

**City of DeBary
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**Thursday
September 18, 2008
6:00 PM**

Florence K. Little Town Hall
12 Colomba Road
DeBary, Florida 32713

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Assistant City Manager called the workshop to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor George Coleman (late), Council Member Norman Erickson, Council Member Jack Lenzen, and Council Member Leonard Marks

Members Absent: Vice Mayor Christopher Carson (excused)

Others Present: City Manager Maryann Courson and Assistant City Manager Anthony Gonzalez

III. Discussion by David Hamstra of Professional Engineering Consultants and FEMA Representatives

Mr. Hamstra explained that it would be a question and answer format for the workshop, and the focus would be on individual assistance.

Bettina Hutchings, FEMA Public Information Officer, introduced herself and said they would be available as long as needed to answer questions. She introduced Jimmy Murray, SBA (Small Business Administration) representative, Lynda Lowe, the individual assistance director for FEMA, Terrance Pierce with SBA, Jason McCright with State Mitigation, M. Krishnamurthy with State Mitigation, Marybeth Groff with State Mitigation, Don Ward with State Mitigation, and Sam Winningham with FEMA Mitigation.

Lynda Lowe stated that FEMA is in town to help support the City, the State, and local volunteer agencies. She briefly explained the help that is available from FEMA and SBA.

Terrance Pierce with SBA addressed the audience and said the SBA also helps homeowners and renters, as well as businesses, to repair lost property. He noted that SBA administers low interest loans for a period as long as thirty years, and it is very important to turn in the application by October 27th.

Jason McCright, State Mitigation, explained the State program that prevents future damage from storms.

Don Ward, State Mitigation, spoke about acquisition projects and home buy-outs. He stated that buy-out projects could be funded three ways: hazard mitigation grant program, flood mitigation

assistance program, and the pre-disaster grant mitigation program. He noted that the quickest program would be the flood mitigation program, as the money has already been allocated to the State. He added that the hazard mitigation program is the second most expeditious program to receive funds, and the soonest they could receive money from the pre-disaster program would be the summer of 2009.

Mr. Ward explained the buy-out program to the audience, and stated that first they must identify homes that meet FEMA requirements and determine if it is cheaper to demolish it than to pay out benefits in the future. He clarified the qualification process and the determination of payment that the owner receives for the home.

Charles Tutalo, 113 Lower Lake Court, stated that there is a problem with residents living in duplexes because he cleaned up his home, but his neighbor has not done anything. He added that the mold would eventually move over into his side because his neighbor did not address the mold issue.

Council Member Lenzen stated the Council has requested that the City Attorney research the rights of the City to determine the appropriate legal action for resolving the problem.

Gail England, 60 Florence Boulevard, stated that FEMA denied her because she has money saved in the bank, and they directed her to SBA for a loan. Ms. Lowe responded that due to privacy issues, she would like to speak with her individually regarding her application.

Lou Conner, 315 La Creek Court, stated that he owes more than what his home is worth so he will not be moving. He asked the FEMA representatives if they could assist the City as a whole. Ms. Hutchings stated that the City would be meeting with FEMA the following week to address what FEMA would be able to do for the City.

David Collins, 121 Pine Valley Court, said that his home was flooded and asked for clarification on the buy-out program. Mr. Ward stated that he has forms for anyone to fill out if they are interested in the program; that FEMA will provide 75% reimbursement of the total project cost, and 25% is a contribution from the homeowner; and that for those who are insured, they can get part of the 25% back.

Mr. McCright explained the purpose of the local mitigation strategy committee, of whom it is comprised, how they function, and the project ranking process.

James Gainey, 298 Adelaide Street, asked about the plans for the future in his area, and if they could leave the large pipes in where the humps are on East Highbanks Road. Mr. Hamstra answered that the pipes were allowed because the City received emergency authorization from St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD); that if the City wants to keep the pipes permanently, they would have to get a SJRWMD permit; and that he would pose the question to the district the following week.

Ilene Morosetti, 307 Alexandra Woods Drive, stated that she has not been able to get a response from FEMA to come and inspect her home. Ms. Lowe directed Ms. Morosetti to see one of the FEMA representatives in the back of the room and said FEMA would get back to her with a response within 48 hours.

Tina Rose, 122 Pine Valley Court, said she did not think she would qualify for the buy-out program because it is her first flooding event. Mr. Ward responded that there are other factors that are considered in the evaluation process, so she would not be disqualified simply for the fact that this was the first time her home flooded.

Mr. Hamstra explained the West Side Emergency Flood Management System to Ms. Rose.

Ms. Hutchings advised everyone to save receipts as they repair their homes.

Ms. Lowe recommended that everyone check the identification of people coming into their homes to perform inspections, make repairs, etc.

Jessica Urban, 240 Colomba Road, stated that she was previously denied FEMA assistance because the water did not enter her home; that the water stood directly outside her home for a long time; and that the foundation has dropped about four inches since the water has receded. Ms. Lowe directed Ms. Urban to a representative in the rear of the room to file an appeal for the denial.

Ms. Urban asked when the flood maps would be updated. Mr. Hamstra responded that FEMA updates the maps approximately every ten years.

Mr. Hamstra said that he would have the panel of representatives break into small groups to help members of the audience individually.

IV. Adjournment. The formal workshop adjourned at 7:05 p.m., and the audience broke into small groups to meet with individual speakers.

**APPROVED January 7, 2009
CITY OF DeBARY
CITY COUNCIL**

Bob Garcia, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacy Tebo, City Clerk