

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF AUGUST 28, 2007
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 8:15 p.m., immediately following the joint public hearing with the Planning Commission, 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 Jessup Charles Kulhanek Rick Staigle Dave Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum.

Captain Gary Stewart gave a report on police activities since the last regular council meeting which was July 24, 2007. He said there were 11 reportable accidents (five on West Airport, three on Kirkwood, two on Scottsdale at Dorrance and one on the Southwest Freeway feeder road.) There were 10 arrests made (seven on warrants from other jurisdictions, two for possession of a controlled substance and one for possession of marijuana.) There were three assaults reported, 1214 house watches performed, 264 close patrols and 328 business checks. During this time, there were two burglaries of motor vehicles and three residential burglaries reported. Police performed 163 park security checks where an officer goes by to check on the activity going on at the parks. If someone is perceived as having no business being there, they are asked to leave. Mayor McGrath thanked Captain Stewart for the work he did coordinating the Code RED system demonstration. This is a web-based and web-driven reverse 9-1-1 type of system where all residents can be notified over their home and/or cell phones of any pertinent information. Funds will be in the budget for this system beginning October 1st. Sharon Kitchen asked Captain Stewart if Meadows Place vehicle decals were effective. Captain Stewart said yes as they identified vehicles that were domiciled in Meadows Place. Mrs. Kitchen suggested they might be used at Meadows Place Senior Village to identify vehicles that belong to those residents.

During Audience comments, Janet Pote told council that she feels that the fact that there is no sidewalk along Kirkwood, adjacent to the Sugar Grove School, is a dangerous situation. Mayor McGrath noted that the city should have required the church to install the sidewalk during construction of the school. At a cost of \$6.00 per square foot, this will be an expensive item for the city to install. Mrs. Pote also asked if it were true that council passed an ordinance requiring broken/cracked driveways to be repaired before a house can be sold or rented. Mayor McGrath said yes, the city was in accordance with the International Property Code in this matter.

Mary Rowel then reminded council that a blood drive for resident Bruce Mills, whose leg was required to be amputated, was being held on Monday, Sept. 3rd, Labor Day, from 10:00 am–3:00 pm.

Another resident asked why the city was repairing its concrete streets with asphalt overlays. Mayor McGrath said it was too expensive to use cement.

Diann Hamilton asked if we knew yet what businesses would be locating in the new strip mall. Mayor McGrath said he heard so far that a Title Company and a Sandwich shop would be among the new tenants. The project is expected to be complete in January of 2008.

Other residents asked if something could be done about high weeds in flower beds and vehicles parked in driveways and backyards with tarps over them. These comments were noted by council.

Mayor McGrath thanked Mrs. Rowel for heading the Blood Drive. He also noted that the city received about 3½ inches of rain in a two hour period recently, which tested the storm drainage system and caused street flooding. He noted when residents and landscapers blow grass clippings down the storm drains, it not only causes blockages but it is also illegal. He encouraged residents to call the police department when they see this happening. He also noted that a complete drainage study in the city has never been done and he felt it was something that should be considered. He will ask our consulting engineers for the cost of such a study.

During Council comments, Councilmember Jessup said that six plaques for the Community Center "Wall of Heroes" have been ordered to date. He reminded everyone that Sharon Kitchen was the point of contact for this project. He also said that most of the storm drains were working well. The streets are part of the drainage system and, for the most part, they do drain quickly. Councilmember Henley said he has lived here in Meadows Place since 1981. He remembers that in 1983, during Hurricane Alicia, water came halfway up to his front door. While street flooding can be a problem, it is not the first time that this has happened. Councilmember Jessup said that Houston/Harris County has begun a campaign on keeping our drains clean. Meadows Place is joining this campaign and our residents will become more aware of the importance of keeping storm drains clean in the future.

Councilmember Wilkens then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek, to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2007 workshop and regular meetings, the August 14, 2007 workshop, special joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission, and special council meeting and the July 17, 2007 special and workshop meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then acknowledged receipt of the 2007 Tax Year Value of New Property and the 2007 Tax Year Certified Appraisal Roll Totals as submitted by Patsy Schultz, RTA, Fort Bend County Tax Assessor/Collector. The city's total tax valuation is \$256 million. This is an increase of 1.6% over last year. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to approve the acknowledgement from Ms. Schultz. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008.

Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-17**, calling a public hearing for Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to hear all comments, for and against, the proposed fiscal year 2007-2008 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McGrath then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS ON A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL FOR YEAR 2007.

Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-18**, calling public hearings for Tuesday, Sept 11, 2007, and Tuesday, September 18, 2007, to hear all comments, for and against, the proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll for year 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

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 EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS, GOODS, OR SERVICES BETWEEN FORT BEND COUNTY AND THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS.

Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2007-19**, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Henley then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to ratify the expenditures as presented on the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Vivian Whiteman asked if there was any information available concerning the old Deauville Mall property. Mayor McGrath explained the situation with two property owners not willing to give in to each other regarding their first right of refusal on contracts for sale.

Sharon Kitchen thanked Council for their participation in National Night Out this year. Mayor McGrath said there was a movement going on to change the date for National Night Out to a month when it is cooler outside.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Jessup made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary