

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF MARCH 23, 2010
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

A Public Hearing before the Meadows Place City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Meadows Place was called to order at 7:00 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

Planning Commission Chairman: Steve Gardner

Planning Commission Members: Theresa Bathe
Brian Swinney
Travis Tanner

thus constituting a quorum.

Mayor Jessup opened the public hearing by stating the purpose of the meeting was to hear any and all persons desiring to be heard on or in connection with any matter or question involving a proposal to consider amending Chapter 24 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Meadows Place, entitled "Planning and Zoning Regulations," Article II, entitled "Definitions and Interpretation, "Section 24-202, entitled "Definitions" and amending Article V, entitled "Zoning Regulations,' to add a "Division 3," entitled "Zoning District Prohibitions," pertaining to tattoo and body piercing studios.

John and Judy Wright, 11600 block of Brook Meadows, said they do not want this type of establishment in the city.

Charles Westbrook, 12300 block of Meadowglen Dr. said he was not against a tattoo parlor but he is against a tacky sign that might be installed. Such businesses need to be placed specified distances from each other.

Shirley Isbell, 12300 block Scottsdale, wants the city to be reasonable. Good businesses should not be thrown out, but the zoning ordinance should not prohibit just tattoo shops. They should also prohibit porn shops, cigarette shops and the like.

Patsy Jones, 12100 block Meadow Hollow, a 37 year resident, said she thinks the city should think of its residents children and grandchildren. This shop would be located directly across the street from a church. She cannot tolerate a tattoo shop in our city.

Terry Muldowney, 11900 block Meadow Trail, said his son Tim, who plans to open this shop, has a very successful tattoo business in Chicago. He would like to see the residents give him a chance here.

Scott Holland, 12200 block Hoggard, said this is a small neighborhood and, as much as possible, the city should keep this type of business away.

Angela Mohle, 12000 block Amblewood, said she has many tattoos but she is against having this type of business in our neighborhood as it is a residential type of community.

Mayor Jessup said he has been in contact with the shop owner. Pictures from the internet show as upscale tattoo a parlor in Chicago as can be. This type of business is heavily monitored by the State but not harassed.

Mr. Westbrook asked if there were any regulations on distances from schools; (No.) Mrs. Jones asked where it would be located. (In the same shopping center as Radio Shack.)

Tracey Spiller, 11700 block Brook Meadows, asked how long they would stay open. (Until 10:00 p.m.)

Theresa Bathe, 11700 block Brighton, said she has been increasingly concerned about traffic in the neighborhood and what is bringing people into our neighborhood. We all need to be more aware of what's going on and coming in.

Mrs. Jones asked what the minimum age would be to be able to walk in and get a tattoo. (18 - younger if accompanied by a custodial adult.)

Didi Droughton, 11900 block Brook Meadows, asked "What are we modeling our community after? If it is First Colony, do they have tattoo parlors?"

Councilmember Henley said there seems to be a perception out there as to the type of clientele this type of business will bring in. The consensus seems to be that, except for military people, most people who want tattoos are unstable.

Mayor Jessup noted there are two sides to every coin. Many young professionals have tattoos. On the flip side many folks don't want anything to do with tattoos.

David Alpha, 12000 block Pender Lane, said he knows many folks with tattoos, but Meadows Place is a safe area, with a church on the corner of West Airport and Kirkwood. Kids see and grow up remembering what they see. He does not want to dilute the message we are giving your children.

Jack Baldaras, 11900 block Scottsdale, said he is grateful for our community, and concerned with the clientele a tattoo parlor will bring into the city. He has friends that have tattoos. In the long run, the community could suffer if a tattoo parlor is allowed and it may have an impact on the way we live.

Kermit McCarver, 12100 block Scottsdale, asked, "Why ruin a good looking city?"

Lee Harvill, 11500 block Scottsdale, said we would have to counsel our children about tattoos. The city has graffiti on many of its buildings. He was in Randall's recently and he and other shoppers had the best laugh he's had in 30 years when he saw the many tattoos on a young woman in the check out lane.

Mayor Jessup noted that the EDC was adamantly pursuing new businesses for our city. The Planning and Zoning Commission will now meet to discuss the various points brought up in tonight's Public Hearing and make a recommendation to City Council on how they feel Council should proceed in this matter.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary