



City Council

City Council Chambers ♦ 230 West Stephenson Street ♦ Freeport, IL 61032

MINUTES EMERGENCY MEETING Monday, July 26, 2010

An emergency meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was posted at City Hall on July 26, 2010 through personal notification of the Freeport City Council members and email notification to the agenda notice listing including area media. This meeting was televised on the cable news channel.

CALL TO ORDER

The emergency meeting was called to order by Mayor George Gaulrapp with a quorum being present at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 26, 2010, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Mayor George Gaulrapp and council members Klemm, Endress, O'Neill, Boldt, Helms, DeVine and Corbin (7). Alderman Bush was absent during roll call and entered during the meeting (see below). Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman DeVine

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderman Endress moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

ASSESSMENT AND UPDATE OF FLOOD DAMAGE

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman provided an update of the flood damage. Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated the Pecatonica River has begun to recede. It was at the stage of 15.64 feet and the flood stage is 13 feet. Yellow Creek is now receding the Fire Station which was flooded by two feet is now receding. The calls for evacuation have stopped. There are roads closed on the eastside including Henderson Road and Route 75. The bridge by Wal-Mart has been closed.

At 6:04 pm, Alderman Bush entered the room bringing the number of alderman present to eight (8).

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore provided an update on the flood stating that Route 75 is closed with an officer posted at Route 75 and Henderson Road. He asked people to stay out of flooded areas, unless you are helping people clean or take care of an issue.

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated they assisted 35 people evacuate from the flood.

Finance Director Craig Joesten stated the water treatment plant has been running and they never lost pressure, so drinking water is safe. The waste water treatment plant has been up and running and it has

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been running 18 million gallons through the system and it was intended for 6 million gallons. There are still a couple of manholes that are pecculating because the system is super-charged.

The city website has been updated with the press releases and the damage assessment forms are readily available for people to complete and mail to City Hall.

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that, so far, the City Hall staff has taken assessment damage forms from 150 people who either called or stopped in. She stated that we are trying to get the word out as many ways as possible because it is important for us to compile a complete picture of the damage from the flood event. Any number can be called at City Hall and all staff members will take the information for the damage assessment.

EXPENDITURE OF EMERGENCY FUNDS

Finance Director Craig Joesten explained that in the Appropriation Ordinance that was adopted there was a line item in the contingency fund for emergency expenditure in the amount of \$20,000. If this line item was to be spent, it will require council approval.

The council was provided the opportunity to discuss how the funds should be spent. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that it was felt it was appropriate to get the dumpsters on the streets so people could get their items cleaned out to avert the mold from forming. The dumpsters run around \$300 each. The eastside of Stephenson have not had any yet because of the standing water in the streets. Depending on when the water recedes, there will need to be more dumpsters placed. We have had wide-spread damage throughout the City. The dumpsters should not be used for coaches, heaters or furnaces. At this time the administration does not know what assistance will be provided by the State of Illinois or FEMA.

Discussion was held regarding the cost of the dumpsters and the amount of funds needed for the clean-up.

Alderman Bush motioned to move forward with the request of the contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 in emergency funds to assist in the clean up of the flood, seconded by Alderman Endress.

Alderman Boldt requested to use \$200 or \$250 for advertising of the furniture drive for flood victims.

Mayor Gaulrapp stated there is a motion on the floor for \$20,000 emergency funds for cleanup and dumpsters in Freeport.

The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: DeVine, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Endress, O'Neill, Boldt, and Helms (8)

Nays: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

There was no one signed in the sheets for public comments this evening. The council provided the opportunity to speak from the audience.

Anita Euell, 6 S. Hancock, spoke about providing a place to stay for the flood victims. She asked if the flood victims could be put in hotels. Mayor Gaulrapp explained that a shelter is open and run the Red

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Cross there is also assistance for shelter through FACC. He stated the City does not have the resources to pay for hotels that the Red Cross provides the shelter. We have to rely on the sources for shelter.

Carmon Smith, 129 N. Wilbur, spoke about the flood being an act of nature and there are avenues for prevention. Someone in that area the highly flooded area should be put in the position where there is a plan set in place to call this persons house that has this information, someone that knows what is going in the neighborhood. Mayor Gaulrapp explained the evacuation used by the rescue crews. People in Pearl City had to be rescued as well and the emergency management team from Stephenson County had the entire county to deal with.

Vera Thomas, stating she has lived in Freeport since 1969 and she has dealt with flooding many times on Louis Street. They called the Red Cross and then 911 in order to get out and now they can't go home. She doesn't feel anyone has done anything to help them. She also would like a place to be put up. She did see the Fire Department and one boat.

Mayor George Gaulrapp stated he was on Henderson Road at 6:00 am, Hancock Street at the Water and Sewer plant at 7:30 am, and on east Stephenson Street at 9:30 am. Discussion was held regarding the number of people rescued by the Fire Department. Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated that 36 people were rescued.

Stacy Lane, 410 Avon, stated they have six feet of water in the basement and it flooded in 2007 as well. She would like some instructions as what to do to clean up from the flood.

Alderman Bush stated he has spent the last several days on the eastside assisting flood victims. We needed to have assistance in shutting off the bypass to stop the cars from coming through. There is a lot of frustration. Alderman Bush stated that we are doing what we can. The police department was doing their job and so was the fire department.

Discussion was held regarding this being more water then the City has ever seen. We have bridges under water and the racetrack and there is water in basements that have never before seen water.

A request to provide the dumpster locations will be posted on the website. A plea to area churches was given by Alderman O'Neill to come forward and provide packages of cleaning equipment and non-perishable items.

It was stated for the record based on past experience that FEMA does not provide assistance for vehicles.

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was given at 6:50 pm.

s/ Meg Zuravel
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk