

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF MARCH 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 6:38 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.

Mayor McGrath then announced he was closing the meeting so that Council might enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION: In accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074 (Personnel Matters) to discuss the position of Police Chief.

When Council reconvened into open session at 7:30 PM, Mayor McGrath explained to the audience that in early December the city posted the position of Police Chief and accepted resumes until the end of January. At that time he appointed an interview committee consisting of Mayor Pro Tem Henley, Councilmember Jessup, retired Fort Bend District Court Judge and Meadows Place resident Thomas Stansbury, Meadows Place Police Sergeant and Meadows Place resident Larry Eissler and long time member of the Fort Bend County law enforcement community Marshall Witchard. Sixty-five applicants were interested. Mr. Henley and Mr. Jessup culled the number to 22. At that time the total committee met and further reduced the number to five viable candidates. The committee personally interviewed each of the five and came up with the candidate they felt best suited the needs of a Police Chief for Meadows Place. This candidate, Mike Baker, was presented to the rest of Council at tonight's Executive Session meeting for their approval. Mayor McGrath then invited Mayor Pro Tem Henley and Councilmember Jessup to address the audience. Mr. Henley explained that it was a lengthy process, he is glad it is over and he believes the committee has chosen the best candidate for Meadows Place Police Chief. Councilmember Jessup said the committee members were very focused on their task and that it was a pleasure working with them. The candidate chosen was Mike Baker. Mr. Baker has been in law enforcement for 30 years – most recently as Police Chief for the City of Bay City, Texas for 19 years and before that as a Sheriff Deputy for Matagorda County. Mayor McGrath then called for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Henley made a motion to appoint Mike Baker as the finalist for the office of Police Chief for Meadows pending adoption of an ordinance. Councilmember Jessup seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Captain Jack Ashton gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting which was February 23, 2007. He said there were four reportable accidents, three arrests, 1034 calls for service, no city ordinance violation citations issued and 351 traffic citations issued. Eighteen city ordinance violation warnings and 137 traffic warnings were issued during this time frame. The statistics are down somewhat for this reporting period. Windows in thirteen vehicles were reported in one night to have been shot out with a BB or pellet gun. There were three stolen vehicles reported. One turned out to have been reposed, one was found in McAllen, Texas and the third is still missing. 264 house watches and 372 business visits were made. Residents have complained about residents parking along Dorrance between Meadow Trail and Amblewood in the no parking zone. A complaint was also received about shopping carts which were pushed into the ditch. There have been some incidents of

teens in groups walking down streets in a “challenging” manner. Captain Ashton told council that Officer Dottei has returned from training to become a Crime Prevention Specialist. The city now has two officers, Officer Dottei and Officer Lang, so trained that can now do home inspections.

During audience comments, Mr. Linden Wong, a Brook Meadows resident, asked about plans for the new traffic light along West Airport between Kirkwood and Amblewood noting that he is concerned about cut-through traffic using his block. Mayor McGrath said that a traffic study did not indicate that cut-through traffic would be an issue. The new light will be interconnected to the one currently at West Airport and Kirkwood and hopefully with the completion of the West Belfort expansion, traffic on West Airport will be somewhat alleviated.

During Mayor’s comments, Mayor McGrath said the Fort Bend County Mobility Bond Election to be held on May 12th includes two very important projects for improvements to streets in Meadows Place. He encouraged all residents to vote.

During Council comments Councilmember Jessup noted that residents have commented to him about the positive change in the Police Department since December and he thanked Police Captains Stewart and Ashton for “picking up the ball and running with it.” Mayor McGrath also thanked the two Captains for their extra work.

Councilmember Henley then made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2007 workshop and regular meetings, February 6, 2007 workshop meeting, February 27, 2007 workshop and regular meetings and March 7, 2007 workshop meeting as presented. Councilmember Staigle seconded this motion which carried with unanimous approval.

The audit report was presented for Council’s consideration. Mayor McGrath noted that while it was a good report, expenses indicate that more revenue must be generated. Councilmember Henley moved to approve the audit report. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded the motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Councilmember Kulhanek then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jessup, to acknowledge the receipt of the Certification of Unopposed Candidates from City Secretary as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2.053 OF THE TEXAS ELECTION CODE DECLARING THE CANDIDATES NAMED HEREIN ELECTED FOR THE OFFICES STATED AS UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES.

Since the City Secretary certified that there were no unopposed candidates for the city’s May 12, 2007 general election, the state has given the city the right to cancel its election. Councilmember Jessup made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-06**, as written. The motion carried with unanimous approval. Councilmembers Henley and Staigle will be sworn in at the regular May, 2007 meeting on may 22, 2007.

The next item to be considered was approval of a letter to be sent to Fort Bend County Water Control & Improvement District No. 2 (FBC WC&ID No. 2) committing the City of Meadows Place to be a participant in the proposed group Groundwater Reduction Plan and agreeing to enter into a contractual agreement with FBC WC&ID No. 2 and to pay a pumpage fee to FBC WC&ID No. 2 for over conversion to surface water. Mayor McGrath explained the Greater Fort Bend County Subsidence has required all water districts and city owned utilities in East Fort Bend County to submit a Ground Water Reduction Plan by the end of this year explaining how they plan to convert to surface water. All entities are required to convert in part to surface water by

2013 This will impact every resident in Fort Bend County. Since Meadows Place has no supply of surface water, it will be less expensive to join with another entity. Fort Bend WC&ID has agreed to "over convert". Meadows will continue to pump water and will pay a pumpage fee of \$0.80 per 1000 gallons of pumped to WC&ID No. 2. WC&ID No. 2 wants us to send them a letter of intent and a \$15,000 deposit. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion to approve sending the letter of intent and deposit to WC&ID No. 2. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion which carried with unanimous consent. Councilmember Jessup noted Meadows Place was way ahead of other entities on this issue, again showing we are proactive and not reactive.

A bill to Encore Communications for \$6,000 was presented to Council for ratification. The ½ cent EDC sales tax will be used to pay this. Councilmember Henley made a motion to ratify the expenditure. Councilmember Staigle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

There were no audience comments at this time.

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