

City of DeBary
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Friday

August 22, 2008

5:00 PM

Florence K. Little Town Hall

12 Colomba Road

DeBary, Florida 32713

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Mayor Coleman called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Invocation
2. Flag Salute

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor George Coleman, Vice Mayor Christopher Carson, Council Member Norman Erickson, Council Member Jack Lenzen, and Council Member Leonard Marks

Others Present: City Manager Maryann Courson and City Clerk Stacy Tebo

III. Discussion – Flooding Emergency

Ms. Courson informed the Council that there are currently 35 pump trucks in town; that they began pumping Lake Susan on Monday night, and then went to Lake Anne Marie intermittently; that No Name Lake was set up Tuesday morning, and they constructed a barricade on East Highbanks to keep No Name Lake from overflowing; that there are numerous pump locations throughout the City; that she hired an outside contractor for pumping because the County and City crews are spread thin; that they have ordered port-o-lets for residents needing them; that all available barricades were placed throughout the City on Thursday; and that she had to order more barricades from a commercial supplier because Volusia County ran out.

Hurley Robbins, 108 Pine Valley Court, said he had flooding four years ago, he thought the stormwater system was supposed to be fixed by now, and he wants an underground drain line installed. Ms. Courson explained that the long-term solution is the installation of the West Side Emergency Flood Management System, and the City is currently trying to secure additional funding to construct the project.

Laurie Feller, 30 Wisteria Drive, asked if the City could lower the lakes prior to a storm's arrival or even months before hurricane season. Ms. Courson answered that the pumps were turned on before the storm came; that St. Johns Water Management District dictates the pump on elevation; and that the City would be fined by the district if it failed to follow their rules. Ms. Feller suggested temporary walls around lakes.

Elaine Swanson, 123 Pine Valley Court, said that her home is flooded, and she was promised a pump the previous evening that was never delivered. She said that she felt the City was not prepared for the storm.

David Hamstra, stormwater engineer with Professional Engineering Consultants, explained there are legal reasons why the City cannot pump all of its lakes at will. He stated that all of the lakes are landlocked, and the two reasons they cannot dump it into the river are water quantity and quality. He added that the district regulates us to protect the river and those living on the river, and will not allow pumping, especially if the City is not in an emergency situation. He said they would request an emergency authorization from St. Johns Water Management District on Monday, and there is a legal process that must be followed. He stated that the best a pump can give is ½ to 1 inch of water per day; that there was no possible way the systems could keep up; that the ponds are designed for ten inches of rainfall, and there was nothing the City could do with two feet of rainfall in such a short period of time; that there is a good chance that the lakes will not go down because the pumps are just keeping up with the groundwater seepage; that the severity of the rainfall is unprecedented; and that they are doing the best they can do in the current circumstances.

Council Member Erickson asked what would have happened if the West Side System were in place. Mr. Hamstra responded that the West Side System is intended to absorb between five to eight inches; that it would have failed if it were in place for Tropical Storm Fay; that the West Side System could handle about ten inches of rain; that it was designed to provide 100-year flood relief, but statistically, Tropical Storm Fay was a 500-year event.

Ms. Courson said that she needed a motion from Council to grant her the authority to spend the money associated with alleviating the flooding issues.

Deborah Cerankowski, 256 Adelaide Street, voiced concern regarding the hoses pushing water down into her neighborhood. Ms. Courson said that the water is going through Turtle Pond, and not to Toronto Street.

Willie Mae Dozier, 42 Bass Lake Drive, stated that the City should not be pumping water into Woodbound Lakes and said she wants a pump on Bass Lake.

Dan Disrud, 301 Alexandra Woods Drive, stated that his house was the first to be flooded on his street; that he was disappointed because the residents were told four years ago that they would be provided a pump once the water reached the parking lot; that the pump was not delivered as promised; and that he believes there is a breach in the County retention pond at the corner of Highbanks and Enterprise Road. Ms. Courson said that she received a phone call from the County earlier in the afternoon, and they said they would begin pumping their retention pond.

Mayor Coleman asked the Council to give Ms. Courson authorization to continue the pumping and emergency measures necessary to address the flooding. Council Member Erickson made a motion to authorize Ms. Courson to expend funds to address the emergency created by Tropical Storm Fay. Vice Mayor Carson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Courson said she would give the Council an update at the next meeting to let them know where they are at in terms of costs.

Council Member Marks asked what happened at Saxon Woods. Ms. Courson answered that the retention pond failed. Jack Wilson said that someone broke it. Council Member Marks asked the Sheriff's Department to investigate Mr. Wilson's allegation.

Jack Wilson, 114 Pine Valley Court, advised the Council to help themselves by getting a timeline of the stormwater projects from the engineer and then put it out there for the public to see.

Council Member Lenzen asked Mr. Wilson to explain the broken pond situation. Mr. Wilson said that somebody probably went up there with a sledgehammer and decided to relieve the pressure on the pond, and it was breached earlier in the day.

Samuel Lemoine, 24 Bonita Road, asked where the water was going from Woodbound Lakes. Ms. Courson explained and added that they are pumping a small amount of water out of No Name Lake to relieve some of the pressure and reduce the danger to Highbanks Road and the homes in the area.

Jessica Urban, 240 Colomba Road, asked if the City could send a pump truck to her location. Ms. Courson stated that she was aware the address was on the list, and she would ensure that a truck would be out by the following day.

Nick Koval, 296 Adelaide Street, asked if there is a stormwater maintenance program in place and stated that the drains and culverts should be cleaned prior to the arrival of a storm.

Patricia Nuckolls, 406 River Drive, said there is a critical problem with a washout on the road; that there is no way in or out; and she got stuck on 15th Street. Ms. Courson responded that the water overcame them the previous night when they were working on it; that she knows exactly what Ms. Nuckolls is concerned about; and they will get back to the road as soon as all the pumps are deployed.

IV. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

**APPROVED October 1, 2008
CITY OF DeBARY
CITY COUNCIL**

George Coleman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacy Tebo, City Clerk