

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF JANUARY 23, 2007
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 Kulhanek
Charles Jessup
David Wilkens

and the following absent:

Alderman: Rick Staigle

thus constituting a quorum.

Captain Jack Ashton gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting which was December 19, 2006. He said there were four reportable accidents, 36 arrests, 1546 calls for service, four city ordinance violation citations issued and 344 traffic citations issued. No city ordinance violation warnings were issued but 97 traffic warnings were issued during this time frame. During the month of February, the city will again be participating in the annual Fort Bend County Warrant Roundup. Captain Ashton reminded residents that they have a civic duty to report suspicious activities to the police. It is up to the police department to decide if criminal activity is taking place. Police response times are sometimes questioned by residents. Response times vary depending on where in the city an activity is occurring and where the officer on duty is at the moment the call comes in. There were two burglaries that occurred in the alley way between the homes on Bloomington and the old Garden Ridge property. Several things can be done to deter this sort of thing, such as trimming bushes and/or a home alarm system. The police officers will share a list of security tips with residents and they are trained to do home inspections for insurance purposes. Several concerns have been voiced concerning the robberies. One was to barricade the alley way which cannot be done because this is private property. Also, police officers use the cut through to patrol Section One.

Mayor McGrath responded to an email from Brock Ramey concerning the cut through street (Ainsworth) between Meadows Place and Park Glen, Police visibility, speeding along Scottsdale and whether City Ordinances were being enforced. Ainsworth cannot be barricaded – there are at least five houses along Radford that are part of Meadows Place. A new police officer was added on October 1st and there is currently more police visibility in the city then ever before. The speed limit on city streets in the residential areas is 30 mph. A traffic count on Scottsdale indicated that 85% of the vehicles were going 28 mph or less but additional studies will be run. City Ordinance violations that were ticketed in 2006 totaled 6,072. The highest number in any previous year was about 4800 issued in 2003. Council discussed the problems. Councilmember Henley said that after reviewing the traffic report which indicated a majority of the drivers were driving in a reasonable and prudent manner, speed bumps are not warranted. Councilmember Kulhanek believes blocking off the alley way and Ainsworth would impair emergency vehicles. He agrees more traffic studies, throughout the city, are needed. Councilmember Jessup believes traffic studies should be an on-going process. We need to make sure that every corner of this city is protected.

During audience comments, Brock Ramey, who lives on Scottsdale Court, said he understands the city's concerns about blocking the alley way and Ainsworth. He is

hoping the owner of the Garden Ridge property will do something to help the Bloomington residents. He is still concerned about the speed of traffic on Scottsdale noting that most mornings it takes him 15 minutes to leave his driveway. He understands that residents can perceive that traffic is flowing faster than it actually is but he still believes that something needs to be done to calm the traffic down. A digital speed reading sign was suggested.

Residents from the 11700 block of Cedar Form again complained about CVS having their garbage picked up at times other than the permitted 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mayor McGrath explained that CVS was fined \$8,000 for this violation last year. It seems to be a recurring problem and in the future, the driver of the trash truck will be fined, not the company. Hopefully this will solve the problem.

There were no comments from the Mayor.

During council comments, Councilmember Jessup thanked everyone in the audience for coming to the Council meeting this evening.

Councilmember Henley reported on the TML program "Texas Cities Work" which is a public education program to raise public awareness of what we do as a city. He also noted that to date more than 40 applications for Police Chief have been received with the deadline to received applications still 4 days away.

Councilmember Kulhanek then made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2006 regular meeting. His motion was seconded by Councilmember Henley and carried unanimously.

Captain Jack Ashton then discussed the Racial Profiling Report which was distributed to each council member. He said the date has remained fairly constant for the past five years. A complaint was filed this year and reported to the FBI. It turned out to be unfounded. Councilmember Jessup made a motion to accept the Racial Profiling Report as presented. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, ENTITLED "PLANNING AND ZONING REGULATIONS" ARTICLE X ENTITLED "SIGNS", SECTION 24-1008 ENTITLED "SIGNS-RESIDENTIAL" BY ADDING TO SUBSECTION (4) AND AMENDING SECTION 24-1009 ENTITLED "SIGNS- COMMERCIAL/OFFICE" BY ADDING TO SUBSECTION (9) ENTITLED "POLITICAL SIGNS;" PROVIDING FOR CUMULATIVE EFFECT; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

This ordinance, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission, will limit the placement of political signs in residential yards to no sooner than 30 days before the election for which the sign is endorsing. After some discussion, during which Councilmember Henley said he would prefer the limit to be 60 and not 30 days, Councilmember Jessup made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-01**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath said the next agenda item, an agreement with T-Mobile, was not ready. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek to table the agenda item. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills were presented to Council for ratification. After examination, Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jessup, to ratify the expenditures as presented. The motion carried by unanimous approval.

There were no audience comments at this time.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jessup to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary