

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF MAY 22, 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.

Judge Ken Cannata, Justice of the Peace for Fort Bend County Precinct 3, swore in city officials as follows: Alderman Place No. 4, Terry Henley and Alderman Place No. 5 Rick Staigle.

Meadows Home and Garden club members Betty Schofield and Benét Gaytos then presented Brian Schroeder with a scholarship. Brian is an active member of the community and his church. He is currently employed as a Meadows Place Life Guard and is also a coach for the Meadows Marlin swim team. Council and the audience congratulated Brian and Mayor McGrath thanked Garden Club members for their annual scholarship presentations and the many other community events they are involved in.

Captain Jack Ashton gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting which was April 24, 2007. He said there were six reportable accidents, 26 arrests, 1,420 calls for service, one city ordinance violation citation and 479 traffic citations issued. Twenty-six city ordinance violation warnings and 22 traffic warnings were issued during this time frame. Activity levels are back up to normal. Two officers are being scheduled to be present at all Barefoot 'n Friday and Dive-in-Movie events. The Safe Haven for Children program will start next week. There was no Crime Watch meeting due to no resident participation. There were three motor vehicle burglaries during the time frame and a robbery at Discount Tire last week when used tires were taken. Two weeks ago the department received a missing person call. A 74 or 76 year old woman lost her way while walking her dog in Meadows Place and was found at Bellaire and Cook Road wandering down the street. A four year old child was found playing at the park by himself and a vehicle reported stolen was actually taken by the reportee's son. Councilmember Jessup congratulated Captain Ashton on the birth of his daughter, Meridian Nicole and the whole Police Department on their implementation of the Safe Place program. Meadows Place is the first department in Fort Bend County to have this program.

Parks co-Director Terry Modeland brought council up to date on activities in her department. She said the 187 kids attended the first Barefoot 'n Friday. The 1st Dive in Movie will be held this Friday. Splash Night will be held June 1st from 6 – 10 p.m. The annual 4th of July parade will be held this year with a Sheriff Mounted Patrol Color Guard and current Meadows Place residents home on leave who are serving in Iraq. There have been five "Theme Parties" held at the pool to date and 35 Meadows Place residents purchased pet tags at the Mobil Pet Clinic held last night. New \$10.00 tennis court/pool access cards will be sold at the pool this (Memorial Day) weekend. Councilmember Jessup congratulated the Parks Department for creating an event (Dive-in-Movies) that caters to the high school crowd.

During audience comments, a resident expressed concern over whether or not the traffic light at Kirkwood and West Airport are timed to allow pedestrians time to safely cross the street when left turn lanes and signals are involved. She was assured they were.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor McGrath said that while water and sewer rates increased last month, this month's Newsletter would inform residents that garbage rates will increase by \$0.30 with the utility bills received July 1st due to an increase being charged by Republic Waste Company. Our contract with Republic Waste expires in June of 2008. Prior to that time the city will inquire about the possibility of switching to another company. Mayor McGrath also reminded everyone to attend the "Meet & Greet" being held on Wednesday, June 27th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to introduce our new Police Chief, Mike Baker, to the community.

During Council comments Councilmember Henley said it looked as if no appraisal/revenue caps would be placed on cities by the state legislature this session. He noted that, while we all want lower taxes, cities and counties are not the problem. The majority of ad valorem taxes are imposed by school districts. Alternate funding is being looked at. He also noted that, regarding garbage rates, ours are still relatively low with some areas paying over \$20.00 a month for this service. He expressed concern that the city was locked into this contract requiring us to pay more for increasingly poorer service. Councilmember Staigle commented that all garbage companies are wanting to go to one big can per residence that trucks can pick up with only one man. Councilmember Jessup applauded Mayor McGrath and the rest of Council for working on the best solution for Meadows Place garbage service.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE ELECTION OF A MAYOR PRO TEMPORE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, TO SERVE IN SUCH OFFICE UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR CITY ELECTION.

He said he was recommending Councilmember Terry Henley, who has served in this position for the past several years, to be elected again this time. Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-10**, electing Councilmember Henley as Mayor Pro Tem until the next regular City election. The motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Jessup recognized Councilmember Henley for the asset he is to the City of Meadows Place.

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 AN AGREEMENT WITH CLAUNCH & MILLER, INC. TO PROVIDE VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICES.

Claunch Miller maintains the GIS system for the City to use. This ordinance is identical to the one passed for the last few years. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-11**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the next agenda action as follows:

A NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AFFECTING ALL DRIVEWAYS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS.

As discussed several months ago, the City is now enforcing the International Property Maintenance Code in regards to driveways. There are two classes of enforcement. The first pertains to owners of rental properties who must repair broken driveways as a condition of the city before being granting a Certificate of Occupancy to a new resident. The second class pertains to owner/residents with broken driveways. Acknowledging driveway repair can be expensive, homeowners who are in the process of selling their homes, will not be able to sell them without some assurance that the broken driveway will be fixed before new occupancy can take place. This will affect every single house in the City of Meadows Place. This is a safety issue which also involves property value issues. The intent of this notice is to make potential home buyers and sellers aware of the Code. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jessup to approve the Notice of Adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code affecting all driveways within the Corporate Limits of the City of Meadows Place, Texas.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, ENTITLED "BUILDINGS" ARTICLE I ENTITLED "IN GENERAL," SECTION 9-8 ENTITLED "OCCUPANCY PERMIT REQUIRED; FEE." BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (d).

This ordinance will require that a residence have electricity and water service in place to maintain their Certificate of Occupancy. It will also allow the City to withhold water service if a residence has not passed an occupancy inspection. The ordinance does provide for an appeal process. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-12**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills totaling \$25,847.45 to Artisan Field Visual Communications, Encore Communications, Kraftsman Playground & Park Equipment and Randle Law Office were presented to Council for ratification. Councilmember Henley made a motion to ratify the expenditures. Councilmember Staigle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

During audience comments, David Lin asked how he could replace his driveway properly if the sidewalk approaches were not even. He was told the City would work with him and would provide him with a list of reputable contractors (with no specific recommendations) should he desire one.

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 8:32 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary