

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:32 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: Terry Henley
Shirley Isbell
John Whiteman
Dave Wilkens

And the following absent:

Alderman: Heidi Case

thus constituting a quorum

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Boy Scouts Zachary Whitman and Matthew Ogura. Resident Mike Schofield gave the invocation.

Police Chief Mike Baker reported on Police activities since the August regular Council Meeting. He noted there were ten reportable accidents, three arrests, 1354 calls for service, 43 offense reports, 385 traffic citations issued, no code ordinance violation citations issued, 82 traffic warnings and seven city ordinance warnings issued. There were 13 motor vehicle burglaries, one residential burglary and two business burglaries. Officers made 411 business checks, 268 house watches and 406 property checks this past month. There has been a significant increase in the number of motor vehicles burglaries this past month - mostly in restaurant parking lots. These have occurred at various hours throughout the day. Burglars are grabbing briefcases, which often have other valuables inside (cell phones, checkbooks, paperwork, credit cards, etc.) It is important to take briefcases inside the restaurant with you or to lock them in your trunk. National Night Out is being held in Meadows Place on Tuesday, October 4th. September 9th was "First Responder Day" at Meadows Elementary. Officer Nix and Sgt. Dottei attended and spoke to several classes. Notification was received from the Governor's Office yesterday that Meadows Place was awarded a LaserShot Grant. Officers have been attending legislative update training which is required by the State in years when the Legislature meets.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw gave a report on activity in his department since the June 2011 Council meeting. He noted that the total pumpage from the city's three water wells was 96,472 million gallons for June, July and August. Total pumpage during the same time period in 2010 was 61,170 million gallons. Average total pumpage from all three wells is 6.4 million gallons per day. Year four Storm Water Report will be submitted to TCEQ in October when year five starts. This is currently the last year for this report. New storm water permits must be obtained in November of 2013 and we are not sure exactly what to expect. Pamphlets were sent out to our residents concerning storm water. These will also be available to commercial customers to pass along to their patrons. Since June 10th, 7.5 million gallons of reclaimed effluent have been reused at our lake/parks. 80 million gallons of effluent has been treated. Due to the drought, we are experiencing heaving, cracking and separation on our roads, sidewalks and sound wall mow strips. At this point, all we can do is make repairs to the extreme situations and prioritize the other areas for repair. Once we receive a consistent amount of rainfall, some of these areas may go back to their original position. Public Works staff will survey the city after we receive substantial rain. From June to August five alarm permits, 10 driveway and sidewalk, one roof, nine foundation, ten electrical, five commercial signs, five heating and air conditioning, 14 plumbing and 13 irrigation permits/inspections were issued. The Fire Marshal also made five inspections. Councilmember Henley noted we have fairly decent water pressure, considering the amount of water breaks in the City.

Mayor Jessup reported that a computer went out at the Fire Department. Captain Ashton worked closely with Chief DiCamillo to replace and update it. Recently the Fire Department participated in a practice drill. During the time they were out of the City, fire trucks from Richmond came to the station to make sure fire coverage was not interrupted.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted 1: A sign up sheet if available before Council meetings. Residents wishing to address an item that is on the agenda should note the agenda number next to their name and address. Residents wishing to address an item that is not on the agenda will be heard from at the end of the meeting. 2: This year the Fort Bend County Fair is celebrating its 75th year. It is a big part of our history. The City of Richmond was incorporated before Fort Bend County even existed. He thanked Council members to going out to Richmond when he presented them with our proclamation. 3: Mayor Jessup had lunch this week with Meadows Elementary school principal Irma Cobos. She is thrilled that once again Meadows Elementary is an exemplary school. There are currently 440 children enrolled in the school and two new kindergarten classes have been added. 4: West Airport construction has been pushed back about 400 days due to the fact that the City of Houston closed West Bellfort down to two lanes before we could start. Approximately 24 to 25,000 cars per day use West Bellfort. We will do a traffic count on Scottsdale and Monticeto to see if traffic is up any due to the construction on West Bellfort. 5: Mayor Jessup thanked everyone who wrote letters regarding our ZIP code. We are now in the 60 day waiting period. He thanked Congressman Pete Olson and his staff who pushed hard to get the support of Senators Cornyn and Hutchison. The postal service has agreed to do an official review of the matter.

Councilmember Isbell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2011 workshop and regular meetings; and the September 13, 2011 workshop minutes. 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 2012.

Mayor Jessup recommended that Councilmember Henley, who has served the City well in this capacity for more than 20 years, be reappointed as our official representative. With Council's approval, he said he was willing to serve as the official alternate to the general assembly of the H-GAC for 2012. Councilmember Isbell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to approve the resolution, numbered **2011-02**, naming Councilmember Henley as the representative and Mayor Jessup as the Official Alternate to the General Assembly of the Houston-Galveston Area Council for the year 2012. 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 AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF FORT BEND AND THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE FOR USE OF THE COUNTY'S RADIO SYSTEM, FOR A TERM BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2011 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2012.

Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Isbell to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2011-22**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Whiteman asked about reports that response times from the County are slow, especially after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends. This is a continuing problem that the

City is constantly addressing. Sheriff dispatchers have different ideas of what is important and they must make decisions based on the whole county's needs.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, FOR THE TAX YEAR 2011.

Councilmember Whiteman made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2011-23**, to levy the total tax rate at \$0.898687 with \$0.709480 going for Maintenance and Operation functions and \$0.189207 to reduce the Interest and Sinking fund balance. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Henley and carried with unanimous approval.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FISCAL 2011-2012 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED.

Councilmember Wilkens made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2011-24**, as presented. Councilmember Isbell seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FISCAL 2011-2012 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 20, 2011, REGULAR MEETING AND APPROPRIATING THE SEVERAL SUMS SET UP THEREIN TO THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES THEREIN NAMED.

Councilmember Henley noted the Economic Development Commission met on September 20th. They arrived at this budget which includes \$230,000 in sales tax revenue, \$162,000 in expenditures and \$100,000 for West Airport road repairs, leaving a \$66,500 balance. This past year \$229,000 was received in revenue and \$60,000 - \$70,000 in expenses leaving a balance of \$160,000. Councilmember Henley then made a motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2011-25**, approving the 2011-2012 EDC budget. Councilmember Isbell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING WEBSITE POSTING.

Councilmember Henley noted that currently the Local Government Code requires cities to select a newspaper of general circulation in which to publish all public notices. This is very expensive. In our own situation, tax notice posting in the Fort Bend Star runs between \$400 and \$500. Residents no longer receive the Star newspaper and must pick up a copy either at Walgreens or City Hall. The same notice in the Houston Chronicle runs about \$11,000 or \$4,000 if published in the "This Week" section of the Chronicle. We, like most cities, what a website where we post articles of general importance and information. To post the same notice on our website would cost us nothing. We, through the Texas Municipal League, have asked the Legislature to relieve us of the obligation to post in the newspaper and allow all public notices to be posted only on our website. Newspapers are fighting this as a large loss of revenue to them. We hope to introduce this legislation once again and hope for passage in the next Legislative session. Councilmember Henley moved to adopt the resolution, numbered **2011-03**, as presented. Councilmember Wilkens seconded the motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Councilmember Wilkens then made a motion to approve payment of expenses as presented on the agenda. Councilmember Whiteman seconded this motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Councilmember Henley then made a motion to ratify expenses as presented on the agenda, noting that \$166,000.00 to the City of Stafford was for Fire Marshal and Fire Fighting services. Councilmember Wilkens seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

During audience comments, resident Chuck McClurkin of the 11900 block of Brighton said he has a continuing problem with after hours police dispatch. Mayor Jessup noted the City looked at a joint dispatch agreement with area cities which wasn't feasible. The city would need to hire five more people to have 24 hour dispatch service in house.

Resident Zachery Whitman of the 12300 block of Scarcella, and also a Boy Scout, asked why die police in Meadows Place change their police cruisers for Tahoes. Mayor Jessup said it was for durability, to vary our stock, for use in high water emergencies, they hold more than a full size cruiser and therefore are a better fit for some of our larger officers and typically are worth more at trade in time than the cruisers are.

Matthew Ogura of the 12300 block of Scottsdale, and also a Boy Scout, asked if we expect the crime rate to go up when traffic increases due to road construction. Mayor Jessup said he hoped not but that only time would tell.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Whiteman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary