

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2009
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: Heidi Case
Terry Henley
Charles Kulhanek
Rick Staigle
Dave Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum.

The pledge to the flag was led by City Secretary Elaine Herff and Councilmember Dave Wilkens gave the invocation.

Captain Jack Ashton reported on Police activities since the last Regular Council Meeting. He noted there were six reportable accidents (three were on the US 59 feeder road by Nissan car dealership), eight arrests, 1330 calls for service, 51 offense reports, 269 traffic citations and 89 traffic and nine city ordinance warnings issued. The overall activity is down somewhat from the summer months due to the fact that fewer residents are leaving on vacation since school is back in session. House watches were down from the high 700's to the low 300's. National Night Out will be held on October 6, 2009. Police officers will ride through the neighborhood stopping at any block parties from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The Police Department will be assisting with traffic control this Saturday morning for the Fun Run being held by Sugar Grove Church of Christ. Office Hodge is to be noticed for capturing a career wanted felon when he noticed a vehicle with no registration or inspection driving slowly through the city. Stafford Police were chasing a vehicle on Friday night that lost control, went into a yard and peeled the brick off of the home on the southeast corner of Brook Meadows at Kirkwood. Our Police Department located the vehicle involved in a burglary of the Wells Fargo bank in Randall's store last week. Our Police Department has an excellent relationship with the departments of neighboring cities.

Dan McGraw, Public Works/Public Utilities Director, gave an update on what his Department has been doing since he last addressed Council. He said there were 54 water main breaks since May so a lot of driveways and sidewalks were removed and replaced. Last Saturday, with the aid of Boy Scout Troop 731, storm drains were stenciled with "Don't Dump" signs. This project completes year two of a five year storm sewer report submission. During year three, more training will be received and the department will give talks to the elementary school children. In about six weeks, clean up work will be done at the sewer plant and new diffusers will be installed. This will be a 10 - 15 day project. A grant request has been submitted to 3-M for sign replacement and we'll know in about three weeks if we receive it. Detailed drawings have been submitted to CenterPoint for a request for the City to install berms on their easements which will be approximately 20 feet long by 5 feet wide. A new landscape contract will go into effect on October 5th when Texas Lawn Landscape Services will begin mowing city property and esplanades. A large (78 foot by 12 foot) birdbath has been filled in by the Uretak Company on Brighton Lane. Our new Public Works employee is skilled in plumbing and heating matters and has saved the city considerable money by bringing the Field House restrooms up to ADA code. The Public Works Department this year also completed a jogging trail overlay, the 25th anniversary set up, landscaping at the Community Center, installing the electricity and lighting to the lights along West Airport at McGrath Park, installed additional storm drains in the City Hall parking lot, acted as general contractor for the landscaping

along Dairy Ashford for Meadows Place and Sugar Land, and completed trimming along the sound walls.

Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo gave council a general overview of the Fire Department. Under a contractual agreement, Stafford provides fire protection to the City of Meadows Place. Meadows Place has a new fire station, known as Station 3. The Department is known as a "combination department" with 76 personnel, 45 of which are volunteers, 28 are paid part time employees. There is also a full time, paid Fire Chief and Fire Marshall. The department covers 10.2 square miles and makes 2,800 to 3,000 calls per year. In 2005 there were 264 incidents, in 2006 284 incidents, in 2007 298 incidents, in 2009 359 incidents. So far, in 2009 there have been 175 incidents and it is expected this will be a below average year regarding incidents. Generally there are two EMS calls to every one fire call in Meadows Place. The most recent fire call in Meadows Place was a result of a lightening strike. Chief DiCamillo did some interesting research on lightening strikes and encouraged residents to check out the site www.lighteningsafety.com on the internet. Because of Interlocal agreements between the surrounding cities, there is basically one fire department with 13 stations located in Meadows Place, Missouri City, Stafford and Sugar Land. Mayor Jessup asked Chief DiCamillo to let the Stafford Fire Department members know that we appreciate all that they do for us.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted that: 1: the purpose of a Council Meeting is to conduct the business of the City. While Council is interested in what residents think, their comments must be kept short and to the point; 2: He thanked Council member David Wilkens for arranging a meeting with a representative from Cushman & Wakefield of Texas to promote our freeway frontage area and Council Member Staigle for his computer knowledge which helped make our tough budget process go more smoothly; 3: He reported on his meeting with representatives of Meadows Elementary School. This school is the heartbeat of our community and all 425 kids received outstanding test scores enabling the school to receive a coveted exemplary rating; 4. Due to a mix up with the Sugar Grove Fun Run being on the last Saturday of the month which coincides with Garage Sale day, there will be no garage sales in the month of September. Garage sales will be officially revisited within the next few months and residents are encouraged to voice their opinions to Council.

During Council comments, Councilmember Staigle again reminded the residents about National Night Out on October 6th. Anyone forming a block party should contact Officer Davis for instructions. Regarding citizen participation, he said we welcome dialogue and discussion but there will never be 100% agreement among all citizens. In 2006 we received 382 responses to a resident survey. Many expressed a desire for some sort of water feature or pond for our park. In January, a survey of senior citizens also responded they would like to see a pond in our park. Ponds are installed in all new subdivisions with no particular worry about safety. Most comments from residents about a pond are either indifferent or positive. Regarding Crime Watch meetings, Councilmember Staigle noted that no one will commit to attending regular meetings. Council can try as hard as they can but citizens will have to try harder also to participate with the city and look for information - be it in the newspapers, the city's Newsletter, Town Meetings, the city's web site or coming to Council Meetings.

Councilmember Henley had nothing new to inform about TML activities. Their annual conference will be held in Fort Worth in October and he will have some news then. H-GAC is a council of governments that administers state and federal programs. Councilmember Henley has recently been elected president of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) which recently got their second FEMA allocation - over \$6 million for our region and hopes Meadows Place can take advantage of these funds to obtain a generator for our sewer treatment plant. Councilmember Henley said he appreciates the opportunity to serve the city's residents on both a regional and state level.

Minutes of the June 23, 2009 workshop and regular meetings, the June 29, 2009 special meeting, the July 7, 2009 workshop meeting, the July 21, 2009 workshop

meeting and the July 28, 2009 workshop and regular meetings were presented for approval. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember Case seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Councilmember Staigle made a motion to table agenda item number six. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Henley and carried unanimously.

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 INTERLOCAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH FORT BEND COUNTY.

This agreement will allow the City to take advantage of County contracts for purchase of goods at a lower cost. Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle, to approve the ordinance, numbered **2009-23**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

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 A PRIMARY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF FORT BEND AND THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS.

This agreement will allow the City to do business with the County. Councilmember Staigle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2009-24**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR DIGITAL CAMERA AND EQUIPMENT UPGRADE.

This resolution is needed to indicate Council's support to the Police Department in submitting a grant application for upgrades to the PD's digital camera system and other equipment. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Case to adopt the resolution, numbered **2009-06**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read a proclamation naming September 25, 2009 as Fort Bend County Fair Day in Meadows Place, Texas. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek, to adopt the proclamation as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read a proclamation naming September 25, 2009 as Dulles High School Day in Meadows Place, Texas, recognizing the fact that Dulles High School has been recognized as being in the top 6 percent of high schools in the nation according to a ratio of the number of Advanced Placement tests taken by all students and was named one of the top high schools in the Houston area by a *Houston Chronicle* based on a Children at Risk Study to see who is doing the best at educating students and preparing them for post-secondary education, among other things. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to approve the proclamation as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following resolution.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE AND OFFICIAL ALTERNATE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2010.

Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion to approve the ordinance, numbered **2009-07**, designating Councilmember Terry Henley as the representative and Councilmember Rick Staigle as the official alternate to the General Assembly of the H-GAC for the year 2010. Councilmember Case seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

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 A CONTRACT FOR LAWN AND ESPLANADE MAINTENANCE WITH TEXAS LAWN AND LANDSCAPE SERVICES.

This contract was bid out and Texas Lawn and Landscape Services were the lowest bidders. They have done good work in the Sugar Land area and we expect they will do the same here. Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle to approve the ordinance, numbered **2009-25**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE BUDGET FROM THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR AND THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND THE TAX RATE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010.

Due to the fact that the Fort Bend Central Appraisal District did not supply the City with certified numbers until very late in the budget process, the City must still hold its tax rate public hearings. The earliest a tax rate can be adopted for the next fiscal year is October 14th. This ordinance will allow the city to operate financially during the first half of October. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to approve the ordinance, numbered **2009-26**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Council then accepted the receipt of the Certification of the 2009 Tax Year Anticipated Collection Rate from Patsy Schultz, Tax Assessor Collector for the City of Meadows Place. Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to approve the receipt of the Certification. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Case made a motion to ratify the expenditures of \$5,980.00 to American Legal Publishing Co. for preliminary work on codification of City Ordinances, for \$160,359.00 to the City of Stafford for fire services for fiscal year 2008-2009 and for \$7561.99 to Texas Lawn Works for lawn and esplanade maintenance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkens and carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Joe Donoghue asked if the committee that approves colors for paint on houses was done away with. (It was for awhile but will soon return. Meanwhile residents are encouraged to check with City Hall for approved colors.) Mr. Donoghue volunteered to serve on that committee. He also inquired what

the law was on where a vehicle can park on the street. (It is believed to no less than be 50 feet from a stop sign.)

Cindy Barrowman said the Police Chief has done a wonderful job on organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program. Her neighbors are talking to each other about problems on a regular basis. She asked if the rumor was true about police officer not getting raises. (The 7:00 p.m. Budget Public Hearing held this evening would have answered that concern - however all salaries of city employees will remain the same as they were last year.) She also asked when another meeting could be scheduled about the roundabout situation. (There are brochures available in the lobby and also from the Federal Highway Department on that subject. Mayor Jessup will also give a presentation to Garden Club members and anyone else interested on October 13th at the Community Center.)

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kulhanek to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary