

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:32 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: Heidi Case
Terry Henley
Charles Kulhanek
Rick Staigle
David Wilkens

Councilmember Staigle led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Jessup gave the invocation.

Captain Jack Ashton gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting. He said the Police Department survived Hurricane Ike with help from Power Bars calories and caffeine. Incidents were lower than normal due to storm recording activities. Preparations began while Hurricane Gustav was still in the Gulf. Officers were subject to a two hour call out notice and told to be prepared for a five day stay. The department was fully operational out of the Kirkwood Annex. During the period from 8/26/2003 to 9/22/2008, there were nine reportable accidents. There were 10 arrests made, 1535 calls for services, no city ordinance violations but one city ordinance warning was given. There were 418 traffic violations and 115 traffic warnings issued. There were 46 incidents where a police officer was requested.

Public Works Direct Dan McGraw reported on activity in his department for the last three months. He said the electrical project on West Airport is complete. His department started boarding up city facilities on September 11th with plywood. They cleared the parks of all objects weighing less than 100 pounds. On Hurricane day, at 6:30 a.m. power to the Well #1 generator went out. It was fixed by resetting the button. By 7:00 a.m. his crew was out with chain saws clearing the major roads. He was amazed by the amount of residential help given. Power went out at the Sewer Treatment plant but a pump was received from Southwest Water that same day. The Public Works crew helped to clean out the storm drains. Again they were impressed by the tremendous amount of residential help they received. After cleaning up, the city found out that the county, due to FEMA rules, would not remove plastic bags from resident's front lawns. Public Works picked the bags up and took them to a site on Monticeto where, with help from Tracey Spiller, several Police Officers and several teen aged boys, they opened the bags and spread the debris so that FEMA could pick up their contents. During the sweep of the city, approximately 15,000 bags were moved and opened. His crew will do one more sweep of the city. FEMA has completed its first round of picking up tree limbs and vegetation. This is an on-going process with two more sweeps expected in the next 7 to 8 weeks. Mr. McGraw also noted that he just returned from a Sugar Land meeting where they approved the contract to contribute to the Dairy Ashford landscaping.

Mayor Jessup then gave an update of city activities resulting from Hurricane Ike. He said a "after the event review" meeting would be held next Tuesday, September 30th, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. He said communications were the biggest problem. The city survived Ike, significantly better than some other cities, mainly because of residents help. We've done a lot but there is still much to do. There were no deaths in our city and we are well on our way to recovery. Meadows Place took a progressive, proactive stance. Obtaining a pump at the Sewer Treatment Plant helped to keep the sewage moving. A city wide curfew was instituted. We have completed picking up the plastic bags and tearing them and putting the debris on a pile on Monticeto for FEMA pickup. Meadows Place is the only city in Fort Bend County to have successfully dealt with the plastic bag situation. Sugar Land crews came out to fix our traffic light on Kirkwood and West Airport at no charge. Meadows Place and Stafford worked together to get the power up on 59 and W. Airport. The county is trying to get permission for a fly over for mosquito control. Throughout the entire time, the city has continued to function. Currently our Police Department is helping at the POD in Stafford. While we weren't perfect, we have made many good decisions. Many thanks are due to many people.

During audience comments, resident Steve Bezner of the 11800 block of Amblewood, noted that the morning of the Hurricane at 7:00 a.m. he saw cops on the streets and as soon as the storm died down he saw a tractor clearing the streets. He saw the Mayor and City Council members going around to see how they could help residents. As a resident, his family is proud and thankful they are Meadows Place residents.

Sheryl Oliver, President of the Fort Bend International Festival, invited Meadows Place residents to attend the Festival at the Stafford Civic Center, October 4, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. noting it is a free family event to be enjoyed by everyone.

Resident Abby Murphy of the 12100 block of Alston said the Hurricane was an event we have not seen as a community in 36 years. Clean up work has been done very efficiently. She then requested that solar signs noting the school speed limit around Meadows Elementary be installed. Councilmember Staigle informed her that this had been looked into. Eight signs would be needed at a cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 each.

Resident Barbara White asked if we have an Emergency Coordinator in Meadows Place. She was told that job fell to the Mayor. We have no City Manager. Mayor Jessup used the Code RED system twice prior to the Hurricane and four times after the event. Mrs. White said she did not get any of the notices. She was told to contact Captain Gary Stewart with the Police Department if she has registered her phone number(s) and didn't receive any of the messages.

Velon Saint of the 12300 block of Level Run said he was happy with the Police Department and the functioning of the water wells during this crisis. He noted though, that his only form of communication from day one of the Hurricane was to talk to his friends who live in Section I. He said we need better communications.

Patricia Pless of the 12100 block of Brighton complained about the garbage pickup since the Hurricane. Mayor Jessup asked her to bear with us for about two more weeks.

Oscar Villarreal of the 12300 block of Hoggard asked if taxes would increase due to FEMA's involvement in removing the trash from the Hurricane. They will not.

There were no additional Mayor's comments at this time.

During council comments, Councilmember Wilkens noted that there were several instances during the Hurricane Ike crisis that the Public Works Director and the Mayor made use of the many contacts they have to make the operation run smoothly. He noted the city is blessed to have quality professionals who work here who share the relationships they have made with the city.

Councilmember Kulhanek noted that, overall, City employees have done a great job. Ten to eleven days after the Hurricane, the city looks almost as if nothing has happened.

Councilmember Staigle then made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2008, workshop and special meetings; May 27, 2008 workshop and regular meetings; June 24, 2008, workshop and regular meetings; July 15, 2008, workshop meeting; July 22, 2008 workshop and regular meetings; July 30, 2008, August 6, 2008, August 12, 2008, workshop meetings; August 19, 2008, workshop and special meetings; August 26, 2008 regular meeting; September 9, 2008 public hearing and special meetings; September 16, 2008, special and emergency meetings; and September 17, 2008 emergency meeting as presented. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read a proclamation naming September 26, 2008 as Fort Bend County day in Meadows Place, Texas encouraging all residents to visit the parade and County Fair opening that day. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to accept the proclamation as read.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE AND OFFICIAL ALTERNATE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2009.

Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion to adopt the resolution, numbered **2008-03**, designating Councilmember Henley to serve as our Representative and Councilmember

Staigle to serve as our Official Alternate to the General Assembly of the Houston-Galveston Area Council for the year 2009. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Case and carried unanimously.

Council then received the City's investment reports and reviewed the City Investment Policy. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to accept the reports and Investment Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FISCAL 2008-2009 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED

Councilmember Staigle made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2008-26**, adopting the budget for the City of Meadows Place, Texas, and appropriating the several sums set up therein to the objects and purposes therein named. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Henley and carried with unanimous approval. Because this budget will raise more revenues than last year, it must be publically ratified. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek to ratify the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL 2008-2009 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THEIR AUGUST 25, 2008, REGULAR MEETING AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED.

Councilmember Henley noted that the Economic Development Council was formed 15 years ago. Voter approval of its incorporation allowed the sales tax to change from \$0.0725 to \$0.0775 cents per dollar of goods sold. (There is an additional \$0.025 sales tax to reduce ad valorem taxes making the total sales tax rate \$0.0825 per dollar sold.) Since that time, EDC funds have been used to pay for the property and drill our third water well, and to pay for the widening of West Airport and installation of the sound walls along West Airport and Dairy Ashford, among other things. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle, to adopt the fiscal 2008-2009 EDC budget, ordinance number **2008-27**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, FOR THE TAX YEAR 2008.

The proposed tax rate is \$0.79, the same rate as last year. It will be broken down as follows: \$0.1756 for Debt Service and \$0.6144 for Maintenance and Operation. Councilmember Wilkens made a motion to adopt the tax rate, ordinance number **2008-28**, as presented. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Councilmember Staigle then made a motion to ratify the expenditures as presented on the agenda. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion with carried with unanimously.

There were no audience comments at this time.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary