mary Galvan-Schulze as Associate Judge in the Municipal Court of the City of Meadows Place as presented. The motion 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 EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH FORT BEND COUNTY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL IN THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE.

For years, Fort Bend Animal Control has been providing the city their services, without a contract, for \$6.00 per call. Most of the surrounding cities have their own animal control facilities and the county feels this is really too far for their trucks to travel to pick up stray animals. We are too small, and it would be too costly, for Meadows Place to start their own animal control facility. We have asked surrounding cities for their help but none are interested. The county has agreed to provide the services, but at an increased cost. The new cost will be \$27.50 per call. Because of the necessity of providing animal control to our citizens, Councilmember Piwonka made a motion to approve the ordinance, numbered **2004-48**, authorizing the interlocal animal control agreement with Fort Bend County as presented. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

A bill for \$45,658.00 to Helfman Ford for the purchase of two new police vehicles was presented to Council for approval. Councilmember McCann made a motion to approve this purchase as presented. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion which was unanimously approved. Council briefly discussed the new logos that have been put on the police vehicles. Mayor McGrath said they are still experimental, or a work in progress. They really stand out and many believe they look good. Councilmember McCann will get with Captain Ashton to craft something that looks authoritative as well as projecting the image of our city.

Expenses were presented to council for ratification as follows: Floor Works Unlimited - \$5,000.00 for installation of new carpet and repainting the Community Center; McCall, Gibson & Co. - \$12,000.00 for interim audit expenses; McCannix, Inc. - \$5,000.00 for reimbursement for final payment of fencing at McDonald Park; SOG Armory, Inc. - \$6,240.00 for police vests; and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - \$9,088.97 for annual water/sewer permits. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to approve the expenditures as presented.

During audience comments, Councilmember Henley mentioned he has purchased appreciation gifts for Council to thank them for their support during his tenure as TML President. Councilmember Piwonka asked when the two holes on West Airport, in the right hand lane, would be fixed.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember McCann made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary