



**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M., AT MEADOWS PLACE EOC/TRAINING CENTER, 11975 W AIRPORT BLVD., MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS 77477.**

**A. Call to order and announce a quorum is present.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, Charles D. Jessup IV, at 5:30 p.m. with the following present.

Mayor, Charles D. Jessup, IV  
Tia Baker, Alderman  
Kurt Kopczynski, Alderman

David Mertins, Mayor Pro Tem  
Rick J. Staigle, Alderman (Arrived 5:48 p.m.)  
Kelle Mills, Alderman (Arrived 5:37 p.m.)

Nick Haby, City Administrator

Courtney Rutherford, City Secretary

The following staff were also in attendance: Communications Director, Cameron Miller; Police Chief, Gary Stewart; Assistant Police Chief, Jack Ashton; Code Enforcement Officer, Jennifer Cabello; and Parks & Recreation Director, Colene Cabezas.

**B. Discussion regarding the human trafficking incident in the City of Meadows Place.**

Alderman Staigle requested this meeting to clarify what happened regarding the recent human trafficking incident on Meadowhollow. Chief Stewart reminded Council and staff that this is still an open case under investigation, therefore he will not be able to share much detail regarding the incident.

Alderman Staigle stated that he wanted to know staff and the Mayor to share what they knew regarding this property based on the accusations being spread, specifically any reports of criminal activity at this location. Chief Stewart presented a report to Council regarding police activity at this location. He stated there were a few self-initiated visits by officers and follow up to complaints by residents regarding parking violations and junk vehicles. Upon one visit there was one citation issued with two charges. The resident answered the door and came out to the Police Officers. He was not acting suspicious and cooperated with the officers. The violation found was fictitious license plates. The next call the Police Department received regarding this address was from Fort Bend County Sheriff's office who was already on scene. Chief reiterated that prior to the victim escaping and calling they also had no tips or reports suspicious or criminal activity at this address.

Alderman Staigle asked about the junk vehicles that were reported. Chief Stewart stated that again the Police Department addressed the resident every time a complaint was received and again, he was cooperative and did not act suspicious. At the time the resident stated that he bought the vehicles from auction. The Police Department did take the license plates as evidence and advised that he needed to remove the vehicles and he did comply. Chief Stewart stated that

it is a broad jump to go from a junk vehicle to human trafficking.

Several Alderman shared the several stated they lived on the same street or near the home and had no idea this was going on in the home. Chief Stewart stated that if residents see a lot of people going in and out from a residence or moving people in the night to please call the Police Department as that is suspicious activity.

The Code Enforcement Officer, Ms. Cabello, stated that the only complaints she received were regarding vehicles.

Staff shared that the house is registered as a rental and the tenant started water service on August 30, 2021, and occupancy inspections were performed on September 1, 2021.

Alderman Mills stated that multiple vehicles do not make for illegal activity, and she believes staff did everything right.

Alderman Staigle asked if there is ever only one officer scheduled per shift. Chief Stewart stated that they never schedule only one officer. If someone is sick another officer will hold over until relief can come in. The Police Department never shares how many officers are on shift at a time for safety reasons, but there are multiple officers in the city 24/7.

Alderman Kopczynski stated that some residents claim they told the Mayor. Mayor Jessup shared one email he received regarding this address, and it never states kidnapping or human trafficking. He said the complaints were about cars, parking and dogs.

Alderman Baker stated that only way to prevent this is to get involved in the community and get to know your neighbors. Mayor Jessup stated that National Night Out is the perfect opportunity to get your neighbors out and meet one another.

Overall Council has a better understanding of what took place and believes that the Police Department and Code Enforcement responded to the complaints received appropriately.

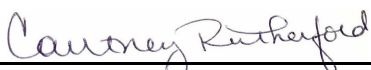
Mayor Jessup reminded the public that calling the Police Department is an official complaint and posting on social media is not.

### C. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

**These minutes were approved by City Council on October 24, 2023.**

#### ATTEST:

  
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Courtney Rutherford, City Secretary



  
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Charles D. Jessup IV, Mayor