

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF NOVEMBER 22, 2011  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:37 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 Mayor Jessup. Councilmember Wilkens gave the invocation.

Mayor Jessup then announced Council would be entering Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Sec. 551, Texas Government Code (Texas Disaster Act) to discuss an appeal by Officer Imelda Rodriguez for disciplinary Action resulting from policy violations and unsatisfactory work quality.

Council returned to open session at 8:14 p.m. Councilmember Henley made a motion to deny the appeal. Councilmember Wilkens seconded the motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Code Enforcement Officer Kathi Sutton then gave her report on activities in her department since the August regular Council Meeting. She issued 182 warnings, 23 second warnings and two citations for high weeds and grass; 38 warnings for boats and trailers visible from the street; 72 warnings and 6 second warnings for limbs and trash; 67 warnings and two second warnings for low branches and dead trees; 259 warnings and four second warnings for signs; 14 warnings for unsanitary pools, 193 warnings, 15 second warnings and one citation for trash cans visible from the street; 167 warnings, 4 second warnings and one citation for trash accumulation; 30 first and nine second warnings for unsafe fences; 20 first, two second warnings and one citation for inoperable vehicles on the street; and 72 first warnings and five second warnings for other violations. She performed 35 residential occupancy inspections and issued 22 property maintenance letters. She is currently researching and writing a rough draft, with the help of the city attorney, for a car tarp ordinance. The Texas food establishment ordinance should be ready soon. She has mapped and ID'd every visible tree stump. She has updated the city's rental house registry listing. Rental homes currently make up 5.6% of the homes in Meadows Place. She is searching for software programs to make the code enforcement more efficient and accessible. Councilmember Isbell asked Ms. Sutton what the percentage of warnings is that go to fines. Ms. Sutton said that, for the most part, residents comply after receiving a first warning. Mayor Jessup said he thought the number was less than 1%.

Police Captain Jack Ashton reported on Police activities since the October regular Council Meeting. He noted there were eight reportable accidents, four arrests, 1572 calls for service, 42 offense reports, 390 traffic citations issued, no code ordinance violation citations issued, 85 traffic warnings and 11 city ordinance warnings issued. There were two motor vehicle burglaries, two residential burglaries and zero business burglaries reported. Officers made 547 business checks, 218 house watches and 514 property checks this past month.

Two young girls were walking home from school. Two black males approached them, knocked one of the girls down and took her cell phone. There were no known problems that occurred on Halloween night. The Christmas season is approaching. A theft occurred at Walgreen's in the perfume department. Captain Ashton again advised residents not to leave anything in their vehicles that could be visible from the outside. Councilmember Isbell asked what we were doing to educate young women and kids in general about danger that could take place. Captain Ashton said we must rely on events such as RAD Kids as well as our Newsletter. Councilmember Wilkens asked what the reason was for the increase in citation activity. Captain Ashton said a staff meeting was held to remind the officers of their capabilities.

Mayor Jessup announced that the Fire Department responded to 17 incidents in the City during the month of October, most of which occurred between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mayor Jessup commented on the good working relationship we have between our Police Department and the Stafford Fire Department.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted 1: His article in December's Newsletter would include the fact that at Council's December 20<sup>th</sup> regular Council Meeting, they would be discussing possible car tarp regulations throughout the City. 2: While the City will not get its own Zip Code or Post Office, we will now receive official recognition in the U.S. Postal Codes. Patrons will now have a choice when entering the 77477 Zip Code designation of choosing either Meadows Place or Stafford.

Councilmember Case made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011 workshop and regular meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, CASTING CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE' 10 VOTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FORT BEND CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT.**

Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilkens, to approve the resolution, numbered **2011-05**, casting all ten of the City of Meadows Place's votes for the Board of Directors of the Fort Bend Central Appraisal District to Al Abramczyk. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following Ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ALLOWING, UNDER THE ACT GOVERNING THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, "UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS" IN SAID SYSTEM FOR SERVICE PERFORMED BY QUALIFYING MEMBERS OF SUCH SYSTEM WHO PRESENTLY ARE MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE; PROVIDING FOR INCREASED PRIOR AND CURRENT SERVICE ANNUITIES FOR RETIREES AND BENEFICIARIES OF DECEASED RETIREES OF THE CITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR SUCH ACTIONS.**

Councilmember Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Whiteman, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2011-27**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, TO BE HELD ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, 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 REGARDING AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TAXATION OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY IN TRANSIT, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION PURSUANT TO TEXAS TAX CODE SECTION 11.253; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.**

Mayor Jessup explained this public hearing is necessary in order to continue taxing tangible personal property in transit in the City due to a new law recently passed by the State Legislature. Councilmember Case made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Isbell to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2011-28**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Mayor Jessup reminded Council and the audience that the December Council Meeting would be held one week early, December 20<sup>th</sup>, due to the Christmas Holidays. He then invited Jennifer Sterner, of the 11700 block of Dorrance Lane and a Saint Agnes Academy senior working on a government project, to the podium to ask Council a question of her choice. Ms. Sterner asked council if a decision can be made by Council when they are meeting in an Executive Session or if they must come back to Open Session before making any decisions. Mayor Jessup said all of Council's decisions must be made in Open Session. He then congratulated Ms. Sterner on her recent acceptance into Texas A&M University.

There being no further business to consider, Councilmember Whiteman made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Henley, to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

---

Elaine Herff, City Secretary