

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF APRIL 24, 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 Gary Stewart gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting which was March 24, 2007. He said there were 1332 calls for service. There were six burglaries of motor vehicles, one Burglary of a habitation and one building burglary. There were two disturbance calls and eight accidents, five minor and 3 more serious, on West Airport at US 59 and West Airport and Dairy Ashford. Fifteen alarms were received, eight business and seven residential. The department performed 451 business checks, 144 security checks at the park, 268 house watch checks and 198 close patrol checks. Four drug arrests were made – all in drug free zones. There were 505 traffic citations issued and 175 warnings. There were 15 city ordinance warnings given and two citations written – both to solicitors without licenses.

During audience comments, Mr. Brock Ramey thanked the police force for being more visible. He said he received a response from the owners of the Garden Ridge building who said she'll send out a maintenance crew. He was concerned about seeing two vehicles parked in the lot at 3:00 am and felt "No Trespassing" signs would help to keep kids from congregating in the alleyway late at night. Mayor McGrath reminded him to call the police department when suspicious activity is observed.

Frazier Pless was present with two boy scouts who were working on their merit badges. He said he was concerned that the retainage walls along West Airport and Dairy Ashford may be holding back some water where mosquitoes could breed. Councilperson Jessup noted that the cement strips (sometimes called a mow strip) sometimes look like they are "bowing" but they are put there to help maintain the property.

Mathew Waithe, store manager for Wal*Mart said he is available should council or the audience have any comments or problems with his store.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath announced a "Meet and Greet" would be held for the new Police Chief on Wednesday, June 27th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

During Council comments Councilmember Kulhanek, following up on Mr. Pless' mosquito concern, reminded residents that the City's "Mosquito Plan" was on the City's web site along with other handy tips for mosquito control from Public Works Director Dan McGraw. Councilmember Jessup thanked the boy scouts in the audience for coming to tonight's meeting. He also welcomed Chief Baker and Captain Stewart to the meeting.

Councilmember Staigle then made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2007 workshop and regular meetings, the April 3, 2007 workshop meeting, and the April 17, 2007 workshop meeting as presented. Councilmember Wilkens seconded this motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, CHAPTER 29, ENTITLED "UTILITIES," ARTICLE I, ENTITLED "IN GENERAL," DIVISION 2 ENTITLED "BILLING AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE," SECTION 29-11, ENTITLED "BILLING AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE AND SANITARY SERVICE" AND SECTION 29-12, ENTITLED "APPLICATION FOR WATER SERVICE

Mayor McGrath said that the water and sewer fund ran over budget last fiscal year due to the many main line brakes. This year's budget does not include funds for the city's conversion to ground water. It is necessary to increase water and sewer rates to cover the expenses and rebuild the reserve amount. He is proposing a \$6.00 increase to the minimum charge for sewer service. He is proposing water rates be increased by \$1.10 for each 1,000 gallons of water used over the minimum 4,000 – up to 10,000 gallons, \$1.30 for each additional 1,000 gallons used from 10,001 to 30,000 gallons and \$1.44 for each additional 1,000 gallons of water used over 30,000 gallons. These rates have been bench marked to those of the cities of Houston and Sugar Land. An average user uses 12,000 gallons per month. Currently, their bill in Meadows Place is approximately \$46.00. If they lived in Sugar Land it would be \$58.59 per month and in Houston it would be \$83.00 per month. After the increase, the Meadows Place residential user will pay \$53.00 per month for water and sewer service. Also, the deposit for residential property users will increase from \$100.00 to \$200.00. After some discussion where it was noted that this change will be announced in the next Newsletter and on the web site and will take place with bills mailed out June 1st. Councilmember Jessup made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-09**, as read. Councilmember Staigle seconded this motion which was unanimously adopted.

The City's Investment Portfolio was presented to council for its consideration. After review, Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to accept the Investment portfolio as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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 Jessup 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 Staigle to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary