

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF APRIL 27, 2010
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:40 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 Councilmember Heidi Case, and the invocation was given by given by Councilmember David Wilkens.

Police Chief Mike Baker introduced the newest member of the Police Department as Arika Somersall. She was hired on February 15th and is currently in Phase three of her 18 week training program. Officer Somersall was welcomed by Council and the audience.

Police Captain Jack Ashton reported on Police activities since the last Regular Council Meeting. He noted there were four reportable accidents, 19 arrests, 1317 calls for service, 72 offense reports, 72 traffic citations, no code citations and 155 traffic and 34 city ordinance warnings issued. Police officers were present at the school carnival last weekend and are preparing for the July 4th parade. The department will hold its third r.a.d.KIDS seminar in August. A traffic stop, for not stopping at a stop sign, revealed marijuana in the vehicle with an arrest following. Officers are beginning to enjoy the use of the vehicle cameras which are finally working.

Parks Director Monya Keenen reported on activities in her department since January. She indicated this would be a very busy summer. All life guards are either returning from last year or have worked as life guards for the City during previous summers. The City received 29 applicants for 11 positions. There will again be four unannounced audits performed by Ellis & Associates. The pool staff will also hold a Junior Life Guard program this year. The pool will open weekends only on May 15th with daily openings starting on June 4th. Splash night will be held on June 11th. The semiannual Animal Wellness Clinic will be held this Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lifeline Screening will take place in the Community Center on Wednesday, May 12th. The first Barefoot 'n Friday will be held on Friday, May 14th. The Independence Day Parade will be on Sunday, July 4th at 1:00 p.m. Baseball will sell concessions at McGrath Park after the parade. Sugar Grove Church of Christ will hold a Fun Run on a Saturday in October. Monday movies for the children will continue this summer as will the Adult Swim times. The butterfly garden in the park has been fenced off due to heavy foot traffic to allow the flowers to get a head start growing. A new gate for the tennis court has been ordered and will be here soon. It is hoped that digging for the new 1 1/2 acre lake in the park will start soon. This is a grant project with the state paying \$75,000 and the City matching this amount with mostly in-kind work from the county.

Mayor Jessup gave the Fire Department report for last month. He noted there were ten EMS responses, 15 alarm calls, 2 building fires and one response to a spill from a vehicle accident.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted that: 1: An agreeable disagreement exists on the future repairs to West Airport and Kirkwood. 2: Police

attendance at community events such as the school carnival help to knit the fabric of the community together. 3: Council Members will each give a short presentation at Splash Night on various aspects of the city from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. 4. City employees are participating in a Continuation of Operating Procedures (COOP) along with Missouri City, Stafford and Sugar Land. This is the first multijurisdictional plan between cities in the country. It will enable the city to recover from an emergency efficiently due to putting the plan in place.

During Council Comments, Councilmember Henley noted that Alan Clark with the H-GAC has volunteered to conduct a complete review of the roundabout design and address Council on his findings at a future Council meeting. He will do this at no charge to the City. There are many misconceptions floating around in residents' minds. Once Mr. Clark's results are completed, a Public Hearing will be scheduled to discuss the plan with residents.

Minutes of the March 23, 2010 workshop, special joint public hearing and regular meetings were presented to council for approval. Councilmember Staigle made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember Kulhanek seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2010.

The City expects to realize a savings of at least \$150,000 when refunding the 2000 bonds. Anything less and the bonds will not be refunded. The selling company will be Wells Fargo Advisors. Councilmember Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Case, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2010-07**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Mayor will enter into a conference call on Thursday afternoon with Standard & Poors. Currently they rate the City's bonds A+. It is expected they will confirm this rating next Monday or Tuesday. The bonds will then be reissued. They were originally issued in the year 2000 and have 10 years to go until fully matures. It is anticipated the city could realize a savings of up to \$210,000.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION PLACING A NAME IN NOMINATION TO THE FORT BEND CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Lee Duggan has stepped down from this position, leaving an opening on the Board. Mayor Jessup is recommending that the City nominate Jim Miller, to the Board. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Staigle, to adopt the resolution, number **2010-02**, nominating Jim Miller to the Fort Bend CAD, as presented.

Council then received the recommendation from Planning and Zoning commission concerning tattoo parlors and body piercing studios. The Commission recommended adoption of the ordinance along with several other suggestions which council will consider at a later date.

AN ORDINANCE 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; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2010-08**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The City's Investment Report was then presented to Council. After a short discussion, Councilmember Wilkens moved to accept the Investment Report. Councilmember Henley seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Bills were then presented for their approval. Councilmember Henley made a motion to approve the payment of \$6,970.29 to Texas Lawn & Landscape Services. Councilmember Staigle seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Councilmember Henley then moved to ratify the expenditure of \$17,160.00 to Joe Salvide for cement work throughout the City. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Case and carried unanimously.

During audience comments, John Whiteman, 11400 block of Brook Meadows, said he is circulating a petition to keep Kirkwood the same - with no roundabouts - and has 452 signatures as of today.

John Lewis, 11900 block of Amblewood, said the Mayor said he wanted to restrict the flow of traffic on Kirkwood and wondered where the flow of traffic would go. Mayor Jessup said he was being flippant with that comment. Mr. Lewis asked if the improvement, as proposed, would cost more tax dollars (all tax dollars are coming from the Fort Bend Mobility Bond issue and the improvement, as proposed may actually cost less money), and if the improvement as proposed doesn't work, then what? He said he personally walked from Amblewood to Kirkwood and 50 people signed his petition.

Mrs. John Rittman, 11900 block of Brighton, said she has been waiting for three months for a copy of the police report about an incident that occurred in January in the City's park. She was referred to Captain Ashton.

Shirley Isbell, 12300 block of Scottsdale, said she has notice a deep anger from residents who are so adamantly against the roundabouts and would like Council to abolish the idea.

Bob Graf, 12200 block Monticeto, said roundabouts do help with traffic by calming the traffic down. They reduce crashes as well as injuries.

Scott Holland, 12200 block Hoggard, said that the baseball commissioners met with the Mayor and Parks & Recreation Directors and a good compromise was worked out concerning the yellow fence guards at the ball fields. He too is hearing a lot of anger and frustration over the roundabouts and would like to see the issue put to the people's vote.

Nate Johnson, 11400 block Brook Meadows, said he has been involved with the City; since his incorporation and he feels there must be an understanding between City Council and the people who vote. He believes one lane in each direction along Kirkwood will create a problem.

Velon Saint, 12300 block Level Run, said he has driven 5,000 miles and has yet to see a roundabout that is working. He wonders, if they work, why more have not been installed in Houston this past year. He is worried that the turning radius of an 18 wheeler with a 40 foot trailer will be too large for the driver to negotiate the roundabouts.

David Lantz, 11900 block of Meadow Crest, said people are very concerned and he believes bike and pedestrian traffic will find it impossible to cross Kirkwood. Mayor Jessup said the first thing he thought about was kids safely crossing Kirkwood but after studying the problem he realized that the distance anyone would be exposed to traffic while crossing Kirkwood will be cut by 2/3rds with the roundabouts. The Mayor noted he studied the roundabouts about six to seven months before he realized they were a good idea.

Janet Pote, 11400 block Brook Meadows, is worried that traffic will cut down her street to avoid the roundabouts.

Betty Johnson, 11400 block Brook Meadows, said her street is very bumpy as it is and doesn't want any more traffic on it.

Abby Murphy, 12100 block Alston, noted only two residents attending tonight's meeting are in favor of the roundabouts.

Vivian Whiteman, 11400 block Brook Meadows, asked if the r.a.d.Kids class was only for kids. It is.

Chuck McClurkin, 11900 block Brighton, asked if allowing the tattoo parlor into the City means we can also expect sexually oriented businesses and night clubs in the City. Mayor Jessup noted that if a business received more than 51% of its income from liquor sales, it would not be allowed in the City. Mr. McClurkin also asked if there was a possibility of getting the trees trimmed along the Dorrance entrance to the City as they made the street very dark at night. Mayor Jessup said he would talk to the Code Enforcement officer.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Kulhanek made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary