

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF OCTOBER 25, 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: Heidi Case
Terry Henley
Shirley Isbell
John Whiteman
Dave Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Thomas La Pointe. Councilmember Wilkens gave the invocation.

Police Captain Jack Ashton reported on Police activities since the September regular Council Meeting. He noted there were nine reportable accidents, four arrests, 1143 calls for service, 46 offense reports, 163 traffic citations issued, no code ordinance violation citations issued, 47 traffic warnings and no city ordinance warnings issued. There were three motor vehicle burglaries, three residential burglaries and zero business burglaries. Officers made 361 business checks, 147 house watches and 380 property checks this past month. Due to our rapid response to a Radio Shack call, a phone thief was captured. Another Radio Shack robbery was cleared in conjunction with a Houston Police Department robbery. With an assist from the Houston Police Department, two residential burglars were captured. There was a good turn out for National Night Out and the Fun Run sponsored by Sugar Grove Church appears to have been a success. Halloween is fast approaching. Police will be busy with the City's event at the park, Sugar Grove's "Treat in a Trunk" event and other Trick or Treaters throughout the City. Christmas Holidays will be here soon. Bad guys have got to shop for Christmas too. Don't leave anything in your car or put things in your car within sight of the bad guys. Take them with you or lock them in your trunk and then park your car in a different location. Councilmember Henley noted that the number of citations issued was down significantly from previous years. Captain Ashton acknowledged this and said he plans to discuss the situation with his staff tomorrow.

Parks Director Monya Keenen gave a report on activity in her department since the July 2011 Council meeting. Mrs. Keenen first introduced Martha Weaver who took several beautiful pictures at our new lake which were displayed in the back of Council chambers. Mrs. Weaver agreed to loan the pictures to the City for a temporary display. Mrs. Keenen went on to inform Council that throughout this hot summer, life guards at the pool were constantly vigilant in their duties. They achieved "exceed" marks on all three of their audits. Mayor Jessup complimented Mrs. Keenen as well as Pool Manager Kristina Hickle and Aquatics Director Scot Herff for this accomplishment noting that Mr. Herff commands respect from his staff and he is an excellent trainer. The new green pool access bracelets were a big hit this year and will be repeated next year with a different color bracelet. The recently held Fun Run conducted by Sugar Grove Christian School was a huge success. While the Parks and Police Departments helped out, all expenses are paid for by the School - including overtime for Parks and Police employees. The Run had 200 entrants last year and over 240 this year with Mark Jessup coming in 2nd in the race. Parks employee Higinio Sanchez has been keeping busy sprucing up the park/lake area. Most folks are keeping the grounds clean. The first fish were caught by Sgt. Larry Eissler's

grandsons. We are seeing a larger range of residents using the park every day. The Halloween carnival will be held next Monday evening. It is being run by the Swim Team as well as Baseball, Garden Club and the PTO. Council will hand out Glow in the Dark Necklaces starting at 7:00 pm. A Mobile Animal Clinic will be held on Nov. 5th from 11 am - 2 pm. Santa's Mail Box will be in place Nov. 23rd - Dec. 24th. Christmas Memories will be held on Dec. 9th from 6 - 9 p.m. Items for the Sugar Grove Church of Christ Food Pantry are accepted at every event.

Mayor Jessup reported that an electrical problem at the Fire Station seems to have been fixed. The Stafford Fire Department is purchasing new equipment. A new fire truck will be housed in Meadows Place. There is a very good rapport between our Police and Fire Departments.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted 1: Work is being completed at the Sewer Treatment Plant by Southwest Water Company that will prepare us for a five month long new permit process. Several cities have come by to observe our water reclamation process. Southwest Water Company now fully understands how we want our plant operated and they are doing an outstanding job. 2: All building permits are being redone. They will soon be on line on our website so that contractors can have them filled out before coming in to pay for them. An outstanding job was done by Mimi Boos with the help of Kristina Hickle, Kathi Sutton and Dan McGraw. 3: The annual TML Conference was held in Houston this year on October 19 - 21. It provided excellent seminars for our employees to attend and bring information back to utilize when making our city better. Councilmember Henley submitted a resolution to allow cities to publish their legal notices on their websites instead of having to pay for publication in our official Newspaper. Our city residents do not even receive our official Newspaper at their homes. They must pick one up at either City Hall or Walgreens. The resolution will be submitted to the Texas Legislature during their next session. It is expected to be opposed throughout the State by newspapers that stand to lose significant advertising funds should the resolution pass.

Councilmember Isbell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 workshop and regular meetings.. 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 ADOPTING A FEE FOR EACH USAGE OF A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD FOR PAYMENTS OF UTILITY BILLS AND FEES, RENTS, UTILITY AND OTHER DEPOSITS, RECONNECTION FEES, FEES FOR WATER AND SEWER TAPS, MUNICIPAL TICKETS AND FINES, PERMITS AND LICENSES.

Councilmember Isbell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to approve the resolution, numbered **2011-04**, as presented. Councilmember Whiteman proposed we amend the resolution to exclude the fee from all but Municipal tickets and fines. Councilmember Henley noted that we currently only allow use credit cards for payment of Municipal Court fines. The City may wish to expand to other things in the future. Councilmember Isbell said she didn't think other residents should have to pay the fee charged for each use of a credit card used by someone else. They have a choice of paying cash, by check or money order or by credit card. Councilmember Whiteman's motion died for lack of a second. The original motion carried with a vote of 4 ayes to 1 nay.

The quarterly investment report was presented for Council's inspection. Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Case to accept the investment report as presented. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Councilmember Case then made a motion to approve payment of \$5,962.50 to Hydrant.com who checked tested and painted all of the City's fire hydrants. Her motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkens and unanimously approved.

During audience comments, resident Chuck McClurkin of the 11900 block of Brighton had two comments. The first was a complaint about a street light that had been out for the past six months. When he called CenterPoint and told them where the light was in Meadows Place, he had to wait at least five to seven minutes before the lady helping him could locate the light. The second was a question about our progress in obtaining a unique Zip Code for Meadows Place. Mayor Jessup responded that the Postal Department has changed their response to the 77477 Zip Code. Their new software will now allow patrons to choose either Meadows Place or Stafford for their city.

Resident Thomas La Pointe of the 12100 block of Meadow Valley Lane said he had joined the Marine Corp and would be leaving on Tuesday, November 1st for San Diego. Mayor Jessup congratulated him and wished him good luck noting that Mr. La Pointe has grown up in Meadows Place and participated in Meadows Place's Scouting program.

Mayor Jessup again thanked resident Martha Weaver for sharing her nature photographs of our lake with the City.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Whiteman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Isbell, to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary