

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF JANUARY 25, 2005
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:30 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 Rick Staigle

thus constituting a quorum.

Captain Jack Ashton reported on police activity since the last regular council meeting which was held in November, 2005. He said that from November 22 through December 26, there were five accidents, three arrests, 1677 calls for service, eight criminal offences, 193 traffic citations and 136 traffic warnings issued. From December 27 through January 23, there were nine accidents, 12 arrests, 910 calls for service, 495 traffic citations and 78 traffic warnings issued. Captain Ashton noted that our city is growing and experiencing more activity, some good and some bad. During the two month period, there was an assault case at Sams, several vehicle burglaries, a break-in at Discount tire, a cigarette gang that struck at CVS Pharmacy and criminal mischief at the park. Many of these incidents were solved because of information from observant residents. He said "If you see something suspicious – call the police!" Captain Ashton said the eight of the arrests made resulted from traffic stops, four were drug related and one had burglar tools in his vehicle. Meadows Place is hopefully getting a reputation that, when traffic stops are made and drugs or other suspicious items are found, arrests are made. Crime statistics in all surrounding areas are up but the word is out and crime statistics are down in our city.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw then reported that during the last month there were 136 service calls for water problems. 118 of them were city related and 18 were on private lines. 16.2 million gallons of water were pumped during October. There 2 main water line breaks. There were 4 sewer related service calls for October. All were on private lines. Over the past 60 days, many potholes on West Airport and Kirkwood have been repaired as have 13 sound wall foundation problems. Currently the Public Works department is landscaping around the Community Annex/fire station frontage along Kirkwood. The traffic signal lights at West Airport and Kirkwood have been replaced with LED signals, a project that has been funded by the Economic Development Corporation. The ground irrigation system is also receiving some much needed repairs. Most of the underground utilities have been installed at the Oasis project. Piers have been drilled and set. Councilmember Jessup congratulated Mr. McGraw on the yeoman's job his department was doing, in particular at the fire station where their efforts are saving the city much money.

Parks and Recreation Co-director Monya Keenen said the 16th annual Christmas Memories event was held on Friday, December 9th. She said she appreciated the help of the Police Department with traffic and the Public Works Department who stayed until 1:00 a.m. cleaning up the event. New this year were a snow machine and live music – the Russell Ray Band. Plans are already in the works for next year's event. Mrs. Keenen informed council about the vandalism that recently occurred at the park. She said it would be several days before the rest rooms could be repaired and reopened. A new policy has been put into place. The Public Works department locks the rest room doors at 4:00 p.m., when they leave and reopen them each morning at 7:00 a.m. On weekends, the police department takes care of this

task. Restitution is being sought from the young man who caused the vandalism that occurred at approximately 11:00 a.m. on New Year's Eve. It is hoped that in the future a wireless arrangement, connected to patrol units, will be able to better secure the area. A web camera is also a possibility.

During audience comments, Michelle Nava of the 11800 block of Meadow Crest, asked about the concrete rubble along West Airport. Mayor McGrath said it was due to Phase One of the Oasis Project where a new 250 bed Alzheimer's/Assisted Living center was being built. In addition to other buildings, the project will also contain a parking facility, hospital and office building.

Resident Marti Pattinson brought up the problem of 18 wheeler trucks parking side by side behind Sam's. This area is in the City of Stafford but it presents a problem, especially for fire trucks. She hopes the fire department will become more active in our city now that we have a fire station located here.

Resident Theresa Bathe thanked the Parks Department for locking the park rest rooms at night, making it safer for neighborhood kids.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath said that this Saturday, January 28th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. an open house would be held at the new Fire Station. He also informed Council that at County Court last week, two residences were addressed. The bank which owns the residence at 12059 Mulholland, which Council, acting as the Building Standards Commission, ordered demolished, appealed. They have been allowed to repair the property and must pay 75% of our attorney fees. The resident on Level Run who was found guilty of not repairing the peeling paint and rotten wood on his residence appealed to the county. He has 60 days to repair the home. We will continue to monitor the cases on a daily basis.

During Council comments, Councilmember Henley said he has just returned from the National League of Cities' annual meeting as a representative of the Texas Municipal League. He learned that the Supreme Court has given Texas until June first to fix school financing so we can look for a special legislative session to be called after primary elections are over. He also learned that telecom and cable companies are pushing nationally to eliminate franchise fees required to be paid to cities. Cities will lose a lot of money if this happens.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the next agenda item as follows:

Consideration of and action on calling a public hearing to discuss a proposed ordinance establishing a curfew for persons under the age of 17 years in the City of Meadows Place.

Mayor McGrath explained that he attended a Gang Task Force meeting at the Fort Bend ISD with Captain Gary Stewart. He noted there ARE gangs in FBISD and in Houston. The meeting was eye opening. Gang members are being recruited as early as the 5th grade. This ordinance, patterned after an existing one in Missouri City, will require children, aged 17 or younger, to be off the streets by 11:00 p.m. most days, and by 12:00 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Councilmember Piwonka made a motion to call the public hearing to discuss the proposed ordinance for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28th. Councilmember Henley seconded the motion. Councilmember Jessup said this could be a big issue for the City of Meadows Place. While it looks like a great idea on the surface police should have the right to stop kids at any time in the city. He wondered if the word would be put out so that kids could come to give their input also. Mayor McGrath said information was in this past month's Newsletter and will again be in this month's newsletter as well as on the city's website. Councilmember Staigle said he would announce the public hearing to parents at Boy Scout meetings. Mayor McGrath called for a vote on the motion. The motion to hold the public hearing carried unanimously.

Captain Jack Ashton then discussed the Racial Profiling Report which was distributed to each council member. He explained that the first 2/3rds of the report contained demographics, background and law enforcement information. The last 1/3 contained charts with summaries of this year and comparisons with previous years. A senate bill requires police agencies to document all officer stops. With video camera input, Meadows Place has gone above and beyond what is required. Councilmember Henley made a motion to accept the Racial Profiling Report as presented. Councilmember Jessup seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Piwonka then made a motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion which was unanimously approved. Items adopted are as follows:

Item #8, approval of minutes of the November 29, 2005 workshop and regular meetings .

Item #9, approval of Ordinance numbered **2006-01**:

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING BRIAN M. MIDDLETON, AN ATTORNEY LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AS ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE.

Item #10, approval of Ordinance numbered **2006-02**:

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, FOR A TERM OF TWO (2) YEARS COMMENCING IMMEDIATELY, PURSUANT TO PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE. (Clyde Little was appointed.)

Item #11, approval of payment to Bureau Veritas for \$17,436.36.

Item #12, ratification of expenditures as presented on the agenda totaling \$408,729.44.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Piwonka made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McCann to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary