

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF JUNE 26, 2012
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: Terry Henley
John Isbell
Terry Morgan
John Whiteman
Dave Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Police Chief Gary Stewart. Councilman Wilkens gave the invocation.

Chief Stewart reported on Police activities since the May regular Council Meeting. He noted there were nine reportable accidents, six arrests, 1843 calls for service, 47 offense reports, 374 traffic citations issued, no code ordinance violation citations issued, 84 traffic warnings and no city ordinance warnings issued. There was one motor vehicle burglary, three residential burglaries and one business burglary reported. Officers made 365 business checks, 564 house watches and 670 property checks this past month. Surrounding agencies are experiencing an increased amount of residential/vehicle burglaries. Meadows Place has seen a slight increase in burglaries and patrol is aggressively targeting suspicious persons and vehicles within the city. Our CID is working with the police departments from Houston, Rosenberg, South Houston and Pasadena trying to solve our two aggravated robberies. We share the same suspect and vehicle description. A registered sex offender moved into the 12000 block of Meadow Hollow and was promptly moved out. Two of the arrests made were for DWI. One was for stalking, one for criminal trespassing and simple assault and three were warrant arrests. Meadows Place PD recovered one stolen vehicle from a hit on our License Plate Recognition system that was stolen out of Houston and left in the 12000 block of the Southwest Freeway. There was one death investigation during this reporting period. Officers have increased traffic safety awareness and enforcement, which is seen in the number of citations issued this month. Three candidates will test for the open officer positions this week.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw then reported on activities in his department since March. The 2012 – 2017 Storm Water Management Plan will be submitted in early September. The renewal application for the Waste Water Treatment Plant has been submitted to TCEQ and has already been declared administratively completed. We are just waiting for the technical review to be completed. Notice will then be published in both English and Spanish in the local newspapers. The public will review and have an opportunity to comment on the notice when we receive the technical report. Public Works has done some MUDD pumping to remove some of the large "Bird Baths" in our city, including the one at the school cross walk on Pender which held six inches of water, one stretching the length of three houses in the 12000 block of Pender and one stretching the length of four houses in the 12300 block of Pender. These three projects cost approximately \$6500 and took 1 ½ days to complete. 95% of the standing water is now flowing and the residual standing water will dry out in about 24 hours. We still have more small, medium and large Bird Baths to repair and hope to complete some of them in this fiscal year. Regarding reclaimed water, 14 million gallons have been pumped to the lake since June 10,

2011. We will also be tapping into other field sprinklers this summer on the North side of Brighton in McGrath Park and heading west to McDonald Park. This will reuse approximately two million gallons of water annually. We expect to reuse approximately 27 million gallons of Type 1 effluent from April 2012 to April 2013. In the permit department, from January 2012 to March 2012, 30 alarm permits, 5 driveway and sidewalk permits, 6 roof permits, 15 foundation permits, nine electrical permits, ten heating and air conditioning permits, 11 plumbing permits and 4 irrigation permits have been issued. Some delays have been experienced in the remodel of the Kirkwood Annex, including other Public Works duties, vandalism (twice) of the field house restrooms and employee vacations.

Mayor Jessup gave the April Fire Department report. He noted the Stafford Fire Department made 22 total calls to the city during the month of May, most being made on week days during the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Jessup then made the following comments: 1. Welcomed Yolanda Wilson who has been hired to take the place of City Secretary Elaine Herff; 2. Recognized Police Chief Stewart and his family and publically thanked Marshall Witchard and Judge Tom Stansbury for their help in the Police Chief selection process. 3. Several ordinances on tonight's agenda are being repealed and reordered. All pertain to building permits and their fees. All fees are being pulled from the ordinance and being put in one special fee ordinance; 4. Budget season has begun and the city staff is hard at work determining their needs for the next fiscal year. Many neighborhoods with homes similar to ours have seen their values tumble in the past several years. Our home values have not fallen. Some of our homes that have been vacant for several years are now coming on line and they will be worth more next year.

Councilman Wilkens then commented on the South Kirkwood traffic configuration. He noted that Steve Bezner had asked for an alternative plan to the roundabouts. Councilmember Henley and the Houston-Galveston Area Council said their study of roundabouts were the best alternatives. Councilman Wilkens believes it is best to maintain Kirkwood as a four lane boulevard, eliminating the stop signs on Kirkwood and leaving them up on the side streets. This is his recommendation along with school crossing signs and school crossing guards. He said it is possible to see the traffic signals at both West Airport and West Belfort when stopped at an east/west side street on Kirkwood.

Councilman Isbell then made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morgan, to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2012 workshop, public hearing and regular meetings and the June 1, 2012 special meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF A POLICE CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 341.001 OF THE TEXS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE.

Councilman Morgan made a motion, seconded by Councilman Henley, to ratify the appointment of Gary Stewart as Police Chief for the City of Meadows Place. The motion carried unanimously. The ordinance is numbered **2012-14**.

City Secretary Elaine Herff then gave the oath of office to Chief Stewart. Congratulations and family pictures followed.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, MEMORIALIZING ACTION TAKEN BY CITY

COUNCIL ON JUNE 1, 2012, IN APPOINTING YOLANDA WILSON AS CITY SECRETARY; PROVIDING AN INTERIM TITLE FOR MS. WILSON; PROVIDING A DATE CERTAIN FOR MS. WILSON TO BECOME CITY SECRETARY; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

Councilman Whiteman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Henley to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-15**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTION 51.01 OF CHAPTER 51 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW SECTION 51.01 OF CHAPTER 51 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REMOVING WATER SERVICE AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE CHARGES FROM CHAPTER 51; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Isbell to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-15**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTIONS 90.02 AND 90.03 OF CHAPTER 90 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND PROVING FOR RESERVE SECTIONS IN PLACE THEREOF; REPEALING SECTION 90.05 OF CHAPTER 90 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND SUBSTITUTING A NEW SECTION 90.05 OF CHAPTER 90 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DOGS AND CATS; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Morgan made a motion seconded by Councilman Wilkens, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-17**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTIONS 92.03, 92.16, AND 92.18 OF CHAPTER 92 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND SUBSTITUTING NEW SECTIONS 92.03, 92.16, AND 92.18 OF CHAPTER 92 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BURGLAR ALARM PERMITS; REMOVING BURGLAR ALARM PERMIT FEES, FALSE ALARM FEES, AND THE REVOKED PERMIT REINSTATE FEE FROM CHAPTER 92; AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilman Isbell, to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-18** as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTIONS 111.22 AND 111.23 OF CHAPTER 111 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND SUBSTITUTING NEW SECTIONS 111.22 AND 111.23 OF CHAPTER 111 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REMOVING BOND AMOUNTS AND LICENSE FEES FOR PEDDLERS FROM CHAPTER 111; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Morgan made a motion, seconded by Councilman Henley to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-19**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTIONS 113.47 AND 113.50 OF CHAPTER 113 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND SUBSTITUTING NEW SECTIONS 113.47 AND 113.50 OF CHAPTER 113 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REMOVING LICENSE FEES FOR COIN-OPERATED MACHINES AND FOR SEALING A MACHINE FOR NONPAYMENT OF TAXES FROM CHAPTER 113; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Councilman Whiteman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Henley to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-20**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SUBSECTION 130.35(C)(4)(J) OF CHAPTER 130 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 130.35(C)(4)(J) OF CHAPTER 130 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REMOVING THE FEE FOR A FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMIT FROM CHAPTER 130; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morgan to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-21**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTION 150.03 OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REMOVING BUILDING PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES FROM CHAPTER 150; PROVIDING FOR A RESERVE SECTION IN ITS PLACE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Isbell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Henley to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-22**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTION 150.06 OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING A RESERVE SECTION IN ITS PLACE.

Councilman Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wilkens to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-23**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SECTION 150.07 OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 150.07 OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS; REMOVING FEES FOR REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTORS FROM CHAPTER 150; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Morgan made a motion, seconded by Councilman Isbell to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-24**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SUBSECTION 150.13(G) OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 150.13(G) OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REMOVING THE MOLD REMEDIATION WORK PERMIT FEE FROM CHAPTER 150; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wilkens to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-25**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SUBSECTION 150.37(B)(6)(A) OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 150.37(B)(6)(A) OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURE APPEAL FEE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Isbell to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-26**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, REPEALING SUBSECTION 150.62(B) OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 150.62(B) OF CHAPTER 150 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REMOVING THE FEE FOR FAILURE TO INSTALL REQUIRED LANDSCAPING FROM CHAPTER 150; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Whiteman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wilkens to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-27**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR A SCHEDULE OF FEES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

Councilman Henley moved to eliminate the dog and cat registration fee and to adopt the ordinance with this amendment. Councilman Whiteman seconded this motion. The motion to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-28**, as amended, carried unanimously.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PERCENTO TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL FOR IT SERVICES.

Mayor Jessup noted that Captain Ashton has kept the City's IT department running along with doing all his other Police duties. Mayor Jessup thanked Captain Jack Ashton for this extra work. Councilman Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilman Morgan to adopt the ordinance, numbered **2012-29**, as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Wilkens then made a motion to approve the bill to Randle Law Office for \$7,224.25 as presented on the agenda Councilman Isbell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilman Whiteman then made a motion to approve the expenditures of \$5,212.16 to Concrete Raising Corporation; \$6,597.60 for Graphic Image Signs and \$5,530.00 to Joe Salvide as presented on the agenda. Councilman Henley seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Shirley Isbell, 12300 Block of Scottsdale Drive, asked staff to check into the email address and phone numbers on the back of the Newsletter to make sure they are correct. She congratulated the new Police Chief. She asked where the city was in securing the new water meters. She has been in touch with a representative from CenterPoint Energy to aid the residents having problems with their electricity repeatedly going out. She mentioned that the Girl Scouts of America are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. She said the George Foundation is sponsoring a career building program and if anyone is interested they should contact her.

Resident Jan Eaton, 11900 Block of Meadow Crest, said she thinks Meadows Place is the safest place to live and she thinks the stop signs on Kirkwood should stay.

Resident Abby Murphy, 12100 block of Alston, said she thinks cars need to be calmed down. The four stop signs along Kirkwood are heavily criticized. Maybe we need only two on Kirkwood and on every other east/west streets, or maybe speed bumps. Traffic professionals determine certain standards and she wonders who said the stop signs we currently have there do not meet the standards. She was told that H-GAC calls quarterly to see where we are on the Kirkwood project, but council will consider all possibilities on this road. Councilman Henley noted we are all interested in pursuing the best possible methods when we redo Kirkwood. We know we need traffic calming devices but if we can't use stop signs, what do we use.

Resident Steve Bezner, 11800 block of Amblewood, thanked Councilman Wilkens for addressing this issue. He's not sure he agrees with him on the roundabout issue. He wonders if removing the stop signs will pass the engineer test.

Ralph Allen, 11700 block of Cedar Form, could not be present for the audience comments but left a note stating modern roundabouts not antique traffic circles are what is being proposed on Kirkwood. Residents should check the internet and educate themselves on this issue.

Resident Abby Murphy said she enjoys watching and feeding the ducks at the lake wetlands. She also believes none of the roundabout instances found on the internet have four roundabouts in four blocks.

There being no further business to consider, Councilman Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Councilman Henley, to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Elaine Herff, City Secretary