

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF JUNE 24, 2008
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 Charles Jessup, 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 Section 551.041, TGC with the following members present and in attendance:

Mayor: Charles Jessup

Aldermen: Charles Kulhanek
Rick Staigle
David Wilkens
Heidi Case

absent was Alderman: Terry Henley

thus constituting a quorum.

Boy Scout Troop 791 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Wilkens gave the invocation.

Captain Gary Stewart gave an update of Sgt. Larry Eissler's trial. The man accused of shooting Sgt. Eissler during a police chase was tried for and found guilty of attempted capital murder and theft of the truck driven during the chase, which began in Harris County and continued through Stafford and Meadows Place, ending in Sugar Land. Joseph Lee Flores received a life sentence for the attempted murder and sixty years for the theft. Officers with the Meadows Place and Sugar Land Police Departments, and the Fort Bend County Narcotics Task Force testified during the weeklong trial. Chief Mike Baker and Captain Stewart attended the trial every day. Mayor Jessup commented to the Boy Scouts in the audience about the choices they make. He reminded them to follow the Boy Scout code and to make responsible choices. Councilmember Kulhanek commented that he was glad Sgt. Eissler is still with us today. Mayor Jessup asked Captain Stewart what the turnover rate for the police department was for last year. Captain Stewart informed Council that the turnover rate for at least the past two years has been zero. Mayor Jessup was pleased with this information.

Dan McGraw gave an update of Public Works activities since March 2008. The West side of the Community Center was re-landscaped with Bottle Brushes, Loropatalum and knockout roses. A new sprinkler system was installed with improvements made to the existing system. The 3500 linear foot asphalt overlay on West Airport covered cracks that would have become potholes. Sandblasting on Dorrance is complete but there are still a few other areas in the city to clean. The storm drain stenciling project will resume in late July or early August. Upcoming projects include landscaping at the park and the Dairy Ashford Landscape Project scheduled to begin in September 2008. Bid packages will go out in August. Sugar Land will be installing double left turn lanes north and southbound at Dairy Ashford and West Airport, but Dan is unsure how this will affect the Landscape Project. An eight-foot fence is going up at the annex to hide the water plant there. The storm drain study is almost complete. Meadow Glen III has the worst drainage in the city because the water has such a long way to travel down the streets before it reaches the storm drain. Dan will put together a package of the City's sewer line maps to present to council at a later date. Mosquito samples have been taken at several test locations in the City. Counts are up at one location. An environmentally safe, EPA approved chemical briquette will be placed in all of our 378 storm inlays. As the briquette gets wet, a chemical is released that is stronger and will last longer than the previous

chemical used by the City. Fort Bend County will continue to spray whenever needed.

During audience comments, Betty Johnson, longtime resident of Meadows Place, asked about the garbage contract information in the newsletter. She asked Council if they could lower costs by having the garbage company pick up once a week. Mayor Jessup said that this option was sometimes more expensive because of the type of truck used. He also said that gasoline prices are a driving factor for these contracts. When the City entered into the previous contract in 2005, average diesel fuel prices were \$1.67 a gallon. Now, diesel is averaging at \$4.48 a gallon. Since this topic is on the agenda as Item 6, it was tabled until later in the meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Sebastian Agudelo of Boy Scout Troop 791 asked the Council about gang crime around the community. Mayor Jessup said that we do not allow it. The Police Department knows the children in the City and keeps a close eye on them. Our city has a drug-free, gun-free zone for 2,000 feet from the elementary school, which encompasses the majority of the city.

Joseph McGreevy of Troop 791 asked if the City was doing anything new to help care for the environment. Councilmember Staigle commented that Boy Scout Pack 301 painted storm drains with a message about not putting things in them. The City has recycling pick-up every Friday. The Public Works Department is testing gray water recycling which would use water from the wastewater treatment plant to irrigate the esplanades and the parks throughout the City. After Christmas last year, the City collaborated with the Village of Surfside Beach to recycle Christmas trees, which were taken to the beach to prevent beach erosion.

Sam Hillmon of Troop 791 asked about residents shooting off fireworks on the Fourth of July. Councilmember Kulhanek said that it is illegal in Meadows Place, Sugar Land, Stafford, and Houston. The Police Department responds quickly to reports of fireworks going off in the City. He reminded the audience that our 25th anniversary celebration in November will have a professional fireworks display and that our City hosts a Fourth of July parade every year with activities at the park afterward.

Dheeraj Ponakala of Troop 791 asked how the City was conserving water. Public Works Director, Dan McGraw said that the City has a drought contingency plan.

Danny Barrera of Troop 791 asked about the City's response to natural disasters and emergencies. Captain Stewart said that the Fire Department, Police Department, and Ambulance are on the scene immediately. The City has implemented the Code Red Notification System, which can dial every resident in Meadows Place within seconds to notify them of imminent natural disasters or any other emergency.

Dheeraj Ponakala of Troop 791 had a question about any Blood Drives in the City. Mayor Jessup said that we had a Blood Drive last year for a resident and the Houston Blood Center was thrilled with the response.

Jarrett Davis of Troop 791 asked about summer activities for children. Mayor Jessup said that the City is home to Meadows Elementary, which is surrounded by parks. The Parks Department offers Monday Movies, Bingo on Wednesday, and Barefoot 'n' Friday Nights for children aged 9-14. The pool is open 6 days a week. The City is home of Meadows Marlins Swim Team, Meadows All-Play Baseball, and several Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup said the budget cycle begins next month. He and Council are looking at ways to maintain costs with rising gas prices. The MCIA is reforming. There will be more to come about that in the

future. Mayor Jessup asked everyone to get involved in the City of Meadows Place. He has been pleased with past volunteer response.

During Council comments, Councilmember Kulhanek said the Fourth of July Parade is coming up. Congressman Nick Lampson, Congressman Pete Olson, and State Representative Charlie Howard agreed to ride in the Parade. The Parks Department is planning some fun and games after the Parade. As always, the Scouts will participate. Councilmember Case said planning for the 25th anniversary celebration is coming along nicely. There will be fireworks and a band along with many others fun activities. Councilmember Staigle reported that the speeding on Dorrance between Meadow Trail and Amblewood is getting worse. People are driving through there at more than 6 miles over the speed limit. The Police Department will step up patrol in the area.

Mayor Jessup 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 ADDENDUM WITH WCA WASTE CORPORATION (WASTE CORPORATION OF TEXAS) FOR TRASH COLLECTION IN THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE.

The city's current trash contract expires on June 30. The City received bids from Allied Waste, Republic Waste and WCA - who came in with the lowest bid. There will be no fuel surcharge. This contract includes a \$7.85 per household per month increase in the cost charged to the city for this service. Councilmember Staigle said the City had many issues with Republic. Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2008-19**, with WCA Waste Corporation of Texas for trash collection. The motion carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Sam Hillmon of Troop 791 asked if there was a curfew for juveniles in Meadows Place. Mayor Jessup said the curfew for those 16 and under is 11:00 pm Sunday through Thursday and 12 Midnight Friday and Saturday.

Don Scherer, a longtime Meadows Place resident, asked why there was little to no police presence on West Airport on weekday mornings. Mayor Jessup said that during the school year, the police patrol around the elementary school at that 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 8:30 p.m.

Carrie Gregg, Deputy City Secretary