

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF AUGUST 23, 2005  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:33 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.

Captain Jack Ashton reported on police activity since the last regular council meeting. He said there were four accidents, (down from last month) 13 arrests, 1,270 calls for service, 316 citations issued, 71 incident reports and 75 warning citations issued. He said the Police Department has started a new service called BAC-UPS which stands for Business and Community utilizing Police Service. He said the department has had contact with business owners 304 times in the last 30 days and the business community seems to appreciate these contacts. Captain Ashton also said that two officers were assaulted over the weekend, one of which required a hospital visit for bruises. Fort Bend County Sheriff Officers were called and were finally able to subdue the combatative person by using tazors. Meadows Place has purchased tazors for all of its officers. They have each been instructed in tazor use. There was also a husband/wife altercation where the husband shot the wife. To date the wife has refused to file charges. About seven of the traffic stops resulted in further arrests due to drugs being present. A citation was issued for underage smoking at the pool. The next Crime Watch meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The program, "Stranger Danger" will be presented by Den 7 of Boy Scout Pack 301. Councilmember Jessup said he was glad the outcome of the officer assault wasn't more serious; reminding us police officers put their life on the line every time they leave the police station. He said he has been aware of the BAC-UPS program being very well received by the business community and considers it a great program.

Mayor McGrath gave the Public Works report. He said there were 122 service calls for water problems. 102 of them were city related and 15 were on private lines. 24.8 million gallons of water were pumped during May. There have been 16 main water line breaks since May 20<sup>th</sup>. There has been some rain lately so, hopefully, the line breaks will slow down. With dry weather, more breaks can be expected. There were 11 sewer related service calls for July. Six were city related and five were on private lines. Phase 3 of pavement repairs is half complete. We are trying to hit the worse ones first. Phase 4 sidewalk repairs are nearing completion. Public Works has helped Meadows Place All Play volunteers improve the baseball fields.

Terry Modeland, Co-director of the Parks and Recreation Department gave a grant update. She said Meadows Place's third grant application has been approved and is recommended for funding. The hearing, to be held August 25<sup>th</sup>, which she will attend in Austin is simply a formality. A third \$50,000 grant is expected to be awarded. This grant will require only a small amount of matching funds since the city has partnered with the Fort Bend ISD Extended Day Program which donated a nearly \$50,000 play structure. The first two grants required the city to contribute \$50,000 each in matching funds. It is estimated the city's match on the third grant will be \$5,000. The grant will include the playground equipment, removal of old playground equipment, a new outdoor classroom/pavilion and some additional smaller

components. Mayor McGrath said the city will take a break from applying for a grant next year since funds to the program have been cut and to make sure the current projects are done correctly. The Parks & Recreation annual golf tournament will be held this year on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Sugar Creek Country Club.

During audience comments, Abby Murphy she would like to thank the Planning and Zoning members for their time and efforts in addressing the Planned Development issues that were brought up in the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and thanked Council for listening to the residents at the June Public Hearing on the matter. She also wanted to invite everyone to breakfast and a prayer service for our community to be held at the Sugar Grove Church of Christ from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. They are planning to honor city officials, the fire chief and fire fighters and the police chief and police officers. They are also inviting the staff from Missouri City, Stafford, Sugar Land and Fort Bend County as well as some of the area businesses. She said the church is in Meadows, is a part of Meadows and serves Meadows. They have a food pantry and are willing to help with service projects to the community. Mayor McGrath thanked her for her comments regarding Planning & Zoning's efforts. He said the system worked as it was intended to work. On behalf of Council he thanked her for her invitation to breakfast and the prayer service.

Morris Waxler asked if there was a chance of getting a mail box at city hall. He asked to report a situation regarding a sprinkler system that needs adjusting. Mayor McGrath said he would have the Code Enforcement Officer contact him. Mr. Waxler said he would also like to thank the Planning Commission for their hard work.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath said there was a ground breaking ceremony for the new fire station scheduled for Friday morning, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

During Council comments, Councilmember Jessup said he would like to again congratulate the Parks Department on their third grant and encouraged everyone to check out the city's phenomenal web site.

Councilmember Piwonka commended Councilmember Jessup's "Did You Know" column in the City's Newsletter.

Councilmember Henley said that, as Chairman of the Legislative Committee of H-GAC and TML, he would like to inform council that school finance reform did not take place during this Legislative Session. 554 resolutions were passed. House Bill 11 added \$4.00 to court fees. A telecommunications bill whereby cities retained their right to collect franchise fees was passed and an eminent domain bill was passed.

Councilmember McCann then made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2005 Building Standard and special meetings and June 28, 2005 workshop, joint public hearing and regular meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Staigle and passed unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS TO APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT THE FORT BEND COUNTY MITIGATION ACTION PLAN, IN A FORM AT ATTACHED THERETO AND MARKED "EXHIBIT A."**

Fort Bend County has requested we adopt this resolution for FEMA purposes. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt the resolution, numbered **2005-08**, as presented. Councilmember Piwonka seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS**

This ordinance, too, was requested by Fort Bend County. Councilmember Jessup made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to approve the ordinance, numbered **2005-30**, as written.

Council was then presented with the 2005 Tax Year Value of New Property and 2005 Tax Year Certified Appraisal Roll totals from Patsy Schultz, RTA, Fort Bend County Tax Assessor/Collector. It shows the taxable values of the city to be \$236,000,000. This amount is up 7% from last year. Councilmember McCann made a motion to accept the receipt of the 2005 Tax Year Value of New Property and the 2005 Tax Year Certified Appraisal Roll totals from Tax Assessor/Collector Patsy Schultz. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Henley and unanimously approved.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2005.**

Mayor McGrath said the proposed budget calls for a 3% across the board raise for city employees and an extraordinary 10% Police Department raise. He said medical insurance costs have also increased 11 %. The only capital improvement projects remaining to be paid for with funds from the sale of land to the CVS Pharmacy are improved lighting on the jogging track, the fire station and a new marquee sign at the Community Center. He is proposing a public hearing on this budget be called for September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Henley made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2005-31**, calling a public hearing on the budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 for September 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McCann and unanimously approved.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOTAL REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL FOR 2005 FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 AND SEPTEMBER 20, 2005.**

State law this year requires that two public hearings be held if council expects to receive more money from ad valorem taxes this year than it did last year. Mayor McGrath said he is proposing the tax rate remain the same, \$0.76 per \$100 valuation but, due to the fact that our values are up by 7%, we will receive more money and must hold the two public hearings. Councilmember Piwonka made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2005-32**, calling two public hearings on a proposal to increase the total revenues from properties on the tax roll for 2005 for September 13, 2005 and September 20, 2005. Both public hearings to be scheduled to be held at 7:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Jessup and unanimously approved.

Expenditures were then presented to council for approval as follows: A-Tec Engineers & Contractors, L.P. (#2) - \$83,248.34 and (#3) - \$8,837.26 for street repairs; Claunch & Miller, Inc. - \$9,306.91 for July engineering services; GT Distributors, Inc. - \$13,946.54 for police tazors; J. Grady Randle, P.C. - \$9,061.00 for July legal services and Joe Salvide - \$11,000.00 for sidewalk repairs. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to approve the expenditures as presented.

There were no audience comments at this time.

Mayor McGrath then explained that the owners of 12059 Mulholland have filed an injunction against the city and Council needed to adjourn into Closed Session to discuss and consider pending litigation regarding demolition of property at 12059 Mulholland in accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.072. Councilmember Piwonka made a motion that Council adjourn into Executive Session as noted by the Mayor. Councilmember McCann seconded this motion which carried unanimously. Council adjourned into executive Session at 8:31 p.m.

At 8:56 p.m., Council reconvened into open session. Mayor McGrath announced there would was not action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

---

Elaine Herff, City Secretary