

**City of DeBary**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**August 27, 2008**

**5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

1. Invocation
2. Flag Salute

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Mayor George Coleman, Vice Mayor Christopher Carson (late), 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**

David Hamstra, stormwater engineer with Professional Engineering Consultants, explained that one percent of DeBary's population experienced severe flooding due to Tropical Storm Fay and the twenty-two inches of rain it dropped on the City. He explained that the storm produced 800 million gallons of runoff, and all the lakes in DeBary together have about 200 million gallons of storage. He explained all of the 52 pumping locations throughout the City and described the flow of stormwater in all areas of DeBary. He also clarified the timeline relative to the stormwater capital improvement program initiated after the hurricanes of 2004.

Ms. Courson informed everyone that she met with Congressman Mica the previous day, and the City has been approved for 75 percent reimbursement from FEMA, and there would be a FEMA disaster recovery center set up at Walmart in Orange City on Friday.

Samuel LeMoine, 24 Bonita Road, asked why the City is ordering more pumps because the river has not yet crested, and the water pumped out would be going in a circle. Mr. Hamstra answered that the water will not return to the lakes because the City is at a higher elevation than the river.

Vito Multari, 134 Lower Lake Court, asked why Lakeside was built in the first place, thanked the citizens in the community for their help, said the County was wrong to approve the development initially, and asked why the water is still rising. Mr. Hamstra explained the sandy soil in the City; that the groundwater would continue to rise and move horizontally; and that the pumps are just keeping up with it presently.

Dan Feller, 30 Wisteria Drive, thanked Mr. Hamstra and Council Member Marks for the communication they have provided and said there was too much misinformation being circulated in the community. He added that the pump-on elevation should be lowered for all the lakes in DeBary.

Kathryn Warner, 508 Quail View Court, asked if the City has an emergency management plan and stressed the need for community leaders during a disaster. Ms. Courson answered that the City has a Community Emergency Response Team, which is comprised of volunteers, and they utilized everyone available. She also informed the audience that the City only has eighteen employees, half of which were out in the field laying hose and placing pumps. Mayor Coleman added that the City does have a comprehensive emergency management plan, and all of the Council members have a copy.

Millie Murray, 219 Valencia Road, stated that everyone should be thankful that they are still alive and should give the staff and Council a pat on the back for what they did do during the event. She added that information is given out in the City newsletter for how to prepare for a hurricane.

Dave Williams, 122 Lower Lake Court, stated that he did not buy flood insurance because he is not in a flood plain and asked who is responsible. Mr. Hamstra answered that FEMA does update the flood insurance rate maps every five to ten years depending on the amount of development that occurs in a community.

Craig Cooper, 49 Glenview Road, said that Mother Nature dealt the City an impossible blow, and thanked the City for working as hard as they could to help everyone in the community.

Dan Disrud, 301 Alexandra Woods Drive, thanked American Water Restoration, Inc. for the help they provided to eight houses on his street. He asked how a person would find out if he or she were in a flood plain if the bank does not disclose the information to a buyer. Mr. Hamstra listed the various ways a person could gain access to the FEMA maps and explained that Zone A is predicted to flood, but there is no elevation assigned to it. He strongly recommended that homeowners contact a professional surveyor to evaluate the property.

Terrienne Mihok, 329 La Creek Court, said that FEMA determines flood zones, but just because you do not live in a flood zone does not mean you should not buy flood insurance.

Krystyna Tagg, 557 Quail Lake Drive, thanked Council Member Lenzen and Assistant City Manager Anthony Gonzalez. She voiced numerous concerns including the pumping of the golf course and their greens. Mr. Hamstra explained the relationship between Quail Lake and Twin Lakes, and stated that the pumps being used on the greens are the property of the golf course, and not the City. He added that they would shut the pumps off if St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) requires the City to do so.

Deborah Cerankowski, 256 Adelaide Street, asked what would happen if the retention pond breaks at the corner of Enterprise and Highbanks. Mr. Hamstra advised those residents behind the pond to use their own judgement. He added that the County has been pumping their pond, but he could not assure them it would not fail. Ms. Cerankowski asked for the resignation of the Mayor and City Manager.

Jason DeGroot, attorney for the DiTarantos of 300 May Place, gave the City notice that they intend to sue.

Trudy Oakley, 27 Monroe Avenue, asked when the retention pond would be completed on Monroe. Mr. Hamstra explained that they would begin construction on the remaining small stormwater capital improvement projects in 2009.

Dolores Lukomski, 204 Lourdan Court, thanked Mr. Hamstra and the Council members who communicated with her and her neighbors on Sunday afternoon and stressed the need to plan and be proactive in the future.

Christine Semler, 14 Madera Road, stated that the City flooded out her property.

Barry Wilson, 25 Florence Boulevard, asked if there is a volunteer organization where the citizens can help one another instead of relying solely on the City, but stressed that the volunteers would need leadership.

Howard Niman, 152 Briarwood Drive, said that development has ruined infrastructure in the City, and the City needs to curtail growth.

Heidi Browning, 176 Florence Boulevard, said that Florence Boulevard is flooded, asked where all the water is coming from, and voiced concern regarding a possible sinkhole in Terra Alta. Mr. Hamstra explained the plan for removing the water and the route in which the water will flow.

Nan Lafferty, 32 River Bluff Trail, voiced concern regarding the ditches along Highbanks Road and the flow of water from Twin Lakes. Mr. Hamstra responded that the water leaving Twin Lakes heads due west and does not go towards Highbanks Road.

Jeff Morosetti, 307 Alexandra Woods Drive, said that the City should be more proactive and voiced concern regarding the County's retention pond. He asked the City to stop allowing developers to damage the infrastructure. He suggested using the City newsletter to disseminate flood zone information to the residents.

Gail England, 60 Florence Boulevard, voiced concern regarding the rising water in Terra Alta. Mr. Hamstra explained that when the rain enters the sandy soils in DeBary, it runs through it horizontally.

Lorraine Koval, 296 Adelaide Street, stated that the County retention pond is still very high, and the City should urge the County to do something about it.

Tony Frank, 375 Miller Road, asked if the water from Twin Lakes has an effect on Miller Lake. Mr. Hamstra responded that there is a ridge between the two lakes, so there is no water going from Twin Lakes to Miller Lake.

Mordecai Dixon, 108 Barclay Court, thanked Council Member Marks for his help the past weekend, but criticized the collective Council for his perceived lack of planning during the emergency.

Harry Brummell, 57 Bougainvillea Drive, stated he lost his home and urged the members of the audience to work with the Council for the betterment of the community.

Pamela Perkins, 49 Maplehurst Avenue, stated that the retention pond behind her home has flooded, and it has never flooded in the past. Mr. Hamstra said that as he stated earlier, groundwater would be running for weeks, if not months.

Peter Heisc, 249 Hazeltine Drive, asked how many gallons of water the pump trucks hold. Mr. Hamstra answered that the large trucks hold 9,000 gallons, and the small trucks hold 5,000 gallons. He added that a single 6-inch pump moves about two million gallons per day.

Terrienne Mihok, 322 La Creek Court, said the development has been there for two years, but FEMA does not have her development on the maps. She stated that her father is severely disabled, and it took her six hours to find help to get her father out of the house. She urged the Council to put her street on the map and to make plans for the future to help elderly and disabled residents evacuate.

Dan Disrud, 301 Alexandra Woods Drive, said that the County retention pond has greatly contributed to the flooding that has occurred. He also stated that the City's Safety Coordinator told the men from American Water Restoration that the City did not need their help.

John Mangel, 345 Sweetwater Springs Street, said he has fifteen employees, and he is willing to help and volunteer his services to the City. He gave his phone number out to any residents needing help.

Nick Koval, 296 Adelaide Street, recommended that the Council impose a construction moratorium immediately until the stormwater problems are solved.

Willie Mae Dozier, 42 Bass Lake Drive, voiced concern regarding the level of the lake behind her home and stated the City should not pump water in the lake. Mr. Hamstra answered that he is aware of Ms. Dozier's concerns, but he is trying to disperse the water to provide the maximum protection to the community.

Robert Guglberger, 36 Wisteria Drive, said that he has a retaining wall behind his home on the lake, and the water had risen considerably before the storm and the rainy season. Ms. Courson stated that the elevation levels for all of the lakes are checked monthly.

John Likakis, 38 Seminole Drive, stated he has a twelve-point emergency plan for the Council to consider; that the City should pump if they have to in order to protect their residents; and that the City should not worry about SJRWMD possibly suing the City for pumping without their consent.

Morton Culligan, 66 Tanglewood Road, stated that his home did not flood because he researched the property before he purchased it.

Council Member Marks said that the City should sit down with SJRWMD to adjust the lake elevation levels.

Council Member Erickson said he would like information on the FEMA buy-out program at the next meeting, and he would like staff to contact Volusia County Council Member Pat Northey regarding the County's retention pond at the corner of Highbanks and Enterprise Road.

**IV. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

**George Coleman, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**Stacy Tebo, City Clerk**