

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF FEBRUARY 27, 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 Rick Staigle David Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum.

Captain Jack Ashton gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting which was January 23, 2007. He said there were six reportable accidents, 33 arrests, 1452 calls for service, no city ordinance violation citations issued and 563 traffic citations issued. Seventeen city ordinance violation warnings and 159 traffic warnings were issued during this time frame. There was one report of a burglary of a motor vehicle. 373 house watches and 488 business visits were made. Three arrests for possession of a controlled substance and four marijuana arrests were made. Officer Dottei apprehended an individual who robbed a residence on Dorrance. He has since been indicted. A ticket was issued to a "graffiti artist" who was caught in the act when an observant homeowner called the police. A resident was cited on Dorrance for operating a "used car lot" business out of his home. Six vehicles were being offered for sale and a mechanic was working on two cars in the garage.

There were no audience comments at this time.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath said council will hold a workshop session next week to discuss detail on enforcing the International Property Maintenance Code regarding broken and cracked driveways. He also noted that with help from the County, nine areas in the city received asphalt overlays due, predominantly, to a center line failure in the streets. While ideally the areas would be repaired with cement, this is very costly. Hopefully, someday, the city will be able to replace all streets with new cement.

During council comments, Councilmember Henley reported that 67 resumes for Police Chief had been received. The committee narrowed the list to 22 potential candidates and sent questionnaires to all 22 to receive a more personal feeling of the candidates' qualifications. The field was then narrowed down to nine. Criminal backgrounds are being performed on these candidates and a face to face interview will be conducted. The committee hopes to limit the field to two or three candidates for the Mayor to consider. Mayor McGrath thanked the committee members for their time and effort in this task. Besides Councilmember Henley, other members of the committee are Councilmember Charles Jessup, Meadows Place Police Sergeant Larry Eissler, Meadows Place resident and retired Judge Thomas Stansbury and Marshall Witchard, a long time member of the Fort Bend law enforcement community.

Councilmember Kulhanek reminded everyone that Friday, March 2nd, the Meadows Elementary PTO was holding their annual "Old Time Meadows" fundraising event from 6 – 9 p.m.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, SUPPORTING APPROVAL OF THE FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS, PROPOSED BOND ELECTION IN MAY OF 2007 FOR APPROXIMATELY \$153 MILLION FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS.

This resolution encourages residents to become informed and vote in the May 12th County Bond Election. Included in the proposed bonds are funds for the reconstruction of West Airport from US 59 to Kirkwood. Councilmember Henley said he would meet with Congressman Nick Lampson while he was in Washington to remind Mr. Lampson how important the funds that were originally approved by Tom Delay are to this project and request that they not be cut. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle to adopt the resolution, numbered **2007-01**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING AN ELECTION FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 12TH DAY OF MAY, 2007, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CITY OFFICIALS, PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SAID ELECTION.

Up for election this year are Alderman, Place 4 and Alderman, Place 5. These positions are currently held by Councilmember Henley and Councilmember Staigle respectively. The canvass of the election will be held on Tuesday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Jessup made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-02**, as written. 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 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, AND FORT BEND COUNTY AND THE FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, CITY OF SUGAR LAND AND THE CITY OF MISSOURI CITY IN A FORM AS ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED EXHIBIT "A".

The cost to contract with the county to run this joint election would be \$2,600 which is very reasonable. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jessup, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-03**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING FIVE (5) MEMBERS OF THE MEADOWS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AS 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, 2008.

Mayor McGrath recommended reappointing the same five members that currently serve on this Corporation. They are Ken Blankenship, Bob Graf, Harry Hamilton, Terry Henley and Margaret Sandlin. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jessup to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-04**,

reappointing the five members to the EDC Board until December of 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR MEMBERS 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 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2009, PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE.

Mayor McGrath recommended reappointing the three members whose terms are expiring. They are long time member Theresa Bathe, Civil Engineer Steve Gardner and Mr. E.J. Messarra. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-05**, reappointing the three members to the Planning Commission as presented. Councilmember Staigle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

A bill to McCall Gibson for progress billing on the city's annual audit totaling \$12,000.00 was presented to council. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to pay the bill as presented.

Expenditures 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.

During comments from the audience, resident Gary Littlejohn asked if there were any plans to convert the city to surface water and if subsidence was a cause of the streets needing repair. Mayor McGrath noted that we are under a mandate to convert to surface water. The city will participate with Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District No. 2 in their Groundwater Reduction Plan. He also noted that while subsidence plays an issue in the condition of city streets, most are over 30 years old and beginning to fail. The soil conditions and mature trees in the city also play a large part.

At this time, Councilmember Staigle commented that the City of Houston has recently signed a contract to bring wi-fi to residents throughout their city. He hopes that he the same can happen for Sugar Land, Missouri City, Stafford and Meadows Place soon.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary