

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF JUNE 22, 2010
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:35 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
Shirley Isbell
Dave Wilkens

And the following absent:

Alderman: Rick Staigle

thus constituting a quorum.

The pledge to the flag was led by Councilmember Shirley Isbell, and the invocation was given by Councilmember David Wilkens.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted that: 1: The budget season is upon us and preliminary figures show that revenues for next year will be down and once again we can expect to see no "fluff" in the city's fiscal budget. We are not alone in this. Many cities are actually hurting and in trouble. 2: Two weeks ago Councilmember Henley donated his home on Lake Conroe to be used for an off-site gathering place for Council to hold a strategic planning meeting. The meeting was held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Council discussed how best to implement the city's Vision Statement as adopted last year. On August 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the city's staff will meet at the Community Center to look at Council's ideas and put them in prospective. 3: The Town Meeting held on Splash night, June 11th was very well attended. Each council member spoke for about five minutes. Councilmember Isbell spoke about being a new Council Member. Councilmember Case spoke about parks projects and water reclamation. Councilmember Henley spoke about the EDC. Councilmember Wilkens spoke about property values. And councilmember Staigle spoke about the West Airport project. 4. The City is still negotiating the West Airport Contract with the Engineering firm, trying to reduce the amount being requested for drainage.

Police Chief Mike Baker reported on Police activities since the May regular Council Meeting. He noted there were eight reportable accidents, ten arrests, 1822 calls for service, 75 offense reports, 297 traffic citations, no code citations and 137 traffic and 21 city ordinance warnings issued. There were six burglaries of motor vehicles, two residential burglaries, two building burglaries and eight vehicle accidents. Officers made 421 business checks, 494 house watches and 599 property checks. Police will be present at the 4th of July parade. The next r.a.d.KIDS training will be held August 13th - 15th at the Community Center. There seems to be a pattern in the vehicle burglaries. Most occur at the Shell station at West Airport and U.S. 59. Customers, mainly female, leave their purses on the passenger seat while they pump their gas. When they return inside the vehicle they realize someone has stolen their purse. Information on police activities can be found on NIXIEL. Officers have been receiving fire arms training during the past month. Officer Somersall will provide the r.a.d.KIDS training. Officer Nix has become certified to "Train the Trainer" in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. Officers Hodge and Rebsch have received training on use of the police baton. A trailer has been purchased with \$47,000 in grant funds awarded last year. It will be equipped as a Mobile Command Post. The COOP-COG grant has the whole city staff involved through Beck Disaster Recovery who is writing our policy on Continuation of Services in cases of emergency in conjunction with surrounding cities.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw addressed Council on five topics. First was testing of our Water Distribution System for lead and copper. Twenty houses routinely have water samples pulled for this purpose. Second is that, thanks to a rainy season so far, there have been only two water main breaks this year. Third, the SECO Grant has been signed which will allow for the 18 ton air conditioner over the Police Department to be replaced with a 13 ton unit and a 7 ton unit to be added to cool the council/court room. This will save energy costs for the City. Fourth, Drug free/gun free signs that have a special coating to make them easier to clean and, therefore, last longer are beginning to be installed. They will also have the city's logo "*Your Place for Life*" on them. And last, Dan is getting his certification today and tomorrow so that we can do the letting of the contract for the TxDOT roadway project on West Airport. Mayor Jessup also wanted Council to be aware of the fact that the city's Public Works employees are handling repairs at the Sewer Treatment Plant that will effectively save the City about \$50,000 dollars a year in energy costs.

Councilmember Wilkens then made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2008 workshop and regular meetings as presented. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Henley and approved unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE AND THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE TO BE HELD ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2010, AT _____ O'CLOCK _____.M. AT THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE CITY HALL, ONE TROYAN DRIVE, MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS TO HEAR ANY AND ALL PERSONS DESIRING TO BE HEARD ON OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY MATTER OR QUESTION INVOLVING A PROPOSAL TO AMEND CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, ENTITLED "PLANNING AND ZONING REGULATIONS," ARTICLE IX OF CHAPTER 24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, ENTITLED "SPECIFIC USE AMENDMENTS," BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SUBSECTION 24-910, GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT TO PARVEEN BAIG TO OPERATE A CHILD DAY CARE CENTER; AND TO PROVIDE FOR NOTICE AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

Councilmember Case made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2010-11**, calling the public hearing for Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Meadows Place City Hall. Councilmember Henley seconded the motion which carried with three "ayes" and one "nay" from Councilmember Isbell.

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 BETWEEN THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE AND THE COUNTY OF FORT BEND AMENDING THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES.

This contract will allow the County to continue to collect city taxes as usual. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2010-12**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR W&M ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, INC.'S APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, FOR A MUNICIPAL SETTING DESIGNATION FOR GROUNDWATER BENEATH 8200 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY, HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

Councilmember Case made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Isbell, to approve the resolution, numbered **2010-05**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills were then presented for approval. Councilmember Henley made a motion to ratify the payment of \$5,1705.00 to Randle Law Office as presented. Councilmember Isbell seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

During audience comments, John Whiteman, 11400 block of Brook Meadows, said he wanted to go down in record as being in favor of maintaining S. Kirkwood as a four lane divided road and as being opposed to changing it to a two lane road with roundabouts.

Rick Berg, 11700 block of Kirkwood, said he was waiving his time as Mr. Whiteman's words were the same as his.

Art Keepers, 12200 block of Alston, asked why Mayor Jessup made his position on Kirkwood without going to the voters for a non-binding referendum.

Phillip Williams also waived his comments.

Mike Schofield, 12100 block of Meadowdale, said he has concerns about the projects the city is doing on Kirkwood, West Airport, at the parks, etc. but he will defer his comments for more research. One concern was where the funds were coming from. Mayor Jessup explained that, as far as the park improvements went, we have a \$150,000 project. \$75,000 of this is coming from a grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife and the remaining \$75,000 will be paid with either in-kind donations (from Fort Bend County by digging the lake) and from our previously passed bond funds.

Steve Bezner, 11800 block of Amblewood, said #1 - the kids in the neighborhood really do like Officer Nix and #2 - he would like to see factual information regarding the park pond. Mayor Jessup said we are in the process of waiting on more designs. Dan McGraw has started the process of bringing the water from the Waste Water Treatment Plant and hopes to have things going in 90 days or less. The County has been given the go ahead to start their paperwork and hope to start the digging in two months. Then, it should take 30 days to finish the lake.

Betty Johnson, 11400 block of Brook Meadows, asked what type of fish would be stocked in the lake, if there would be any fencing for safety and if a license for fishing will be necessary. The lake will probably be stocked with bass, brim and cat fish, it will be a catch & release lake, therefore we do not believe a license will be required and there will be no fence.

Abby Murphy, 12100 block Alston Drive, said there ARE two roundabouts in the Memorial area and nowhere does she see four roundabouts in a four block area. She asked if the H-GAC might be tainted due to Councilmember Henley serving on their Board. She was told that Councilmember Henley had no part in requesting the survey. A local resident requested that H-GAC stop any funding for the project (none is being received from the organization) and that was the first H-GAC heard about the project. They approached Councilmember Henley saying they would be interested in doing a study of the project.

Charles McClurkin, 11900 block Brighton, said that in Roanoke, Texas someone rebuilt the “dump” part of town into a tourist attraction. The area has two roundabouts that are mixed with three stop sign intersections and he doesn’t believe an 18 wheeler could negotiate around the roundabouts.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Isbell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary